

NEMLA Board of Directors' Meeting, April 30, 2015
Fairmont Royal York, Toronto- Boardroom 1 - 7:30 am

Board Members present:

Daniela Antonucci, Princeton University, President; Ben Railton, Fitchburg State University, First Vice President; Hilda Chacon, Nazareth College, Second Vice President; Ellen Dolgin, Dominican College, Past President; Jennifer Harris, University of Waterloo, American/British Literatures Director; Anna Rocca, Salem State University, French Languages and Literatures Director; Suha Kudsieh, College of Staten Island-CUNY, Professional and Pedagogy; Lynn Marie Kutch, Kutztown University, German Languages and Literatures Director; Emily Lauer, Suffolk County Community College, CAITY; Marie-Eve Monette, McGill University, Graduate Student Caucus Representative; Gloria Pastorino, Farleigh Dickinson University, Italian Languages and Literatures Director; Vetri Nathan, University of Massachusetts-Boston, Member-At-Large: Diversity; Maria Matz, University of Massachusetts-Lowell, Spanish and Portuguese Languages and Literatures Director; Susmita Roye, Delaware State University, Anglophone Area; Rita Bode, Trent University, Women's and Gender Studies Caucus Representative; Laurence Roth, Susquehanna University, Editor of *Modern Language Studies*

Board Members Absent: Gillian Pierce, Boston University, Comparative Languages and Theory Director;

Non-Board members present: Carine Mardorossian, University at Buffalo, Executive Director; Brandi So, Stony Brook University

- I. Call to Order: The Meeting was called to order at 8:00 am by President Antonucci, who introduced new and returning board members.
- II. Approval of Fall 2014 Board minutes: The minutes for the Fall 2014 Board minutes were reviewed and approved. The motion **passed** unanimously.
- III. Executive Director's Report:
 - a. Non-profit Incorporation: ED Mardorossian reported on the legal status of the organization and noted that she is still working with the retained law firm to reinstate NeMLA's status as a nonprofit organization. The lapsed incorporation requires ten years' worth of previous filings.
 - b. 2015 Convention: This is by far the one of the largest NeMLA conventions to date; the exhibitor hall was booked fully and registrations are on par with other major city conventions. ED Mardorossian noted that seminar sessions saw a spike this year, and this increased popularity puts a unique demand on the scheduling aspect of the convention. If seminars continue to gain in popularity, we might need to re-think how they are structured into the convention schedule. Discussion of seminars included the communication strategy with chairs of seminars, possibly recording a video for the website, and discussion of seminar contracts.
 - c. Workshops: ED Mardorossian noted that only one workshop leader asked for a budget, and that she was considering waiving the workshop fees to

ensure that they fill up. Some workshops struggle to enroll a full complement of attendees, although popular ones certainly have no issues filling.

- d. Fellowships: The fellowships with the AAS and the Newberry Library have been dissolved for 2016. ED Mardorossian is working on new fellowships that are more regionally relevant to our attendees; one at the University of Buffalo and a second one in a location TBD.
- e. Staff: ED Mardorossian reported that she would be revamping the staff compensation structure soon and bring a proposal before the board. NeMLA has become an increasingly administrative job, given the large number of members and the extensive administrative workload that goes into managing the registration, hotels, fellowships, graduate fellows, website, and so on.

IV. Officer and Committee Reports

- a. President's Report, Daniela Antonucci: The Convention and Welcome Reading/Keynote Speaker events will include welcomes from herself, Ryerson faculty, and the Director of the Italian Cultural Institute of Toronto.
- b. First Vice President's Report, Benjamin Railton: VP Railton thanked those who served on the book award committee, including Bill Waddell, who served. The book awardee will be present at the Sunday brunch. Planning for the 2016 Convention in Hartford is well underway; the event and keynote will center on the theme of public scholarship and how we connect as scholars to the communities in which we live. We hope to have the keynote at the Twain house, and ideas for people or topics are welcome. VP Railton announced that a partnership with Hartford Public Schools is being developed. VP Railton also commented that he is asking the board to think of ways to keep supporting our adjunct and contingent NeMLA community.
- c. Second Vice President's Report, Hilda Chacon: VP Chacon thanked those who served on the summer fellowship applications and reported that the plans for the Baltimore convention are moving forward; Johns Hopkins is reviewing the proposal for serving as the NeMLA local host, but recent events in Baltimore are no doubt pushing that conversation back somewhat.
- d. *Modern Language Studies*, Laurence Roth, editor: Editor Roth commented that his written report was saved in the folder for the board to review, and he invited any questions about the report.

