



**Minutes of the Fall 2017 ASTR Annual Business Meeting
Hyatt Buckhead, Atlanta, GA
18 November, 2017**

Ratified at the Fall 2019 Annual Business Meeting

The President called the meeting to order at 1:35pm .

1) Approval of the Fall 2017 Meeting Agenda and Fall 2016 Meeting Minutes– Daphne Lei

MOTION: To approve the agenda for the Fall 2017 Annual Business Meeting and the minutes from the Fall 2016 Meeting. Moved by Carol Martin. Seconded by Brandi Wilkins Catanese. **Motion carried unanimously.**

2) Thanks to 2017 Program Committee Chairs -- Lei

President Lei thanked Conference Chairs Jimmy Noriega, Jen Scott-Mobley, and Analola Santana, VP for Conferences Jill Stevenson, and members of the Committee on Conferences: Laura Edmondson, Karen Shimakawa, Gad Guterman, Carrie Sandahal, Ric Knowles, Faedra Carpenter, Harvey Young, Patrick Anderson, and Catherine Cole.

3) In Memoriam -- Lei

The assembly recognized the lives and contributions of Michael Booth; James Brennan; Christopher Innes.

4) Vice President for Conferences Report – Jill Stevenson

There are 660 registrants for the conference. Thanks to the program chairs and committee and to Field Conversations organizers, Paige McGinley and Gad Guterman.

The Muñoz Working Sessions had 7 submissions this year. The 3rd annual award will be offered next year.

Stevenson acknowledged that The Conference Planners and Ewald have heard member concerns regarding the availability of AV in their sessions. She reinforced that ASTR is committed to being transparent about what AV resources members will have for their sessions, but reminded the assembly of the AV costs to the organization, especially given ASTR's commitment to supporting hotels that have union contracts for their AV providers. A single LED projector, for instance, costs us \$950. \$45 of each registrant's fee goes to AV. If we provided AV for every session, we would need to increase fees by \$100. Stevenson thanked members for their understanding and flexibility.

5) Vice President for Publications – Esther Kim Lee

Lee thanked outgoing Publications Committee members Carol Martin & Brian Singleton, to be replaced by Harvey Young and Kim Solga. She thanked Rye Gentleman for his service.

The Publications Committee has selected new Electronic publications editor: Danielle Rosvally (2020).

Theatre Survey is doing very well. It generated more than \$25,000 for us this past year.

6) VP for Awards – Brandi Wilkins Catanese

Catanese reported a robust quantity of awards applications this year.

The Sally Banes and Hill Prize will rotate in the publication format awarded each year: In even years, books will win the prizes. In odd years, essays will win the prizes.

Patricia Herrera is the incoming VP for Awards.

Catanese expressed thanks to Dorothy Chansky for helping onboard her into the position.

7) Treasurer’s Report -- Cindy Bates

Bates reported that ASTR is in very strong financial health. ASTR has \$260 thousand dollars in checking and \$50 thousand in savings. ASTR’s investment portfolio hit an all-time high of \$857 thousand dollars as of October 31, 2017; this reflects a gain of \$86 thousand dollars in the past 12 months. These funds ensure our fiscal longevity and help support our operating budget.

Nonetheless, our operating budget remains tight. Bates outlined a “snapshot” of financial opportunities and challenges ahead. These include balancing our budget with access to the organization, the services we offer, the \$25 thousand we give out in fellowships and awards, our journal, and our conference.

Two new endeavors in the past few years include spending \$5,000 for American Sign Language services and audio-description services to conference attendees who requested them and funding the multi-year Jose Esteban Munoz initiative at a total cost of \$27,000. We have many initiatives and limited funds with which to support them without increasing membership fees. These are difficult and important discussions. Thoughtful voices in these conversations are warmly welcomed.

Bates thanked fellow officers and EC members, Eric Ewald, Nancy Erickson, and incoming Treasurer EJ Westlake.

8) GSC Report – Yasmine Jahanmir

Graduate Student Caucus President Jahanmir thanked the conference planners, the EC and Ewald.

The GSC had a successful year, including an increased social media presence, the creation of a new inclusion officer position, the development of a conference packet for registrants, and a successful mentorship breakfast.

Jahanmir expressed thanks to the outgoing GSC cabinet and recognized the incoming cabinet.

