



Northeast Regional Honors Council
Business Meeting
November 13, 2015
5-6 PM, Ballroom 10, Sheraton Hotel & Towers, Chicago

A representative from *Scribendi Magazine*—published out of the New Mexico University Honors College—made a brief presentation about the publication and asked the membership if students in the NRHC interested in publishing in that journal.

Welcome and Introductions

Joseph McGinn, NRHC President, then welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced the **current Executive Board members**: Helen Fallon (Immediate Past President), Andrew Martino (President-Elect), Helen-Margaret Nasser (Vice President), Karlyn Koh (Executive Secretary), James Buss (Executive Treasurer), Chris Brittain (Web Editor), Rebekah Keaton (Faculty Rep), Leanne Wood (Faculty Rep), Nathalie Waldschmidt (Student Rep), Keyla Altagracia Zapata Urena (Student Rep).

Gettysburg Minutes

Karlyn Koh, the Executive Secretary, presented the **minutes of April 2015 Gettysburg business meeting**. McGinn asked for comments; there were none. The motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. All voted in favor.

Financial Report

James Buss, the Executive Treasurer, presented the **Financial Report**. He noted that the organization is net ahead from last year. The current balance is \$111,194. 47. He reminded the membership that Winterim scholarships are available.

The motion to approve the Financial Report was made and seconded. All voted in favor.

2015 Gettysburg Conference

Immediate Past President Helen Fallon spoke about the **2015 Gettysburg conference**. There were 540 registrants compared to 557 for Niagara Falls conference. 85 institutions were represented (80 at Niagara Falls). There was a drop in student presenters: 314 versus 458 at Niagara Falls. She noted that YesEvents was very useful. However, the lack of local hosts made organizing difficult, and transportation options in Gettysburg were very limited.

2016 Cambridge Conference

President-Elect Andrew Martino then presented **2016 conference updates**. It is to be held in **Cambridge MA (Hyatt Regency), on March 31 – April 3, 2016**. There are no transportation problems, though the costs of the conference are a concern. He suggested that the region alternate between small cities that are cheaper with bigger cities.

Martino next gave a description of the **conference theme of “Migrations”** and the migration ideas and people, and shared the following details:

- Proposal Submissions: November 20. So far, 26 proposals have been received.
- The conference hotel will be the Hyatt Regency Cambridge.
- The first block of rooms will be \$149/night; it will be \$179/night for the 2nd block.
- Registration opens on January 20, 2016.
- The conference registration early-bird rate is \$225 per registrant until February 26; thereafter, it will be \$250. Online conference registration will close on March 25; on-site registration is possible at the rate of \$275.

Martino noted that the food prices at the Hyatt are astronomical, thus affecting the conference rate. On the positive side, we have **three local hosts** to help with programming: **Salem State, Bunker Hill, Franklin Pierce**. Also, Lori Rubeling is working with her to students to design the conference program cover.

He also confirmed that **Charles Sullivan from the Cambridge Historical Association** will be the **City-as-Text speaker**, and the **plenary speaker** will be **Michael Patrick MacDonald**, author of *Easter Rising* and *All Souls*. He is a “Southie” from Boston who made it out of those hard streets. Julia Fennell suggested that we have a book club so that students could start reading his works beforehand.

Martino then raised the question of whether asked if there is still interest in holding the **Student Art Show** at the conference. A discussion ensued, which led to the conclusion that students really appreciated this activity, and it should stay in the conference program. It was decided that there should be a separate call for submissions for art show after the paper call for proposals deadline.

Anthony Deluca made the suggestion that students can bring and share different kinds of arts (including performance). Kathryn MacDonald noted that students are able to share their artistic talents at the Open Mic.

Buss then raised the topic of conference registration. He is trying to change banks so that we have one that provides credit card service. However, YesEvent—our vendor—will process membership dues along with conference registration. So he encouraged all to renew their membership when registering for the conference.

At the conclusion of this part of the meeting, the Board made note that **Justin Karter** is the unsung hero of the work of putting the conference together from start to finish.

Student Representatives

The Student Representatives Keyla Zapata and Nathalie Waldschmidt presented the following plans for student activities at the conference.

The kick-off event on Thursday, March 31st, 2016 will be a **Selfie Scavenger Hunt**. Students will have the opportunity to team up and explore the exciting city of Cambridge, visit MIT, the Charles River, and they will end their selfie tour at Harvard. There will be an **Open Mic Night** the next day, during which the **NRHC Swag Swap** will also take place. They asked that each college bring items from their school (such as t-shirts, mugs, bags and other items) for the latter activity. The **Student Gala** on Saturday will have as its theme, *Dancing Through the Decades*. This will be a great opportunity for students to dress up and meet other Honors students. There will also be a photo booth. Zapata and Waldschmidt also circulated the flyers that they have created for the above activities, and encouraged members in the audience to let their students know about them.

Future conferences:

McGinn presented the following confirmed locations and possible sites:

- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 2017
- Providence, Rhode Island, 2018

- Portsmouth: Martino reported that he toured the Marriott there, and found it currently to be too small for our conference needs.
- Return visit to Niagara Falls
- Baltimore, Concord, Hartford

A discussion ensued, with members of the audience identifying the following as contenders: return to Niagara Falls, Anapolis, Harrisburg, Hersey, Philadelphia, Burlington VT, Queens, Long Island City (Queens, NYC), and Princeton. There was also a suggestion not to hold the conference over Passover.

Other Business

McGinn announced that the following **Executive Board positions** will be open in 2016: **2 Student Representatives**, and **Vice President**. He encouraged all to consider running or invite their students to run.

The Board also congratulated two regional members **Elaine Torda** and **Bernice Braid** for receiving NCHC awards: the Ron Brandolini Award for Excellence at a Two-Year Institution (Torda) and the inaugural NCHC Founders Award (Braid).

Fallon shared information about a company that provides students with access to information that supports their academic success. It is called the **Student Opportunity Center**, and grants users access to a large undergrad research database, and information about a wide range of scholarships and internships. Deluca said that his program is using this service, and he is very impressed.

With no more other business to cover, or comments or questions from the audience, McGinn called the meeting to close.

Adjournment: 5:55pm

Respectfully submitted by Karlyn Koh (Executive Secretary)

Membership unanimously approved minutes at the Cambridge Business Meeting, April 2, 2016.