

Service & Partnership Committee Meeting Minutes, Fall 2014

Service & Partnerships Committee Charge

To encourage and publicize service activities of chapters, particularly activities on literacy, broadly defined. To work toward an acceptance of service as a major component of the Sigma Tau Delta experience. To work with the Convention Chair to develop convention roundtables on service. To explore possibilities for Society partnerships with organizations, foundations, and businesses.

Committee Foci

- Review and discuss more effective means of promoting, publicizing, and marketing Student Leadership Awards, Project Grants, and Service Awards, and develop and review rubrics for judging of those awards/grants.
- Examine potential sponsored internships, national service projects, and other partnerships and present proposal(s) to the Board.
- Discuss ways to enhance the relationship with SKD, including, but not limited to, possible reduction in membership fees for SKD alumni.
- Accept applications for and recommend winners of Chapter Project Grants and Service Awards and to recommend winners of Student Leadership Awards.
- With NEHS and SKD, discuss partnerships with organizations committed to literacy and to protection of intellectual freedom and First Amendment rights.
- Plan, with the Convention Committee, panels on service opportunities and issues.
- Discuss how the Society can publicize, facilitate, and support NEHS/Sigma Tau Delta partnerships at the chapter level, such as a sponsorship initiative.

New Business

- Discussed NEHS/SKD/Sigma Tau Delta partnerships at the chapter level that may include how the Society can publicize, facilitate, and support such activities. Suggestions included collaboration at regional conferences, literary contests, and service projects.
 - Another suggestion involves a sponsorship initiative in which a Sigma Tau Delta chapter pays for the initial fee and plaque of a newly developed NEHS chapter at a local high school. Dave Wendelin is investigating some of the logistics involved in that idea.
 - Additionally, Dave is pursuing a partnership between NEHS and Out of Print Clothing, www.outofprintclothing.com, a company that will work with chapters that wish to sell the t-shirts they have available as a fund-raising opportunity (30% of sales returned to the chapters). Out of Print handles all the details, including sending samples and then shipping the ordered merchandise. Dave and Elfi drafted a mutual "letter of understanding" with them--they will be putting our logo on their website as one means of helping NEHS be more visible. As for establishing a stronger "partnership" with Out of Print Clothing and STD, we will take a wait and see approach. We will assess the agreement between NEHS and Out of Print Clothing, and we will pilot the use of that company with one or two chapters as a means of fundraising. If all goes well, STD may consider using that company for specialized and/or event-focused merchandising. As a suggestion, convention chairs may want invite a representative from Out of Print Clothing to set up a stand or hold a fundraising workshop.

- Shared announcement that Better World Books will provide 5% of the net sales of the books (about \$800) collected and sent in by Sigma Tau Delta chapters to go back to Sigma Tau Delta as the non profit literacy partner for use toward literacy development and awareness.
 - Motion: To use 5% from BWB to help literacy initiatives in convention host cities with oversight by the Service & Partnership committee.
 - The motion was approved. The committee recommends using this year's 5% for Native American literacy organizations...perhaps even speaking to our common reader author, Simon Ortiz.
- Deliberated some of the work previously completed and proposed by the former Partnership Committee. Over the summer, the committee was told that a few thousand dollars was dedicated to the idea of a general internship stipend. The premise is that we have many student members that need some financial assistance in regards to housing, relocation, economic hardship, etc. To that end we have a motion.
 - Motion: To create a Summer Internship Stipend (similar to a grant) and develop the criteria for judging by the spring 2015 board meeting with the goal of distributing at least two stipends of up to \$1500 for summer 2015.
 - The motion was approved. The committee was asked to consider judging criteria pertaining to graduate and undergraduate students and rolling applications.

Online Discussion Agenda

(October through February – Expect another email introducing the topics in late September or early October)

- Develop and review rubrics for judging of student leadership awards, project grants, and service awards, and summer internship stipends
- Plan, in conjunction with the Albuquerque convention committee, panels on service opportunities and issues (e.g., chapter service projects; post-graduation service opportunities like Teach for America, City Year, the Peace Corps; intellectual freedom/banned books programs).

Spring 2015 Agenda Items

- Finalize judging criteria revisions for various awards
- Review NEHS and Out of Print Clothing relationship and decided on potential partnering with Sigma Tau Delta
- Discuss and investigate additional internships sponsored by Sigma Tau Delta
- Examine potential national service projects and other partnerships (Jumpstart Read for the Record, World Book Night, etc.) and develop a proposal to present to the Board
- Examine collaboration with SKD and NEHS, including reduced memberships rates for students that then become Sigma Tau Delta members
- Implement logistics and timeline for SKD/NEHS/STD regional conference and literary journal/contest collaboration
- Investigate development and management of Convention Travel Stipend awards for SKD/NEHS members who become members of STD