



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 THE ANNUAL MEETING 2014

January 11, 2014: Roosevelt Hotel, Park Suite, New York City

Head Light Susan Diamond and attendees were asked to sign in. The 2013 Meeting Minutes were distributed and unanimously approved. Bursar Carol Cavalluzzi presented the Treasurer's Report. The General Fund balance stands at \$5,803.03 and the Jan Stauber Fund balance is \$4,428.21. The Beacon Society received the full match to the Jan Stauber Fund from Al Gregory again this year. Approval to cover the shipping cost for Beacon Society pins from the General Fund was given by voice vote. The 2014 budget was presented and unanimously approved.

Marilynne McKay, Chair of the Communications Committee, reported that the Beacon Society press release about Shannon Carlisle, 2013 Beacon Award recipient, was published in her local newspaper in Tennessee. Our homepage, BeaconSociety.com, celebrates its fifth anniversary this year and our web presence today consists of 60 pages and 50 PDF files containing information about the Beacon Society and teaching Sherlock Holmes. Each year has seen additions to the resources available on the web site – lesson plans, teaching materials and reports from Jan Stauber Grant recipients that cover the gamut from elementary school to college. Crystal Noll of 221B Con has joined the Communications Group and is helping expand our social media presence. We are now on Twitter (@TeachSherlock) and a Tumblr page (teachsherlock.tumblr.com) is in development. This increased social media presence is anticipated to increase the ease of publicizing Society announcements. The increased amount of the Jan Stauber Grant individual award has already been publicized on the website.

Peggy Purdue, Chair of the Programming Committee, highlighted the new additions to the beacon website. Beacon members Sally Sugarman provided a list of contemporary mysteries with young detectives, Judith Freeman contributed a manual for starting a Sherlockian group, and Francine Kitts added a Jeopardy styled Sherlockian game.

Allan Devitt, Chair of the newly formed Grants Committee, presented the committee's inaugural report. Terry Hunt led a sub-committee that made significant progress towards simplifying the Stauber Grants guidelines, application and evaluation procedures. This year the individual Jan Stauber Grant award will be a maximum of \$500 with a total of \$7000 available to for grants. The application period is currently

open and runs to May 1. Allan asked that all members contact schools, libraries, and other appropriate organizations to make them aware of the Stauber grant program.

Elaine Coppola, Awards Committee Chair, announced that seven Jan Stauber Grants were awarded in 2013 for a total amount of \$1,932.36. She also presented the 2014 Beacon Award to Timothy S. Greer, instructor in English and Fine Arts and theatre director at the Memphis University School in Memphis, Tennessee. Greer teaches a detective fiction course for high school seniors in which the students read the Sherlock Holmes stories in the original illustrated Strand edition. Elaine concluded her report by introducing Marino Alvarez, the incoming chair of the Awards Committee.

Marino and Marilynne McKay will be in charge of the Beacon Society's participation in a panel discussion at 221B Con in Atlanta. The Society was named as the official charity for the weekend.

Head Light Susan Diamond expressed her appreciation for the Board's efforts and welcomed the three new members: Marino Alvarez, Allan Devitt, and Chris Zordan. She thanked all of the donors to the General Fund and the Jan Stauber Grant Fund, specifically recognizing Al Gregory and Bill Mason for their most generous Stauber donations which made it possible to increase the grant amount and overall funds available. She stressed the importance of donations to ensure that the Society can continue to expand its funding activities. She also mentioned that her three year term as Head Light would be ending this year and encouraged interested individuals to contact her about the position.

There was some general discussion of fundraising approaches. Jerry Kegley suggested considering Kickstarter or other similar websites. Including donor cards in the 2015 BSI weekend packets was also suggested. The meeting was then adjourned by the Head Light.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Zordan, Percy Phelps