

Service & Partnership Committee Meeting Minutes, Spring 2015

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.

Spring Committee Minutes

Announcements

- As part of a new service initiative, the BWB funds (5% net sales or about \$800) will go to Laguna Pueblo School & Library (the school has a connection to Leslie Marmon Silko).
- The committee received a record 187 applications for the Penguin Internship. The five finalists were sent to Penguin & Random House Publishing. The internship recipient will be identified by Penguin Publishing in April. Finalists include:
 - Colton Cox
 - Sarah Domm
 - Amelia Jenkins
 - Erin Kane
 - Tracey Napoli
- The 2015 BWB internship was awarded to Samantha Oty of Radford University, VA. The BWB internship is a six-week summer internship. Sigma Tau Delta will provide the recipient with a \$1,500 stipend to assist with travel and housing expenses. The recipient will work 30 hours per week, earning \$10 per hour in the Atlanta, GA, metro area.

Summer Stipend Award & Application

- In the fall, the newly combined Service & Partnership committee discovered that a few thousand dollars was dedicated to the idea of a general internship stipend (some of the work previously completed and proposed by the former Partnership Committee). 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, the board approved a Summer Internship Stipend (similar to a grant), with the criteria and forms completed through the spring board meeting. We would like to make a request of the board in regard to this matter. We received feedback from previous committee members and are in the process of revising the criteria and application form. The

board was amenable to an online review and vote of the revised forms (within the next month) so that the information could be posted and we could potentially distribute up to two stipends for summer 2015.

NEHS & Out of Print Clothing (and possible partnership with STD)

- Dave Wendelin pursued a partnership between NEHS and Out of Print Clothing, www.outofprintclothing.com<<http://www.outofprintclothing.com/>>, a company that will work with chapters that wish to sell the literary merchandise 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, a few chapters piloted fundraisers. The process was easy; however, a technology glitch with the input of a chapter's fundraising code will need to be addressed. If all goes well, STD may consider using that company for specialized and/or event-focused merchandising. As a suggestion, convention chairs may want to invite a representative from Out of Print Clothing to set up a stand or hold a fundraising workshop.

Membership Fee Incentives

- Upon the request of the directors of NEHS and SKD, the committee examined collaboration with SKD and NEHS to include reduced memberships rates for students that move from NEHS to SKD to STD in all variations. The committee made a motion that is contingent on the directors' discussion with their boards and an investigation of the fiscal effects of such fee reductions. Based on the directors' feedback and fiscal data, we may or may not proceed with a full motion to the board at the fall board meeting.

Online Agenda

(April through September 2015)

- In April, finish discussion and vote on Summer Internship Stipend application and criteria
- Review and judge Service Award applications
- Review and judge Summer Internship Stipend applications
- Participate in strategic planning activities over the summer months (more information on the endeavor will be announced in the next few weeks)