

Mid-America Theatre Conference
March 2014 – Cleveland, OH
Business Meeting Minutes 3/8/14
Prepared by Kate Roark, Secretary

Copies of the 2014 Business Meeting Agenda, the 2014 Treasurer's Report and the 2013 Business Meeting minutes were distributed to those in attendance. MATC President Scott Magelssen called the meeting to order.

I. Approval of 2013 minutes. Tom Robson moved to approve the minutes and Milbre Burch seconded the motion. The motion passed.

II. Treasurer's Report. Tyler Smith reported the conference is headed in a good direction, financially. The conference must not only pay the expenses of the conference, but also pay for the journal, *Theatre History Studies*. No questions from the room for the treasurer. A paper copy of the Treasurer's Report was also distributed.

III. Grad Liaison Report. Macy Jones reported that 60 graduate students are presenting in panels this year at MATC. This is also the 2nd year of offering reduced fees to a limited number of graduate students in exchange for working the registration desk during the conference. This year there were 15 applicants, and the grad liaisons chose 4 who demonstrated the greatest need. Finally, they announced that there would be an election for the incoming Grad Liaison taking place later that evening at the Grad Student Mixer in the hotel bar.

IV. Associate Conference Planner. MATC Vice President, John Fletcher, explained that the election of Associate Conference planner is the first step in an eight-year commitment to MATC. The person winning the election will serve two years in each of the following leadership positions: Associate Conference Planner, Conference Planner, Vice President, and President. For the first time in MATC history, this year's candidates were generated through the Nominations Committee, chaired by John Fletcher and including the senior symposia co-chairs and 2 members at large (currently Elizabeth Ponds and Jeff LaRocque). Bios of the candidates, Season Ellison, Rob Shimko, and Chris Woodworth were circulated online before the conference. Ballots were distributed, collected, and tallied by Conference Planner, Peter Campbell; Associate Conference Planner, Beth Osborne; and Treasurer, Tyler Smith. Chris Woodworth was elected the incoming MATC Associate Conference Planner.

V. Associate Treasurer. This is a new position that the MATC executive committee is considering adding, however that would require a change to our bylaws, so this item on the agenda was tabled.

VI. Theatre History Studies Report. Liz Mullinex, Editor of *Theatre History Studies*, reported on the status of Vol. 33, Vol. 34, and Vol. 35. Vol. 33, (edited by Ann Haugo) should be coming soon, printed by Allen Press. Vol. 34, Liz's first issue, went to press September 1, 2013 and is expected to be out in August of 2014. The process of working with Dan Waterman at Alabama Press has been great. So far there have been 18 submissions for Vol. 35, so Liz is still accepting

essays. There have been fewer submissions for Vol. 35, an open call for papers, than there were for Vol. 34, a special edition on war. Liz is working on better marketing and getting the call for submissions to a wider audience. Bob Schanke asked about the high fee from Alabama Press and the 13-month lag time. Liz responded that she has discussed this with Alabama Press, but there is no wiggle room on time lag. We expect a fee increase from Alabama Press, but we're still waiting to hear when it will take effect and how much it will be. Liz wants to continue our relationship with Alabama, noting we get a lot of services from them including copying and typesetting. A question was raised about making the journal more accessible with through digital downloading, and if the Executive Committee is considered pursuing Project Muse. Scott Magelssen answered that Project Muse will be considered.

VII. Members At-Large. John Fletcher explained that we need nominations for two new At-Large Committee Members who are not already serving as a Symposium Co-Chair or on the Executive Committee. Jeff LaRocque nominated Heidi Nees. Lisa Jackson-Schebetta nominated Mimi Kammer. Tom Robson nominated Jane Purse-Wiedenhoeft. Sara Freeman nominated Dan Smith. Bob Shanke moved to close nominations and Shawna Vey seconded. Motion carries. Ballots were cast and tallied. Beth Osborne announced our new members at large are Jane Purse-Wiedenhoeft and Dan Smith.

VIII. Special Thanks to Carolyn Roark. Scott Magelssen thanked Carolyn Roark for her 5 years of service leading Articles In Progress, in addition to her years serving as Conference Coordinator. Carolyn has expanded the offerings at MATC, increased participants and expertly matched authors with editors. We thank Carolyn for the high level of rigor and high profile that AIP enjoys today.

Mark Mallet moved that all reports presented be jointly approved and adopted. Seconded by Sara Freeman. Motion carried.

IX. Announcements.

Incoming Symposia Co-chairs.

Playwrighting: Matt Fotis.

Practice and Production: Boone Hopkins

Pedagogy: Same as this year.

Theatre History Symposium: Joanne Zerdy

Emerging Scholars: Karen Martinson.

AIP: Rob Shimko

Our 2015 conference will be at the Kansas City Sheraton (used to be Hyatt) March 19-22. The 2016 conference will be in Minneapolis, hotel TBA. We are looking at Pittsburgh, Oklahoma City and Chicago for the 2017 conference. John Fletcher addressed how Oklahoma would be a move out of our traditional territory, however Oklahoma is literally in the middle of the country. There will likely be a survey monkey to find the opinions of the membership on these locations. Until the recent labor dispute, MATC had a long-standing agreement with Hyatt hotels, however we found this year's non-Hyatt hotel much cheaper. John explained we might go back to Hyatt, but we'd need to be wooed. Bob Schanke spoke in favor of Pittsburgh. Season Ellison encouraged considering cities that are less expensive due to under-employment – noting that

Minneapolis and Chicago are expensive. Peter Campbell noted that there while hotels in cities like Chicago are expensive, sometimes travel (airfare) is cheaper. Rosemarie Bank spoke in favor of Chicago, encouraging us to get wooed. Peter Campbell spoke about how cost is always at the forefront of our minds when selecting sites. Peter also noted we have a record number of participants staying in the hotel this year, probably due to its affordability.

Tonight we spring forward.

Final comments from outgoing President, Scott Magelssen:

“I want to thank past and present members of my executive committees, John Poole, Bill Jenkins, Mary Cutler, Ann Haugo, John Fletcher, Peter Campbell, Beth Osborne, Deanna Toten-Beard, Jennifer Blackmer, Tyler Smith, Mark Mallett, Kathy Privatt, Kate Roark, THS editors Rhona Justice Malloy, Elizabeth Reitz Mullenix. Book review editors Cheryl Black and Rob Shimko. I want to thank all the symposium co-chairs, graduate liaisons, and Fellows, keynote speakers, respondents. too many to name here individually. This is a constellation of leadership within which I have been honored and grateful to align myself. And with those remarks and due acknowledgements, I am pleased to hand the gavel over to my successor, Dr. John Fletcher.”

Jeff Grace moved to adjourn the business meeting, and Westin Ornaski seconded. Motion carried.