

Convention Committee Meeting Minutes

Fall Board Meeting
September 11, 2014
Albuquerque, NM

1. Updates on the 2015 Convention

- **Speakers** – headliners are set (Gary Soto Wednesday, Simon Ortiz Thursday, Leslie Marmon Silko Saturday) there won't be a Friday night speaker which should allow attendees to go out and explore the city
- **Workshops** – several are in place so far: Gary Dop will offer creative writing and/or screenplay writing; Micah Dean Hicks will offer “Fabulism, Fairytales, and Magical Stories” Susan de la Vergne (she was at Portland) is being contacted for a workshop on “Business Careers for English Majors: workshop/panel of recently published Sigma Tau Delta members “Avenues to Publishing” workshop; an English Education Workshop/Roundtable from NEHS board. Ideas for additional workshops were solicited and the Convention chair will follow up on these: attending Graduate School with speaker from UNM; Film Studies with Michael Brown from UNM; ChickLit and Making a Living as a Writer; Teaching Young Adult Lit; Teaching Writing at the Secondary Level
- **Graduate Program Flyers:** we would like to have a table in the registration area where schools with MA and PhD programs could place information flyers and materials – this could be part of the tie-in with the workshop on attending Graduate school and we'd ask that any school wanting to put out flyers would need to have a representative at the Convention who would be available at the Attending Graduate School workshop
- **Bookworks**, a local independent bookstore will be handling our book sales at the Convention
- **Videographer/still photographer:** with the help of the UNM Media Studies program, we will have a videographer and still photographer at the Convention this year; discussion on what events/days we'd most like to be covered and Convention Chair will work with Elfi to set up schedule for the work; cost will be \$15/hour per person (likely to be 2-3 people)
- **Program ads & bingo:** SRs will be out visiting local businesses and sharing information about opportunities to advertise in the Convention program or sponsor a space on the bingo card; Elfi has prepared a flyer and Sarah and developed a list of businesses to be visited; we are giving this a try for the first time and will see if it is worth the effort
- **T-shirts** – design is complete and will be printed/produced by a local Albuquerque business that Elfi has connected with – high quality, reasonable cost
- **Sponsoring Chapter** – Dr. Sharon Warner and the Alpha Epsilon Pi Chapter from the University of New Mexico have agreed to be the local sponsoring chapter; we will ask the sponsoring chapter to help out with Registration on Wednesday night and Thursday morning of the Convention
- **Common Reader** – discussion about how to and in what ways we can increase engagement with the Common Reader – plan to have a book-clubbish event at the convention prior to Simon Ortiz's talk – attendees who have read the work will have an opportunity to talk about it and their experiences with it - Student Leaders will continue to promote the Common Reader (encouraging members to read it prior to convention) via Regional Facebook pages; it was suggested that discussion/reading of the common reader be integrated into Chapter's monthly meetings; Leigh from SKD will write a blog describing how they have successfully engaged with the Common Reader; It was suggested that the Regents consider fronting the funds to provide each Chapter with one copy of the year's Common Reader, though no formal motion was made at this time

- **A/V - projectors** – this year a limited number of projectors in one or two set venues will be available to presenters; the plan is to have on the submission form or on the follow up when acceptances go out, a section to apply for the projector session – discussion of what sort of presentation would warrant use of a project continues with the discussion focusing on NOT wanting projectors used unless they significantly enhance the presentation, so for instance a session on the graphic novel or on original graphic literature would benefit from being able to project the graphic novel for the audience to view; a session on visual poetry would also benefit from being able to project the poem so the visual component was part of the oral presentation; film studies papers might also benefit from being able to project a short video clip; **the plan is to allow presenters to apply for projector use and then the Convention chair will determine which presenters will be granted a/v use**
 - **ABQ Foodtrucks** – the Convention chair has contacted a local foodtruck group which has let their members know that our Convention is interested in having local food trucks be available during the convention; at present 5 different food trucks have expressed interest in coming to the areas adjacent to the Convention site and having their trucks as an option for our convention-goers
 - **Native America performance-** the Albuquerque Convention and Visitors Bureau is providing us, gratis, with an hour of Native American song, music and dance; the committee discussed when during the Convention would be best for this performance and the choice was made to have the event on Friday evening, prior to the President's Reception around 6-7pm
 - **Headlining Speaker Events** – free tickets in limited quantities will be made available to one or two local bookstores for distribution as they see fit; free tickets will also be sent to two or three local high schools and community colleges for distribution to students and faculty; the Convention chair will work on the guidelines, list of bookstores/schools and creating and mailing out the free tickets; different colors will be used for each speaker event for these complimentary tickets; perhaps 5-10 tickets for each group
 - **New type of Convention Paper Award** has been added and approved by the Board; we will now have a best Convention paper on “Pedagogy” award of \$250
2. **Honor Membership** to 2014 Convention Speakers – will be extended to all of the 2014 Convention Headliners; we see this as a distinct honor and not just a regular sort of membership so even if a Headliner is already a Sigma Tau Delta member (like Gin Philips or Naomi Shihab Nye), we will ask the Executive Director to extend this special “Honor Membership” to Justin Torres, Alison Bechdel, Daniel Mendelsohn, and Gin Phillips who were our headlining speakers at the 2014 Convention.
 3. **2016 Convention Update** from Diane Steinberg (co-chair with Felicia Jean Steele) – The theme “Finding Home” was presented as the suggested theme for the 2016 Convention in Minneapolis; the Convention Committee discussed this, approved the theme and is presenting a motion to the Board to accept “Finding Home” as the 2016 Convention Theme
 4. **Help Requested for Organizing Submissions** – **the Convention chair will be soliciting help for organizing accepted submissions into session groups and assigning session titles** – watch for an email request in late November
 5. **First Time and Solo Convention Attendees:** we have asked that the Student Leadership continue to explore and develop ways for first-time convention goes and solo attendees to have groups to explore with and ways to connect with other first-timers and soloists – plans are for a meeting early on, perhaps Wednesday night, for soloists to help them connect with chapters and other solo attendees
 6. **Review of Criteria for Evaluating Submissions** – as part of our yearly due diligence, we will be reviewing our current evaluation criteria and at the Spring Board meeting we will be discussing any suggested revisions – please review the evaluation criteria and send your comments via email to the Convention chair at dangelst@franklinpierce.edu by March 1, 2015. The link is below: http://www.english.org/sigmatd/board/convention/evaluation_instructions.html#criteria