

2020 Fall Convention Committee meeting minutes

Sept. 25, 2020

Members

Glen Brewster & Lexey Bartlett, Co-chairs

Board Members: AmiJo Comeford Felicia Steele Leigh Dillard Amanda Ayers

Affiliates: Kimberly Kuhn, Machen Olson, Jacey Sherman, Bethany Erb, SKD Representative

Staff: Elfi Gabriel

Non-Board: Beth DeMeo, Linda Miller, Douglas Dowland, Gloria Hochstein, Kevin Stemmler, Sid Watson, Chyina Powell, Rebecca Ferlotti

1. The 2021 Virtual Convention featured speakers, Karen Auvinen, author of the 2021 Common Reader, and Michael Branch, who was to have been a speaker at the 2020 Convention in Las Vegas have agreed to virtual presentations at the convention.
2. We are in the final review of submission guidelines & process for Roundtable presentations. We will recruit evaluators soon.
3. We will be using Adobe Connect for producing and streaming convention events. Lexey has made a Google Form for members to suggest names for the breakout rooms for regional meetings, SKD, and alumni.
4. We reviewed the proposed convention schedule and possibilities for additional events outside the convention proper—such as student and advisor workshops and/or webinars.
5. We continue to revise the Convention website pages and develop further messaging. Felicia and Leigh volunteered to write a “guest” blog on roundtables for the website.
6. We proposed a \$25 fee for presenter and early registration and a \$30 fee for regular registration, along with the creation of section on the website describing “here’s what you get for your registration fee” to promote participation in convention activities. We announced this proposal at the general Board meeting to wide agreement.
7. In consultation with the Past Presidents Council, we made a motion to create of a new convention award, the Beth DeMeo Award for Best Convention Paper for best student critical paper on poetry or on a poet. This award will honor recently-deceased former President and Delta Award recipient Beth DeMeo’s long and stellar leadership of and participation in Sigma Tau Delta. We will also issue an invitation to past and present Society members (current Board, former Boards, chapter Advisors, alumni, Delta recipients, etc.) to honor Beth with contributions specifically for the Beth DeMeo Award. At the general Board meeting, the **MOTION PASSED**.

Submitted by Glen Brewster
September 25, 2020