

Convention Committee Minutes
Board Meeting
Feb. 26, 2014, Savannah, GA

1. Sid Watson provided updates for the 2014 Convention
 - Check the convention website; she also noted the 1924 strand and the English Education Strand (pulled out in the program for the first time).
 - Motion made, seconded and passed that for 2017 and moving forward, conventions cannot be schedule before the second week of March.
 - Returning to specific cities for conventions was discussed, and again the committee affirms that this is a desirable approach; while changing locations to different Regions is good, the ease of travel to the Convention city must be taken into account and be an important deciding factor
 - EBMS may need some re-evaluation; it is recommended that this wait until after the Albuquerque Convention as EBMS has some new features and work-arounds that should be tried out first
2. Nominating Convention Speakers for Society membership should happen at the Fall Board Meeting or be handled over the summer months via email; it's best to wait until we are sure the Speakers show up and are a good fit. It was noted that Gin Philips is already a member of Sigma Tau Delta.
3. Kevin Stemmler raised the issue of our organization's relationship with Stephen Barclay; this has been a good relationship and there is a benefit to continuing it; perhaps Stephen Barclay could be invited to come to Albuquerque and talk about the work of a literary agent. Kevin will pursue this with him.
4. Discussion of the need, if any, for additional "Constituency" strands; at present we have Alumni and English Education; are there other Constituency strands we might consider? Suggestions were made about strands for non-traditional literary forms, technical/business writing and creative writing; in most cases, we'd just need to pull out the existing sessions, roundtables and workshops and have a section for them in the program as we did this year with alumni, 1924, and English Education.
5. The "Adopt-a-member" notion was brought up for discussion as it wasn't possible to implement for this year's convention. Singleton attendees (those who are the only member of their chapter attending) would be invited to self-disclose and indicate if they'd like to paired up with a "host" chapter; a Regional focus might be best, having SRs and ASRs help to identify hosts and help with the matching process prior to Convention; at Convention, a matching could be held at the Regional Caucus and there could be a match site available on one of the Convention cork boards; a question on the Registration form about being a host as well as being a singleton attendee could help with the matching process. Roll this out for Albuquerque.
6. Only one poster was submitted for the designated poster session on Graphic Novels; this poster presentation was relocated to an existing session; the poster session notion needs some further thought, including whether Graphic Novels should be treated separately from the traditional forms. The discussion moved to whether it was time to have at least one designated session breakout space with a/v capabilities and/or whether it was time for the organization to purchase projectors and connectors so that it would be easier for presenters to present non-traditional forms. Discussion was far-ranging and included the following:
 - Digital poster sessions
 - Concerns with Wi-Fi availability

- The variety of forms of delivery that presenters could use
 - An awareness of how the visual can affect presentation
 - Multi-modality
 - Performance art component
 - The need for those using a/v equipment to do more preparation ahead of time (time before presentation to load the material and ensure that is working, etc.)
 - Need to add a question to the submission form about a/v needs including language about the visual must be an integral and required part of the presentation and not simply a PowerPoint of what the presentation covers
 - Certain categories might be natural fits for this, including film and literature panels, graphic work, pop-culture, visual representations, form and response poems, convention theme tie-ins
 - We need to consider what we don't want to see
 - Perhaps submitters need to include a paragraph about why they need the projector and how it would be used
 - There would be no guarantee of a/v equipment and offering would be limited AND competitive
7. A motion was made, seconded and passed (1 opposed, 2 abstentions, 15 in favor) that the Central Office purchase two computer projectors and necessary connectors for use at the 2015 convention.
 8. Scheduling Change suggestions need to be considered for the 2017 convention, including but not limited to the NEHS speaker, the gala (lunch or dinner) and length of stay, reduced number of speakers, a cultural presentation (singers, dancers, etc.) instead of a speaker
 9. This year the number of reservations for the gala dropped and we needed to spend an additional \$6000 in food costs; in the future, decisions about how this money is to be spent need to include the Convention Chair; if this trend continues, this food cost might be used to provide a bagged breakfast or snack bag for convention-goers