

INTERNATIONAL THEODORE DREISER SOCIETY BUSINESS MEETING – 5/22/15

PRESENT: Jude Davies, President; Linda Kornasky, Vice President; Roark Mulligan, Executive Secretary-Treasurer; Miriam S. Gogol, Recording Secretary; Renate von Bardeleben, International Advisory Board; Cara Erdheim, Director at Large; Eric Carl Link, Director at Large; Thomas P. Riggio, International Advisory Board

The meeting was called to order by Jude and began with a point of clarification: both the President and the Vice President have two-year stints. Thus Jude will continue as President for another year, as will Linda as Vice-President. The vote on the constitutional change to increase the number of Directors-at-Large from two to four was done via e-mail, prior to the conference. Those who voted approved unanimously to increase the number to four. At this meeting, Miriam S. Gogol and Renate von Bardeleben were appointed to the positions by unanimous votes.

Roark provided the Treasurer's Report:

The Society's current balance is \$2,070.14 in our bank and \$341.93 in our Paypal account, for a total of \$2412.07, down from 2520.97 the year before. This year, we paid \$952.50 to the University of Nebraska Press for volume 9 of SAN—this represents 75% of our dues. We paid \$250 to the winner of the Elias Prize—Anne Diebel, Columbia University. And we paid \$71.80 to Weebly, which covers our web hosting service for two years. For the last two years, we have been spending a little more than we bring in. At this time, we have 59 paying members; last fiscal year, we had sixty-four paying members. The total number of members is 100.

The International Dreiser website is visited often with forty to eighty hits per day. Last year, members agreed to provide up to \$400. to digitalize back issues of *Dreiser Studies* and the *Dreiser Newsletter*, but Keith Newlin was able to scan these back issues using a student worker, so the money was not needed. At today's meeting, the members also agreed to a \$5.00 annual surcharge that will be used to support the Elias Prize. Importantly, a revival of the Dreiser Society listserv with a link on the Dreiser website was discussed. Roark will pursue this possibility.

Report on *Studies in American Naturalism*:

The Elias Prize of \$250 was awarded to Anne Diebel, Columbia University, for her essay "That indescribable thing": Personality in Dreiser's Early Journalism and *Sister Carrie*." Keith Newlin's work-study student finished scanning the back issues of the *Dreiser Newsletter* and *Dreiser Studies*. "Dreiser Newsletter" is not the same beast as the "Dreiser Society Newsletter," which is already on line at the TD site. The scans are of all the issues before *Studies* moved to UNCW. Keith has pdfs of *Dreiser Studies* after 1996, and they are also available on one of the Ebscohost databases. The next issue of SAN—summer 2015—will be a special issue on Jack London and Hemingway, guest edited by Kenneth Brandt.

Proposed panels for ALA '16 in San Francisco:

1. Transnational Dreiser and other Naturalist Writers

2. Open session – with a preference for current topics in Dreiser

Enlarging membership and exposure:

Miriam proposed that each member of the Business Society contribute to advancing the membership numbers by inviting two or more colleagues from their colleges or universities or from the larger Dreiser community to join the Society.

Cara Erdheim suggested the creation of a Theodore Dreiser Facebook page, similar to the Edith Wharton page. Cara agreed to do follow-up on this.

Eric Link discussed the idea of a Dreiser, Norris, Crane, London, and McCarthy biennial meeting. He and representatives of the other societies had had a brainstorming session regarding this option. Discussion about creating an umbrella organization that meets perhaps biennially is to continue. This change would not in any way supplant the individual associations; it would be an additional opportunity, one at which the members of the different societies could get together and share ideas and consider new opportunities.

Sincerely,

Miriam S. Gogol