

Partnerships Committee Minutes
Friday, September 20, 2024

Presiding: Felicia Steele

Present: Michaelann Nelson, Kevin Stemmler, Kelly Taylor, Chris Lockwood, Tiffany Nolde, Matthew Chinique, Jessica McCole

Old Business:

Chris Lockwood and Kevin Stemmler updated us on the partnership initiatives for LULAC and Lambda Literary and the possibilities offered by those partnerships. The honorarium that judges receive will be donated to Sigma Tau Delta to support the Dennis/Stemmler LGBT& awards and the NEHS LGBT& Awards. Felicia updated the group on Penguin/Random House and Norton Internships as well as the forthcoming MLA internship.

In addition, Chris and Kevin have also been working to connect us with the Jane Austen Chawton House in the UK as well as the Willa Cather Society. We discussed the possibility of using the convention as an opportunity to build relationships with other author societies (such as the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival).

Our Agenda only had two open-ended questions guiding us:

1) What can we do to make the evaluation of internship applications more sustainable? How do we expand the evaluator pool?

Chris sent out a significant call for the Intellectual Freedom award, and so Amy Gates and Felicia will go through that list so that we don't double book potential evaluators.

2) What purposes should our partnerships serve? And whom should they serve? What sorts of organizations should we be pursuing for partnerships?

Michaelann suggested pursuing local literary festivals and book festivals. The committee resolved to provide some kind of guidance to chapters on how to do that. Partnerships will coordinate with the Regents committee to follow up on the volunteer work that Heidi Williams is doing with the Nashville Literary Festival with her chapter. Timeline: by November 1.