



# 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 2013**

January 12, 2013: Roosevelt Hotel, Park Suite, New York City

Head Light Susan Diamond called the meeting to order and asked all present to sign in. The minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting were distributed by Linda Hunt (Percy Phelps) and were unanimously approved. The Treasurer's report was presented by Bursar Carol Cavalluzzi. The General Fund balance was \$7,401.71 and the Jan Stauber Fund balance was \$2,308.47. Carol noted that the Society had received a full match from Al Gregory for the Stauber Grants, and that four 2012 Stauber Grants were yet to be paid. The report was discussed and approved unanimously. Carol then proposed that since the Society's annual operating expenses were minimal, we allocate additional monies from the General Fund for the Stauber Grants. She also distributed a list of 2012 donors to the Beacon Society.

Marilynne McKay, Chair of the Communications Task Group and Beacon webmaster, reported that BeaconSociety.com has been active for four years. She stated that the credit card/Pay Pal link is working to receive donations and to process purchases of Beacon Society pins. The Facebook page continues to be active. Marilynne noted that the Society had joined Tech Soup, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which connects non-profits and libraries to sources for donated and discounted computer products. Marilynne next thanked Peggy Perdue for her help in sending out press releases to our Canadian contacts announcing the Jan Stauber Grant deadline. A decision was made to send out a Jan Stauber Grant press release in February to give a two-month lead time before the application deadline of May 1, 2013. Marilynne noted that our domain name is up for renewal on July 12, and web host Lunar Pages has already been renewed for 2013. She proposed establishing a Liaison Task Group to raise awareness of the Society's mission among scions, and suggested that we look into indexing the Beacon Society website. The website has added many new items this year thanks to the Programming Task Group.

Francine Kitts, Chair of the Programming Task Group, thanked the members of her Committee. She thanked Andy Solberg, creator of the Watson's Tin Box Essay Contest, and noted that the 2012 winner is posted on the Society's website. Four of Bill Dorn's Study Guides are now on our website and Mr. Dorn has also donated copies of his Study Guides and The Dogs of Sherlock Holmes to all Jan Stauber Award winners, with a special bookplate added to recognize the Beacon Society. Francine also announced that

the Dorn Study Guides are available electronically, free of charge, to all Beacon Society members, courtesy of George Vanderburgh.

Francine also thanked Marino Alvarez for sharing his intensive case study of “The Red Headed League” with the Beacon Society; Judith Freeman for her tour of Canonical animals in the New York’s Museum of Natural History; Linda Hunt for her article on copper beeches; Maria Konnikova and Scientific American for their link to Ms. Konnikova’s series, “Lessons from Sherlock Holmes”; and Karen Murdock for a link to her essay, “Figures of Speech in ‘A Scandal in Bohemia’,” in the 2012 Minnesota English Journal. Francine’s Task Group is also working to put on the website all reports and lesson plans sent to the Beacon Society by Jan Stauber Grant winners. Francine concluded by stating that she would be stepping down as Task Group Chair, but was delighted to welcome Peggy Perdue as the new Chair. Francine was thanked for her service by Head Light Susan Diamond and Francine was applauded by the assembly.

The Fund Raising Committee report was given by Chair Pj Doyle. In 2012, donations from both individuals and organizations totaled \$4,126.54. Pj particularly acknowledged Al Gregory’s match of \$1,000.00 to the Jan Stauber Grant fund. She also noted our eligibility to participate in Minnesota’s 2013 “Give to the Max” Day (midnight, Nov. 15 to midnight Nov. 16, 2013), in which we might win a random drawing prize of up to \$1,000.

Beacon Society Awards Task Group Chair Elaine Coppola announced that 13 applications were received in 2012 and \$2,206.54 was awarded to eleven winners. Elaine asked all Society members to publicize the grants. The 2013 application deadline is May 1, and the maximum grant award has been raised to \$350 (US & Canadian). She went on to announce that the Task Force Group has made a number of revisions to the Stauber policies, procedures, guidelines and application process. Many of these were accomplished through a subcommittee chaired by Harrison Hunt. The Stauber documents will also be re-examined in 2013. Elaine then accepted the 2013 Beacon Society Award on behalf of Shannon Carlisle, an accelerated learning teacher at Moore Elementary School in Franklin, Tennessee.

Headlight Susan Diamond informed us that the remainder of the meeting was going to be filmed by Gretchen James and Clara Anthrop as part of a short documentary about the BSI, and asked if anyone present had an objection to being included; no one did. She thanked all of the donors for their contributions, in particular the three largest contributors: Al Gregory, Bill Mason, and Myrtle Robinson. Myrtle’s donation was in memory of her late husband, Bob.

Under New Business, Susan stated that she saw a need for possible revision to the Bylaws in order to incorporate the Beacon Award and the Jan Stauber Grant, and was appointing a subcommittee to examine this. She also sought to re-visit the mission/objective of the Stauber Grants to put greater emphasis on the literature of Sherlock Holmes. Susan further commented on the increased public awareness of Sherlock Holmes. Other Beacon Society members commented on various aspects of the Bylaws question. Marilynne McKay reminded everyone that the Bylaws are on the Society’s website.

Harrison Hunt requested that a press release for the Stauber Grants be prepared as soon as possible. Marilynne McKay agreed to put it on the Society’s website.

Harrison Hunt, speaking on behalf of Betsy Rosenblatt, who could not be present, introduced the concept of encouraging the bequest of collections to the Beacon Society. It was suggested that the Society have a collection donation point person. Pj Doyle raised the question of the policies of accepting collections. The concept of Beacon Society archives was explored.

Carol Cavalluzzi brought up the question of shipping costs on Pay Pal for Beacon Society pins. She will monitor these expenses. It was noted that, although we have no more oval 221B car stickers to sell, they are available on Scott Monty's blog site.

Allan Devitt donated two Beacon Society note pads each for the videographers, and Carol Cavalluzzi donated Society pins for each of them. Andy Solberg asked the videographers about their experiences with Sherlock Holmes.

Sally Sugarman suggested that a list of Sherlock Holmes-oriented children's materials be compiled and put on the website.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Hunt (Percy Phelps), secretary