

RWES Board Meeting Notes/Minutes
Thursday 26 May 2022
On Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 994 4687 1499

Passcode: RWES2022

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

SECRETARY TREASURER'S REPORT (Peter)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES

1. Plans for a Joel Myerson Memorial publication; also, in lieu of annual ice cream social at the TAG, the Society will sponsor an evening reception in honor of Joel Myerson
2. Awards Updates (Tim, Prentiss, Austin, Krissie)
Graduate Student Award to Daphne Orlandi (Univs. Dortmund and Rome)
Packer Award to Keegan O'Connor
Distinguished Achievement Award to David LaRocca
RWES Special Awards (Krissie and Austin)
 Undergraduate Essay Prize to Owen Polley
 Subvention Award to Cecily Brem
 Pedagogy or Community Project Award to Joan Wry

3. Program Chair Report (Tim Sommer)
Thanks: to Joseph Urbas for keeping program going during pandemic disruptions and to Yves Gardes for recent collaborations on the program committee

The Society is sponsoring a panel at the Thoreau Annual Gathering with the 4 grad student applicants offering papers

Program committee has been invited to sponsor a panel at the PAMLA in Los Angeles in November of this year (Conference topic: Geographies of the Fantastic and the Quotidian / Panel Title: Transcendentalist Geographies)

4. Media Committee Report (Michael)
Though *ESP* is largely membership driven, the quality of recent submissions seem to be improving with wider Social Media exposure

Numbers of visits to website are up; 3,000 followers on Facebook, 1,900 on Twitter; possibility of developing a presence on Instagram and of Peter joining Media Committee

Blog “The Transparent Eyeball”—a 5th issue now launching

BUSINESS & DISCUSSION

1. Membership numbers fairly stable as we emerge from pandemic disruptions, but we might find consider new ways and efforts to reach out to Members / Many new student members to be reached out to / Peter as new Sec/Tr asked for patience as he gets up to speed understanding the Membership roles / Michael suggested it may be time for a full membership audit this summer?

Board Membership / Thanks to Chris Hanlon and Phillip Loeffler, now cycling off the Board / A vote to be taken at the Business Meeting later in the day to accept onto the Board Nicholas Guardiano and Georgia Walton / A pressing need for more core contributors in leadership positions and committees, especially as many of the core group already serve in multiple roles. / Our most immediate needs are for new contributors to the Awards and Media Committees

2. Austin suggested the need to iron out the whole calendar of awards, including definitions, submission due-dates, and distinguishing awards from Calls for Papers
3. After Report of the Media Committee, President Prentiss Clark suggested that the Board table other business to give attention to Chris’s and Michael’s proposed for a new open-source journal, *The Dial*, in addition to or replacing *ESP* / The appeal to members to consider the proposal and share responses had generated a lot of interest on both sides of the issues / Many concerned members feel uneasy, the proposal proposes *The Dial* as an innovative way for the Emerson Society to serve not just its membership and not the general public (as the Blog does) but the academic field in a peer reviewed publication. / A Mission Statement called for, and Chris offered one that he had drafted. / Not only is our Membership possibly a little “conservative” or “nostalgic” on this front, but we are ourselves already spread thin—caught between ideals and ambitions and realities. / We acknowledged that this same issue would be a significant item on the agenda for the Business Meeting in the afternoon and Prentiss proposed a follow-up meeting on *The Dial* next week.

ACTION: Board approved \$250 donation to TAG for reception in honor of Joel Myerson

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Balaam
Society Secretary/Treasurer

