

RWES Board Meeting Minutes
17 October 2022, 10 am-12 pm
On Zoom

Prentiss Clark, presiding. In attendance: Austin Bailey, Peter Balaam, Bonnie Carr O'Neill, Nick Guardiano, Christina Katopodis, Anita Patterson, Christopher Hanlon, Michael Weisenburg, Krissie West

Welcome to new board members Nick Guardiano and Georgia Walton

Approval of Minutes of May 2022 Board Meeting

Secretary/Treasurer's Report (Peter)

Program Chair Update

(Prentiss)

Tim Sommer, who cannot be here, has passed on the opportunity to fill program chair position as Joseph Urbas steps down.

Yves Gardes has organized the PAMLA panel: Transcendentalist Geographies
Former Board Member Martin Kevorkian will attend PAMLA and chair the panel
Papers by P. Morgan, E. Scofield, S. Menton

Nick Guardiano organizing panel at the SAAP (Soc. Advancement of American Philosophy) conference (Denver / Mar 2023) "Emerson on Fate vs. Freedom"

With panelists: Roger Lopez, Joseph Urbas and a third
Nick G will chair

Society used to contribute a panel every year to SAAP and current president of the SAAP, [Steven Fesmire?], is interested in hearing from us

Prentiss

Meanwhile, an urgent need for someone to organize panels for ALA in Spring and for TAG in July

Media Committee

Michael

Transparent Eyeball blog 5th Series now live
Series 6 will be "Emerson & Pedagogy" (Randy Fuller will edit)
Michael reiterated report shared in Chicago in May that data tracking of visits to the Society webpage show that the blog is making a difference in who comes to the website and why. The more we do, the more people come to the website and the more papers are contributed to ESP.

Website is out of date and needs to be rethought

ESP issue: shall we determine question of who gets a print copy of ESP by membership levels?

[can't remember quite what we said

Topic: "merch[andise]" as another means to draw attention

A Call for Persons (Michael)

We really need a new web-editor

Shall we look outside of our Membership

Shall we offer to pay the position a stipend for the labor involved

Shall we put out a broad call to see who salutes?

Someone suggested Daphne Orlandi as a potential candidate for web-editor job

Prentiss: possibly grad students at U of SD working under auspices of Astrophil Press could take it on

Chris H: Whoever we get, we should make sure of their skills in web editing

Another Call for Persons

2 years out, we will need a new Editor of ESP

Krissie West expressed interest, requesting a list of responsibilities

Someone suggested WashU Grad Student, Thomas Howard

See his website / <https://www.toward.com>

Reiterated Call for Persons (Prentiss)

A pair of people to organize panel for the ALA (Boston in May) and TAG, the Thoreau Society Annual Gathering

Bonnie C O suggested inviting other author societies into collaborations [in connection with what?]

To the Dial Proposal (C. Hanlon/M Weisenburg)

* not replacing ESP

* A mission statement provided

* Clarification of the mode of publication: on-line only

* Proposers are recruiting members of a Dial Editorial Board, including (so far): Jeffrey Insko, Michael Yonik, Leslie Eccles, Christina Katopodis, Randy Fuller

* Question: the right degree of overlap between this the Society Board and the Dial editorial board

* A longer arc for the launch in 2024

* Wanting really superb graphics for the landing page

* Lining up contributors for first 3 issues

* Models for the Dial: Post45, Resilience, Leviathan

With peer-reviewed pieces of 6–8,000 words

And exploratory/creative pieces

*Right platform? Project MUSE is expensive

Leviathan has an endowment to help underwrite the production of the journal

*Question of the right platform and what the Dial will be able to afford

MW: time to think about a donor outreach campaign, in attempt to create an endowment

- Pricing out Project Muse [?]
- Sketching a landing page
- Filling out the editorial board

Bonnie

How to think about finances responsibly, given our size

We pay a couple of awards and are down 25% of cash holdings

Possibly start in Digital Commons and then transition with some success and readership to something bigger

Debate ensued about both the Mission Statement and the Subtitle

Questions of bigness vs going after the Public Good

Questions of not relying on trendy language

Trying to bust out, pushing limits, bringing the unconvinced in and persuading them

Anita: the title, the Dial / pattern it on the original publication

Prentiss: other needs

- 1) Codify 3 additional members to the Society Board who would overlap with Dial Editorial Board
- 2) We need to clarify a specific concrete plan for ESP future before allowing members to vote in order to help Dial-skeptics to get there

MW: What's a concrete plan? [for what?]

Conversation about precise purviews for differing vehicles:

ESP, serving the Society (like the Thoreau Soc "Bulletin")

Transparent Eyeball blog, serving the public at large, bringing people into Society membership; could be even freer, less academic

and the Dial, serving the Discipline, peer reviewed, etc.

At end/ return to 3 New Board Members discussion: how large should the Editorial Board be?

Prentiss / the need to change the by-laws to add 3 more w/ specified connections and assignments [?]

MW / past-Presidents of the Society as ex-officio Editorial Board members?

Diversity of Board Members

Meeting adjourned at noon (Central)

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Balaam, Secretary/Treasurer