The Beacon Society

Agenda for Annual Meeting for Calendar Year 2025

12/27/2025 2:00 PM EST

I. Head Light Rob Nunn called zoom meeting to order at 2:01 PM EST.

II. 2024 General Meeting Minutes available on the Beacon Society website were approved. A motion was made by Richard Kitts and seconded by Bob Scharfman. Motion was carried unanimously.

III. Committee Reports

A. Treasurer's report - Richard Kitts, Bursar

12-31-24 Balance $ 40,368.73
Income Donations $ 10,466.18 (from 15 people)
Total Income $ 10,466.18

Expense J. Stauber Grants (15) 11,588.00
N. Springer Contest (3) 1,000.00
J. Senter Prize (8) 2,000.00
S. Diamond Award 287.00
Website Maintenance 240.00
J. Senter Plaques 253.00

J. Senter Mailings 86.41
J. Stauber Grants Postage 97.00
Tax Return Prep 2 yrs. 41.70
PayPal Fees 19.80

Total Expense $ 15,612.91
12-21-25 Balance $ 35,222.00
CD $15,912 @2.65% due 9-15-26

Richard Kitts stated that the Beacon Society is in good financial shape.
Office Expenses were kept low $738.00

B. Grants Committee – Beth L. Gallego

Jan Stauber Grant Committee Report 2025

This was a busy year for the grant program, especially in the first half of the year. In fact, all available grant funds for the year had been awarded before Cindy Brown retired as Chair in March!

18 grants were awarded totaling $14057.76. Due to a change in employment, one grant in the amount of $1000 was withdrawn before funding. Of the remaining 17 active grants, 6 have submitted final reports.

An additional 19 grant applications were submitted after all funds had been awarded. They were invited to re-apply in 2026.

In 2026, I would like to follow up on Cindy's suggestion to limit applications to windows of time rather than keeping it open all year. This will help streamline applications and clarify when we are and are not accepting them. Beth will discuss this with her committee members.

C. Awards Committee – Ann Andriacco

Ann discussed the Nancy Springer and R. Joel Senter Essay Contests. Ann is looking for judges to judge the essay contests, please email Rob Nunn or Ann Andriacco if interested.

This year's Susan Diamond Award goes to Carolyn Senter for supporting in spirit and financially the essay contest that honors her husband R. Joel Senter.

The award will be given at the Dayton Holmes, Doyle, and Friends Conference in March.

D. Communications Committee – Steve Mason

The committee focused on two main objectives during 2025: getting the word out about the various activities of the Beacon Society, including the Jan Stauber Grant, the Joel Senter Essay Contest, the Nancy Springer Writing Contest, the Fortescue Scholarship, the Sherlockian Spotlight Gazette for younger Sherlockians, and the Beacon Award, and the website, www.beaconsociety.com.

For the first objective, approximately a dozen separate e-mailings concerning the Society were distributed. The mailout went to all members of the Society, as well as the email list of all Sherlockian Societies in the U.S. and Canada. In addition, the announcements were posted on our Facebook site, the Stranger's Room Facebook page, as well as our beaconsociety.com website.

The website continued to be explored and used by hundreds of Sherlockians each week. The Communication Committee continued to maintain the site, adding new information on a regular basis. The Facebook site is maintained by the Committee as another means to distribute meeting

announcements, solicitations for submittals, and general information concerning the Society.

The Committee continued posting weekly a set of puzzles based on Canonical stories
for the entertainment and enjoyment of Beacon Society members.
This year we continued to add to one of our most productive pages, “The Comprehensive
Look at the Stories” webpage, which includes over 20 elements for each of the 60 stories of the Canon, which Sherlockians, young and seasoned, can use as a reference source.
We continue to use the website as our primary source of information, backed up by emails to all members.

The Communications Committee was able to compile the winning essays of the Joel Senter Essay Contest into a booklet that we published and sent to all essay winners for 2025. The booklet can be found on our website as a free .pdf.

The Communications Committee continues to administer the Fortescue Scholarship.
Over 50 Sherlockian students participated in the exam process this year, and over 150
Sherlockians have completed all the required exams, reaching the level of ShD. In 2025, an

optional Re-Certification exam was developed and administered for those wanting to continue the Fortescue experience. This was the 5 th re-certification exam we have provided. The 2026 Re-Certification exam will be issued on January 1, 2026.

In 2025, The Communications Committee issued 4 editions of the “Sherlock’s Spotlight”, a gazette for younger Sherlockians. The Program Committee is supporting the effort, which will be continued in 2026. The gazette, which is issued quarterly to over 700 recipients, contains Sherlockian articles, mysteries to solve, puzzles to unravel, and general information relevant to younger Sherlockians. The gazette is distributed to all scion societies, Beacon Society members, posted to our website and announced on our Facebook page.

E. Fundraising Committee – David McCallister
David asked for ideas for fundraising for donations. The following ideas were offered by Beacon Society members: Publish an Ad in the Baker Street Journal asking for donations, Request that the BSI allow an appeal for donations during their dinner in January, but Denny Dobry noted that this was not permitted in the past. Another idea was to make an appeal

through a flyer to upcoming Sherlockian events such as those in Atlanta, Dayton, Chicago and St. Louis.

F. Programming Committee – Max Magee
Sherlockian Siblings:
We finalized the intake questions and interest grids and matched up the first three sets of "big" and "little" Sherlockian Siblings this year. Several others were invited but did not opt to participate. I'm still gathering feedback about how the program has been received, but it's overwhelmingly positive with good ideas for improvements in the future.

Ideas for a Shaw-type one-day seminar at a university (possibly) are percolating with Derrick Belanger and myself.

G. Junior Sherlockian Committee – Jen Kneeland
Jen was unable to attend zoom meeting and did not offer a report.

IV. Old Business - none

V. New Business – Steve Mason offered new business regarding his 2026 proposal to partner with the Beacon Society and the scion Crew of the Bark Lone Star to produce two anthologies. One will be writings of young

Sherlockians ages 8-13, and the other will be adults writing Sherlockian stories for children 8-13, that feature children in the stories. The plan is to have the anthologies completed by Christmas 2026.

VI. Closing Remarks – Headlight Rob Nunn –

As you can see, The Beacon Society is still going strong more than 20 years after its creation due to the time and dedication of current and past officers and committee chairs. The future of The Beacon Society depends on people like them to donate through time and money to fund projects like you've heard about today.

But we also need to keep connecting with educators across the country, whether it is teachers, librarians, theater groups, children's museums, and many other types. I would like to challenge everyone at this meeting today to tell at least two people outside of the Sherlockian world about the work that The Beacon Society is doing. Word of mouth is the best advertising anyone could ask for!

Thank you again to all of the people who keep The Beacon Society running through its newsletters, programs, contests, and events. This is a passion project

that Maribeau Briggs created in 2003 and we are carrying on her legacy.

VII. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn made by Richard Kitts and seconded by Ann Andriacco. Meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM EST.

Agenda submitted by Anna Behrens, Secretary Percy Phelps
12/27/2025