

Minutes for ALA Dreiser Society Business Meeting; Saturday, May 24, 2014, 12:30 pm

1. Meeting called to order by Gary Totten (President). Others in attendance: Jude Davies (Vice President), Roark Mulligan (Treasurer/Secretary), Linda Kornasky, and Miriam S. Gogol.

2. Elections

- Linda Kornasky was unanimously elected Vice President of the society.
- Miriam S. Gogol was unanimously elected Recording Secretary of the society.

3. Treasurer's Report

- Roark Mulligan provided a Treasurer's Report. The Society's current balance is \$2,104.44 in our bank and \$416.53 in our Paypal account. This year we paid \$982.50 to the University of Nebraska Press for volume 8 of SAN—this represents 75% of our dues. Last year, we had 64 paying members who received the journal, but for email communications, we have 100 members. Membership has remained steady. We paid \$250 to the winner of the Elias Prize—James A Puckett. And we paid 49.05 to Big Daddy, which covers our domain name for the next five years. We will owe \$71 to Weebly, which will be due this September—this will cover our web service for the next two years. For the last two years, we have been spending about as much as we bring in, approximately \$1280.

4. SAN Report from Keith Newlin

a. SAN submissions have remained steady, at about 30/year, for the last two years. We've increased our publication rate from 4 essays/issue to 6 essays/issue. (I think that's a 40% acceptance rate, though check my math, ENG majors being deficient in the skill). Best of all, we've been releasing issues on time for the past two years.

b. One concern: the word is not getting out about the Elias Essay contest: submissions tend to be minimal. I hope those present at the meeting will find a way to promote the contest. After all, \$250 + publication is a good incentive, I would think.

c. One more item: I have, in a storage facility, all back issues of the Dreiser Newsletter and Dreiser Studies (some 18 cartons), prior to when Ebsco began including DS in its database. I'd like to digitize these issues and place them on the Dreiser Society website. Otherwise, the contents will likely go glimmering. Since comparatively few libraries have copies of the newsletter, it would be nice to make this resource more widely available. And at some point Steve and I will want to pass on the coeditorship and will need to dispose of the backstock. (In this digital age, the last request for a copy of a paper issue was more than ten years ago.)

So, I'd like to hire a student/grad student to digitize the issues and arrange with Roark for hosting the files, so I'll need approval of Society funds to pay the person. I don't know offhand how much that will be, so I defer to my good colleagues to come up with a number, or a cap, and in the fall I'll recruit someone to digitize the back stock, provided the plan is approved.

4. Panel Topics for ALA 2015

- Suggested themes: Dreiser and Film, An Open Call, Dreiser and Women

5. New Business:

- Members present agreed to provide up to \$400 to digitize back issues of *Dreiser Studies* and the *Dreiser Newsletter*.
- A \$5 increase in dues was discussed. It was decided that this should be considered by the full board through email and that the membership might be polled.
- An amendment to the constitution was discussed that would allow four directors at large, two more than now. It was decided that this should be discussed by the full board through email.
- A revival of the Dreiser Society list serve was discussed—there would be a link on the web site. Roark Mulligan will pursue this.
- The creation of a Theodore Dreiser Facebook page was discussed, similar to the Edith Wharton page; Cara Erdheim was suggested as a possible moderator.
- A Dreiser Circle fund was discussed—the funds could be used to support travel to the ALA conferences for graduate students. Individuals would donate money to become members of the circle—various donation levels might be included. Again, it was decided that the full board should discuss this through email.