

Minutes for ALA Dreiser Society Business Meeting; Thursday, May 24, 2012, 3:00 pm

1. Treasurer's Report

Roark Mulligan provided a Treasurer's Report. The Society's current balance is \$2,725.79, after having paid \$967.50 to the University of Nebraska press for volume 6 of SAN. We pay 75% of our dues to the press, so Roark has been sending journals only to those who have currently paid dues (63), but for email communication he keeps a longer list of members (79).

Because the Society is in good financial standing, we could consider offering a graduate student scholarship to attend the ALA conference.

2. Elections

Jude Davies was nominated as vice-president and elected by acclamation. Gary Totten will become president of the Society at the end of the meeting (as per the bylaws) and Jude will serve as VP for two years, before becoming president. Eric Carl Link was nominated as a director-at-large and elected by acclamation.

3. Panel Topics for ALA 2013

Yoshinobu Hakutani suggested the topic of "Theodore Dreiser and the Chicago Renaissance." After some discussion, the topic of "Theodore Dreiser and Chicago" was approved as one of the panels for ALA 2013; those at the meeting felt this more general topic would generate more submissions. Yoshi will chair this panel. The other panel will be open topic and Jude will coordinate and chair that panel. Yoshi and Jude will work together to advertise and solicit submissions to the ALA 2013 Dreiser panels.

4. Dreiser Society Website

Keith Newlin noted that he will no longer be able to maintain or host the website. Roark will look into a domain name for the website.

5. *Studies in American Naturalism*

Keith reported that the journal is booming with submissions. Two upcoming special issues are planned: African American writers and naturalism (edited by John Dudley) and science fiction and naturalism (edited by Eric Carl Link). Keith raised a question about the editorial board, as almost half the current board members are not working in the field anymore. The journal's scope is expanding, so the board needs to be expanded, as well. Keith will contact current board

members to gauge their interest in remaining on the board. He will give them three options: (1) Remain on the board; (2) Retire from the board; (3) Stay on as an emeritus member. Keith will draft an email to this effect and send it to the officers and director-at-large of the Society for input. After approval, the email will be sent to current editorial board members. [**Later note: the editors have decided to table action on this item for the time being.**]

6. Thanks to Outgoing Society President, Donna Campbell

Members at the meeting expressed appreciation for the service of outgoing Dreiser Society President, Donna Campbell. Gary will draft an email to be sent to the Society membership thanking Donna for her service and informing the membership of the new officers.