DHLSNA Annual Business Meeting Minutes

1:30 PM, January 10, 2021

Present

Adam Parkes, Earl Ingersoll, Tonya Krouse, Benjamin Hagen, Joyce Wexler, Nanette Norris, Ronald Granofsky, Feroza Jussawalla, Jonathan Long, Bill Haller, Holly Laird, Susan Reid, Andrew Keese, Carol Sklenicka, Erin Speese, Judith Ruderman, Jonathan Long, Julianne Newmark, Katherine Miller, Naveed Rehan, Ria Banerjee, Richard Kaye

# Approval of minutes from 2020 meeting

Unanimously Approved

# Election of Officers

Adam Parkes reported on who is currently serving on the executive board and serving as officers in the society.

# Financial Statement – Report from Andrew Keese

Latest draft, on first page is checking account balance from the end of 2019. Our total asset as of the end of the year was $26,435, which includes PayPal account. This particular financial statement for 2020 is confusing because a lot of money has been going in/out because of the conference and its postponement because of Covid-19. It could be more messy next year if we need to postpone/cancel again this year. $4,282.54 is the figure for current outstanding expenses related to the conference. $34,830.59 is the current net assets as of 12/31/2020 minus liabilities and conference funds, which leaves us with $27,531.07. Nanette added this is one of the most complex years we have ever had in terms of the financial status of the organization. Bill Haller said he was unable to renew his membership because the link didn’t work properly. Nanette said that she will look into it and get back to him about it. No other comments/questions about the financial statement. The Executive will vote on the statement via email once the statement has been finalized.

# Conferences

Nanette says that they will postpone the international conference for one more year until 2022. She reports that an idea for the summer is a virtual conference. Susan Reid reports from the Coordinating Committee of International Lawrence Conferences that with the new postponement of the conference in Taos that they have been debating for months having a virtual conference that would be a one-off, completely separate from other Lawrence conferences. Very keen for as many people from around the world to contribute and join in. They are proposing a series of roundtables and workshops that would be short papers, works in progress, with the aim being really to get Lawrentians together and also to keep research going in this difficult time. There will be something in the works so when we announce the postponement of the Taos conference we can hold the dates for an international virtual conference in its place.

Topic for next year’s MLA (at this point – working on the assumption that it will be in person in Washington, D.C.) Adam proposes the idea of Disease and Recovery. Stefania could not attend the meeting because her internet has been knocked out by a windstorm but she had an idea for a topic – Social Distance – but Sue reports that the idea for the virtual conference theme would be D.H. Lawrence: Distance and Proximity, so she’s not sure whether this would be the theme for the MLA panel or the virtual conference. Joyce speaks about her support for the theme of Disease and Recovery, as do others.

Those present vote for Disease and Recovery for next year’s MLA.

Tonya reports that she hasn’t yet determined the theme for SAMLA, which she will organize the panel for.

We are going to give the virtual graduate student conference another attempt. So far, we have 3 submissions, so we are hoping to put this together again for the Spring. Please let anyone teaching graduate students who work on Lawrence know about the opportunity. We’d like to organize things by the end of February.

## Report on the Journal from Richard Kaye

Richard Kaye says he wants to put together a *Women in Love* centenary issue for the journal. He also reports that we are about to go forth with issue 4.41, and JSTOR is going to release the issue right away and those who subscribe to the print edition will get the print version at some point in the future. (It can’t be printed right now because of Covid-19.) Announcements: Ron Granofsky has stepped down as book review editor. New book review editor is --- New webmaster – Tina Ferris has stepped down and Jeff Brackett who is also in New York will take on that role. New website, and the new issue should be out in about two weeks, with articles on a Sylvia Plath essay on Lawrence, an article on The Rainbow, an article on Lawrence and Burroughs – those are just some of the highlights. One of the biggest challenges this year was contributors not having access to libraries, books, their offices. No questions. He thanks all of those here who have read for the journal. He also adds that he has tried to speed up the time between submission and review. One thing he also wanted to say related to conferences is that it is more challenging to find out about work being done on Lawrence, so please put people working on Lawrence on Richard’s radar to reach out to folks working on things. He also discussed the problem of not having all of the Cambridge editions as editor of the journal, and they are quite expensive. He says if you have extra copies of any of those volumes that he doesn’t have, please let him know! He also thanks everyone for the fund for purchasing those volumes. Sue owns them all – second-hand library editions and paperback editions, many of them. A lot of them are now searchable online through Google, which is a poor substitute for having the full set but it’s better than nothing. Adam says we should ask Cambridge UP to give the editors of both journals free access, but Richard says that he never got a response when he asked. He doesn’t know if they were just overwhelmed by the pandemic at that point, but he is going to keep trying. Jonathan Long also offers to check quotes and to be on the lookout for editions for Richard.

## Awards

Some of the awards come with travel stipends to the conference, accommodation and food, etc. and so what we would like to do is maintain this list and add more to it so that we have more awardees when we meet next year. It’s a shame not to give these people their moment in the sun and their time to give these talks that they all have had prepared for a couple of years, and I think we will have lots of other possibilities and keynote speakers from the conference this summer, so should we be using some of these keynote speakers at the virtual conference? Susan says they aren’t planning to have keynotes or competing papers that are destined for Taos. Paul Eggert feels quite strongly that he would like to receive his award in person and give his keynote there. Andrew Harrison who was also to give a keynote for Taos has a strong preference to give his keynote in person as originally intended. Susan says that she has not talked to others but she suspects people would really want to give the talk in Taos and not virtually. It’s very hard to tell what the turnout is going to be for the virtual conference and so she suggests that we should keep the face-to-face conference separate from the virtual, and others agreed. Holly says (representing the views of some others as well) that it would be nice to have two sets of awards at the conference in Taos when it happens, which means convening a committee. Holly said that she would be happy to chair the committee, and she says that she has thoughts about people not an officer/or on the executive to judge the awards. Everyone agrees we should have presenters in Taos and that we should have a second round of awards.

Meeting adjourns at approximately 2:30 pm.