



THE BEACON SOCIETY

*Supporting and recognizing exemplary educational experiences
that introduce young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories*



*A Scion Society of the
Baker Street Irregulars*

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2008

January 9, 2009 at the Algonquin Hotel, New York City. Head Light Joseph Coppola opened the meeting with a brief report on the Society's progress since he assumed its leadership last January and plans for increasing the Society's visibility in the next year.

A major priority for next year is to incorporate the Society and achieve 501(c)(3) tax status. New member Pj Doyle will head the committee to address these issues, assisted by Carol Cavaluzzi. The committee will identify the best state for incorporation and begin the process to do so. The next step will be to attain IRS recognition of the Society's not-for-profit status.

Treasurer Richard Olken reported a balance of \$4,847.52, an increase of \$621.04 over the previous year. No expenditures were incurred. He also reported that PayPal had blocked the Society from collecting funds because we needed to demonstrate we were a legitimate tax-exempt organization. The incorporation project will resolve this issue.

Andrew Solberg, chair of the Awards Task Group, presented the forms and process that schools and other organizations may use to apply for grants from the Society. It was agreed to post the information on the Yahoo list and to encourage members to share the information with any interested parties. The deadline for the first grant proposals will be May 1, 2009.

Marilynne McKay, the Society's new webmaster, presented her proposal for reinstating the Society's website which had lapsed in 2008. The Board unanimously authorized her to select a web hosting site and to reestablish the website as quickly as possible. The annual cost for maintaining the site should be under \$140 a year. Member John Sherwood volunteered to provide editorial assistance on the website, as well as to write press releases and provide other communications support. Elaine Coppola will also provide editorial assistance on the website, and Myrtle Robinson will help recreate the previous program content, as well as developing additional content.

The Head Light announced that he is working on identifying a new head for the Communications Task Group and would announce the appointment to the membership as soon as it is finalized.

Program Committee Chair Myrtle Robinson was unable to attend. Her annual report focused on additions to the website she expects to implement once the site is operational.

Sue Vizoskie, Chair of the By-Laws Revision Committee, presented the process for revising the by-laws and the major changes in the proposed new by-laws. The Board voted to approve the revised By-Laws and to submit them to the membership for ratification. Because the changes are extensive, members will receive both the revised by-laws and a copy of the existing by-laws. [A copy of the revised March 2009 By-Laws appears on BeaconSociety.com]

Andrew Solberg announced that Dr. Tracy J. Revels received the 2009 Beacon Society Award for her college classes on the Canon. Her certificate will be sent to Myrtle Robinson for presentation to Dr. Revels.

Richard Olken announced that he is the Society's official contact with the Sherlockian Who's Who website and will liaison with Who's Who members for Beacon Society listing. He is also happy to add any Society members not currently listed on the site to it.

Respectfully submitted

Susan Z Diamond, a.k.a. Percy Phelps

Secretary