V. Language Director & Caucus Reports

- a. American –Jennifer Harris: AD Harris reviewed the contents of her written report; she thanked everyone for their collegiality during her time on the NeMLA Board.
- b. British/Anglophone- Susmita Roye: AD Roye reviewed the contents of her written report.
- c. Italian – Gloria Pastorino: AD Pastorino reviewed the contents of her written report.

- d. Spanish/Portuguese – Maria Matz: AD Matz reviewed the contents of her written report and noted that the Spanish/Portuguese area has a speaker for the first time in a long time, one representing Portuguese literature.
- e. German – Lynn Kutch: AD Kutch reviewed the contents of her written report and noted that a small but good group of scholars were joining NeMLA in her area, including an Austrian graphic novelist. She noted that she would be working on and looking for help with recruiting Russian scholars. She asked that board members share any contacts that they might have in her efforts.
- f. French – Anna Rocca: AD Rocca reviewed her written report and noted that the convention location has prompted several panels on French-Canadian literature. Rocca also queried about NeMLA’s policies on supporting out-of-country panelists in travel funds.
- g. Comparative Literatures – Gillian Pierce: AD Pierce submitted a written report to the Board.
- h. Cultural Studies & Film – Barry Spence: AD Spence reviewed the contents of his written report and noted that although there were many initial submissions the sessions that held together came to thirty-five sessions: still a healthy number for CS&F.
- i. Pedagogy and Professional – Suha Kudsieh: AD Kudseih reviewed the written contents of her report, noting that the Pedagogy Area received several panel proposals on flipped classrooms. Two editors, publishers and presses – Broadview and Toronto Presses – will present on publishing monographs. Director Kudsieh asked if there is a way that we might highlight our membership achievements, perhaps through an online space. NeMLA offers a space for members to promote their accomplishments on Facebook on the first Monday of every month; additional options were discussed but need further discussion about infrastructure and sustainability.
- j. Women's/Gender Caucus – Rita Bode: Caucus Rep. Bode reviewed the contents of her written report to the Board.
- k. Diversity Caucus – Vetri Nathan: Caucus Rep. Vetri reviewed the contents of his written report to the Board.
- l. Graduate Student Caucus – Marie-Eve Monette: Caucus Rep. Monette reviewed the written contents of her report and noted that the graduate caucus is growing; the CV clinic will continue through Saturday. Monette reported also that a Twitter contest for graduate students would begin tomorrow, the contest will continue for a week after the convention.
- m. CAITY Caucus – Emily Lauer: Caucus Rep. Lauer reviewed the contents of her written report and noted the overlap in mission between CAITY and the other caucuses. Laurer intends to change the name of the CAITY Caucus, and expects to bring a proposal to the Board for approval at the next Board meeting.

VI. Other Business

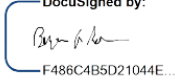
- a. Review of By-laws for membership vote: the By-Laws were reviewed for the membership vote.

VII. Special Addendum: June 22, 2015

- a. The Board hereby authorizes the small business credit application 9203751916, and approves Carine Mardorossian as authorized to submit the application, as well as list her name as the authorized contact. Cardholders may include: Carine Mardorossian, Renata Towne, Brandi So, Derek McGrath, and Kristin le Veness.

These minutes are approved for the purpose of authorizing item VII. Special Addendum, by the following Board members:

Benjamin A. Railton, NeMLA Board President:

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Benjamin A. Railton
President

Hilda S. Chacon, NeMLA Board First Vice President: