

## Minutes of Convention Committee Meeting, 3/19/13

Sid Watson and Gloria Hochstein, co-chairs

The meeting began with an update from Gloria Hochstein on speakers and other issues related to the Portland Convention.

The committee then discussed issues related to the Common Reader, which has recently been moved from the Service Committee to the Convention Committee. The committee agreed on several recommendations to guide future selections of the Common Reader:

- The book should lend itself to service projects.
- The author must be able to come to convention.
- Underrepresented authors should be given priority; however, the committee notes that "underrepresented" should be used in a broad sense to include a range of categories of writers who do not receive adequate attention (such as poets).
- The book should be short.
- The committee should consult with the Charles Barclay Agency. Barclay is familiar with Sigma Tau Delta and often has suggestions for speakers who are well suited to our needs.

Following an email poll of committee members' preferences for speakers, the committee agreed to pursue Allison Bechdel or Daniel Mendelsohn for the Friday night speaker at the Savannah Convention. Depending on prices of the second speaker, Karen Russell might be approached for a special session.

Drawing on a discussion in the Executive Committee concerning recognition of former Board members at the 90th anniversary celebration in Savannah, the Convention Committee recommends that beginning in 2014 Sigma Tau Delta provide registration fees and hotel rooms for three nights for former Board presidents. The rationale is that the Society benefits from the long-term involvement of these individuals' expertise.

### Action items:

The committee also recommended several changes to the submission guidelines for the 2014 Savannah Convention. These are the motions as approved by the Board.

- 1) Collections of flash fiction may be accepted provided the total length of the collection is 1000-2000 words. The collection should have a title, as well as titles for individual pieces within the collection.*
- 2) Submissions must be entered under the person's member name, not a pen name.*

3) *Roundtable submissions are limited to two per chapter unless the roundtable includes members from more than one chapter.*

An additional recommendation was passed by the Board with some amendments. The following is the motion as it was passed by the Board: *Starting in 2014, the Board will provide registration fees, the banquet, and five nights at the convention hotel for former Board presidents. Former voting Board members would have registration and banquet fees waived.*