9) ATAP and TLA Report -- Colleen Reilly

Reilly presented the American Theatre Archive Project report on behalf of steering Committee Chair Eric Colleary. In 2016 ATAP launched AmericanTheatreArchiveProject.org. ATAP representatives gave presentations on performing arts and archiving at the annual conferences for the National Performance Network and the Society for American Archivists, and shared resources through the New York Foundation for the Arts and Howlround. ATAP completed a residency with the Baltimore Center Stage and began a new project with New York’s Medicine Show Theatre. ASTR receives additional support for these activities from the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas.

Reilly presented the Theatre Library Association report. TLA celebrated its Book Awards at the New York Public Library for Performing Arts. Peter Benes won the George Freedly Memorial Award for *For a Short Time Only: Itinerants and the Resurgence of Popular Culture in Early America* (Massachusetts). Edna Nahshon won special Jury Prize for her book, *New York's Yiddish Theatre From the Bowery to Broadway* (Columbia). William Paul won The Richard Wall Memorial Award for an exemplary work in the field of recorded performance for *When Movies were Theater: Architecture, Exhibition, and the Evolution of American Film* (Columbia) and a Special Jury Prize was awarded to Alan Robert Ginsberg for *The Salome Ensemble: Rose Pastor Stokes, Anzia Yezierska, Sonya Levien, and Jetta Goudal* (Syracuse). Barbara Cohen-Stratyner won TLA's Louis Rachow Distinguished Service in Performing Arts Librarianship Award for her work as the Rosenberg Curator for Exhibitions at the NYPLPA where she developed over 80 exhibitions.

The TLA acknowledges the outstanding service of John Calhoun, Chief Reference Librarian at the NYPLPA Billy Rose Theatre Division throughout his tenure on the Book Awards Committee. We mark the passing of TLA luminary Louis Rachow this August.

Reilly announced the publication of *Performing Arts Resources 33: Theatre Exhibitions*, ed. Marti LoMonaco and forthcoming *Performing Arts Resources on Theatre Architecture*, co-edited by Nancy Friedland and Joseph Tally.

This weekend the TLA co-sponsored a field conversation with the ASTR Ad Hoc Committee on Libraries on Instructional Resources in the Twenty-First Century with panelists Susan Brady, Michelle Liu Carriger, Nancy Friedland, Wade Hollinghaus, and Diana King.

Thanks to Diana King for her leadership this fall in TLA planning and activities, and to TLA and ASTR colleagues who offered support while Reilly focused on recovery after Hurricane Harvey at Houston Community College.

10) ASTR President's Report -- Lei

President Lei outlined what we have done and what we will continue to do in this, "not the best of times, nor the worst of times, but the extraordinariest of times."

Lei recognized the extraordinary work and sacrifices made by our international members in getting to the conference.

Lei expressed worry about the future of the profession, and used as an example the shutting down of the Indiana University PhD program. We stand in solidarity with our international scholars, said Lei, and our members in threatened departments. Lei has started conversations with other organizations to help advocate for scholars in precarious situations and for arts and humanities education.

11) Welcome to Newly-Elected EC members -- Lei

President Lei welcomed Rhonda Blair, Elizabeth Son, and Kate Bredeson as incoming members of the Executive Committee, incoming VP for Awards Patricia Herrera, incoming Secretary Scott Magelssen, incoming Treasurer E.J. Westlake, and incoming GSC Rep Sissi Liu.

12) Acknowledgement of Outgoing EC Members and Officers -- Lei

President Lei thanked outgoing Treasurer Cindy Bates, outgoing VP for Awards Brandi Wilkins Catanese, outgoing Secretary Amy Cook, outgoing EC members Adrienne Macki, Jimmy Noriega, and Carol Martin, and outgoing GSC Rep Yasmine Jahanmir for their service.

13) Conference planners for next year -- Lei

The Conference Planners for next year's conference were introduced: Chase Bringardner, Christin Essin, and Kirsten Pullen. Next year's conference will be in San Diego, CA. The Theme is Arousal.

14) Questions and New Business -- Lei

Heather Nathans and the New Paradigms committee are hosting conversations and collecting data on contingent labor.

Daphne Lei and Roaa Ali are collecting data on transnational scholars and their needs.

We have had a good response rate with our demographic survey. This is how we know about our membership. Please respond to the survey if you haven't already.

15) Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn. Moved by Cindy Bates. Seconded by Brandi Wilkins Catanese. **Motion carried unanimously.**