

## **Beacon Society General Meeting Minutes January 12, 2019**

Denny Dobry began the meeting with congratulations to Alex Katz and Terry McCammon who were both invested in the Baker Street Irregulars.

The minutes from the last meeting were approved with being read.

Treasurer's Report given by Richard Kitts

2018 was a record year for fundraising. We have 50 individual and corporate donations. There were fewer grant applications and the ending balance was \$33128.13.

Grants Committee given by Richard Kitts for Susan Diamond

The Grants Committee is responsible for awarding the Jan Stauber grants. The committee approved 14 grants that totaled \$5594.00. This was under the available funds as applications are down for the year. As Susan is stepping down due to health reasons, Cindy Brown will be taking over as chair of the Grants committee. The application process is open for Jan Stauber grants and information can be found on the Society website.

In recognition of Susan Diamond's dedication to the Beacon Society over 15 year, Denny Dobry presented a plaque for Susan Diamond to Terry McCammon. He also announced the renaming of the Beacon Award to the Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award.

The Awards Committee report given by Art Renkwitz

The Susan Z. Diamond Beacon award was given to Michael McClure who could not attend. Francine Kitts accepted on his behalf.

Communications Committee report given by Steve Mason

Steve detailed three major mailings that went out over the year to the over 800 people on the Society mailing list. The first contacted all Scions and related groups, national and state library associations, and national and state education associations. The second mailing announced the grant awardees and the third went out to announce the Beacon Award. Similar mailings will be sent in 2019. A suggestion was made to add children's museums to the mailings and was accepted. There is a list of over 100 children's museums and theaters that will be used.

Rusty Mason has been working diligently on the website and the traffic has increased from around 100 hits a week to over 1000. Our most popular pages are the recommended reading and the Fortescue Scholarship pages. 120 people joined the Society over the year.

Fundraising report given by Crystal Noll

Thanks were given to the committee for a very successful year of fundraising. Scions and small businesses were contacted and letters were placed in all Birthday Weekend swag bags. A fundraising goal of \$14000 was set for 2019.

Programming report given by Beth Gallego for Rob Nunn

The website was streamlined and the Beacon Society book list was updated.

Junior Sherlockian Society report given by Shannon Carlisle

The goal of the Junior Sherlockian Society is to introduce Holmes and the canon to children in an age appropriate and fun way. Shannon presented an overview of her classroom and the efforts of her students to engage in Sherlock Holmes's world. New tasks were added to the website and wooden nickels are available for dissemination.

#### Old Business

The By-Laws revisions previously approved by the Board of Directors were approved by the General membership

#### New Business

The General Membership approved of the Beacon Award's name change to the Susan Z. Diamond Award.

The Board's approval of increasing the JSG to \$600 was announced.

On behalf of Carolyn Senter, Dan Andriacco, a close friend of the Senter Family, gave a presentation describing the life of R. Joel Senter and his contribution to the Sherlockian world. Denny Dobry announced that a committee has been formed to develop a program in Joel's honor. Depending on the structure of the program, a By-Law revision may be needed.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Heather Holloway  
Percy Phelps, Beacon Society