

## 2023 Fall Convention Committee meeting minutes Sept. 22, 2023 St. Louis

**Members** Glen Brewster (non-Board) Co-Chairs: Ami Comeford & Carie King

**Board Members:** Leigh Dillard, Amy Gates, Autumn Koors Foltz, Diane Steinberg, Kevin Stemmler **SKD:** Joan Reeves, Leeann Rhea **CO:** Elfi Gabriel, Jeannine Szostak

**SLs:** Destiny Jones Eunice Tan, DeAni Blake-Britton, Kelly Taylor

### Convention Committee Meeting Agenda

- 1. Featured speakers and Common Reader:** Glen reviewed the Convention Theme, In Flux; the Keynote Speaker, Carl Phillips, and his book, the Common Reader, *Then the War: And Selected Poems, 2007-2020*, recently awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry; the Thursday featured speaker, Maryfrances Wagner, the Missouri Poet Laureate 2021-2023; and his Westfield State University colleague Sophia Sarigianides, a specialist in anti-racist pedagogy and co-author of *Letting Go of Literary Whiteness: Antiracist Literature Instruction for White Students* (NY: Teachers College Press, 2019), Winner of AACTE's 2022 Outstanding Book Award, who will present 2 Thursday workshops on anti-racist pedagogy that should appeal in particular to our English education students. Kevin Stemmler had volunteered to explore possibilities for Wednesday, opening night readers as well as special guests, who might provide video greetings, for example. We hope to have more announcement about participants soon. Student leadership announced that they have created videos promoting the Common Reader that will go public soon.
- 2. Convention schedule:** Using the 2023 & 2022 convention schedules as templates, we are making modifications, for example, adjusting the Faculty Advisor Breakfast workshop to allow for attendance at the Alumni Professional Development event for those interested.
- 3. Processes for Roundtable presentations, Research in the Round, Alumni Professional Development & Chapter Share/Sales** were reviewed.
- 4. Registration fees: Early registration for Presenters & Attendees:** After much discussion, we agreed upon \$80 for students, including Dec. graduates (same as 2023); and **\$25** for the Luncheon (a modest increase from 2023). Jeannine was asked to explore adding the processing fee to all registrations (thus \$83 for early registering students).
- 5. Convention website pages and further messaging:** Work is ongoing. Submissions opened Sept. 18 and will close on Oct. 23.
- 6. Convention submission webinar:** A rehearsal will be held Wed., Sept. 27, 7pm; the Submissions Webinar will be held Wed., Oct. 4, 7pm.

7. **Student leader ideas:** Student leaders discussed several possibilities for additional events outside the convention proper.

### **20203-2024 Convention Committee Charges & Foci Charges**

1. To plan, coordinate, and publicize each annual international convention.
2. To make recommendations about site selection and decisions about budget, speakers, registration fees, the Common Reader, academic and anniversary awards, Convention awards, and any other matters related to the Convention.
3. To consider convention speakers for honorary membership in the Society.
4. To determine and implement best practices with regard to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

**Fall 2023-Sp 2024 SP Objective:** *4 (c) Enhance faculty members' professional development (at Convention and virtually) by giving them a chance for a scholarly presentation or webinar for student members, or a chance for a collaborative workshop or publication or service opportunity [Co-charge with Professional Development Task Force]*

### **Foci**

#### **Through Fall 2023**

- Coordinating with the CO, update (as needed) the current schedule for Convention planning and implementation and revise the template for scheduling future convention activities.
  - Using the agreed-upon timeline, accept submissions; convene evaluators; and select papers, roundtables, and workshops for the Convention.
  - Explore increasing the scope and/or access to career and professional development workshops as a component of the Convention in response to changing economic conditions and to the SP.

Submitted by Glen Brewster  
(Sept. 24, 2023)