

"Light-houses, my boy! Beacons of the future! Capsules with hundreds of bright little seeds in each, out of which will spring the wiser, better England of the future."

THE BEACON SOCIETY

The Not-So-Quarterly Newsletter (In our world, being irregular is a virtue)
VOLUME 3, NUMBER 1 – February, 2019



From the Desk of the Headlight

Anno Holmes 165 HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Having completed 15 years in the service of bringing Sherlock Holmes to our youth, the Beacon Society Board of Directors met in New York City on January 12th during the Baker Street Irregulars festivities.

A General Meeting of the Society's membership followed the Board meeting.

A summary of those meetings follow:

BEACON AWARD

In our previous newsletter we announced that Susan Diamond resigned from her Chairperson's position of the Grant Committee.



In appreciation for her 15 years of service, the Board of Directors voted to award Susan a plaque commemorating her dedication.

Somehow, that did not seem to be quite adequate to express the Society's appreciation for Susan's contribution.

Our Society's most prestigious award, the Beacon Award, is awarded for outstanding efforts to introduce young people to Sherlock Holmes.

Accordingly then, the Board voted to proclaim the Society's Beacon Award to be re-titled The Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award.

Susan was not able to attend the New York meetings, but her close friend, Terry McCammon, accepted on her behalf. On February 1st, Terry and Janice Weiner, another close friend of Susan's, presented the plaque and Proclamation to Susan at her home in Bensenville, Illinois.

From Susan:

Dear Beacon Society Board and Fellow Members,

I am most grateful and humbled to have the Beacon Award named in my honor. It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve the Society since its inception.

We've come a long way and are getting stronger every day. I'm so sorry that I was unable to attend the meeting and receive the proclamation in person.

I thank each and every one of you for the great honor you have paid me.

*Canonically yours,
Susan*



THE BEACON SOCIETY
A SCION SOCIETY OF THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS

Proclamation

Whereas, Susan Diamond has served on the Board of Directors of The Beacon Society since its inception in 2003, and

Whereas, Susan Diamond has served as Chairperson of the Communications, Program, Award and Grant Committees, and

Whereas, Susan Diamond has held the Beacon Society Offices of Percy Phelps (Secretary) and Headlight (President), and

Whereas, Susan Diamond has been dedicated to keeping Green the Memory of the Master among our youth,

Now therefore, the Board of Directors of the Beacon Society do hereby title the Society's Award in recognition of outstanding efforts to introduce young people to Sherlock Holmes as :

The Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award

Attested by the Beacon Society Board of Directors on this 12th day of January, 2019

Awards Committee	Arthur Renkwitz, BSI	Communications Committee	Steven Mason	Fundraising Committee	Crystal Noll
Grant Committee	Cynthia Brown	Jr. Sherlockian Society	Shannon Carlisle, BSI	Program Committee	Robert A. Nunn
Head-Light	Denny Dobry, BSI	Percy Phelps	Heather Halloway	Bursar	Richard Kitts, BSI

Committee Reports from Annual Meeting

The AWARDS COMMITTEE: Art Renkwitz (Chair), Shannon Carlisle, Francine Kitts, Peggy Perdue and Debbie Clark announced the winner of the 2018 Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award as Michael W. McClure of Chester, IL.

Mike has been promoting Sherlock Holmes to our youth since the late '80's when he started a five- issues per year journal - "Holmes for the Holidays" that enticed our youth with games, puzzles and stories to engage in the Sherlockian world.

Mike has continued seeking ways to keep our youth interested in Holmes. In 1992, Mike invited to Eve Titus to help him lead programs in the schools in his region, and he has recently annotated "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" focusing on attracting first time reader.

You can appreciate Mike's enthusiasm by visiting <http://www.baskervilleproductions.com/sherlock>. Thanks to the Committee for their fine work, and I can only wonder how Mike has eluded us all these years. In Mike's absence from the meeting, Francine Kitts accepted the award on Mike's behalf.

(As a side note, Mike's wife submitted his application without Mike's knowledge)

The COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: The work of Steve Mason, Chair, and his committee consisting of Rusty Mason, Crystal Noll, Peggy Purdue and Greg Ruby continue to supply the gas and grease that keeps the Beacon Society machine chugging along.

The committee sends out 3 major announcements per year: promotion of the Jan Stuber Grant (JSG) Program, call for nominations of the Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award and the announcement of the winners of the Jan Stuber Grants.

Notifications go out to Library and Education Associations in the U.S. and Canada, all active Scion Societies, Children Museums & theatres and members of the Society.



In addition, the Committee maintains the Website and Facebook page, and coordinates with all the rest of the committees to get their messages and program out to the Sherlockian world.

Steve reports that the number of hits on the website is approximately 3,000 per month.

The Committee also administers the Fortescue Scholarship program, which graduated 13 smart Sherlockians in the past year.



The FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE, led by Crystal Noll (Chair) and assisted by Carla Coupe, David McCallister, Ashley Polasek and Liza Potts, can be proud of themselves.

The Society received \$14,536.17 in donations (\$8,444 in 2017) from 50 donors (22 in 2017). Congratulations to Crystal and her crew for their fine work.

Crystal reports that the Committee has reached out to a number of small businesses and an extensive list of Scion Societies asking for their support. Donation solicitation letters have been distributed in the BSI, THE Woman, Gaslight Gala and Baker Street Ball Dinners' Swag Bags.



The 221B Con Committee has again chosen the Beacon Society as their charity. The 221B Con event continues to be the Society's most generous donor.

Although this has been a banner year for donations, Crystal points out that a number of the donations are likely one-time gifts. Recognizing this, the Committee has no intention of slacking off in their efforts.

The PROGRAM COMMITTEE: Beth Gallego presented the Program Committee report for Rob Nunn, Committee Chair.

Robb wanted to thank his committee members for their contributions this past year.

Through the Committee's efforts and the tireless work of Webmaster, Steve Mason, the educational program section of the website has been updated and streamlined.

A Section for Library Programs has been added to encourage Grant applications from Libraries.



In addition, to give educators more resources to share the Canon with students, a Beacon Society Recommended Booklist compiled by Beth Gallego, Shannon Carlisle and Steve Mason can now be found on the Website under "Resources for Educators"



Terry McCammon accepting Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award Proclamation from Beacon Society Board of Directors

The GRANTS COMMITTEE: Dick Kitts presented the Grants Committee report on behalf of Susan Diamond.

The Committee comprised of Susan, Dick, Heather Holloway, Chrys Kegley and Steve Mason received 15 Grant applications. Fourteen grants were awarded totaling \$5,594.25.

New review procedures approved by the Committee last year proved to expeditiously move the review process forward.

The application period for the 2019 Grant Applications* is now open with the deadline for submittal being May 1, 2019.



Susan thanks her committee and the Board for all their support and welcomes on Board her replacement as Grant Committee Chair, Cindy Brown. Cindy is a long time Sherlockian and

member of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star Scion Society of Dallas, Texas.

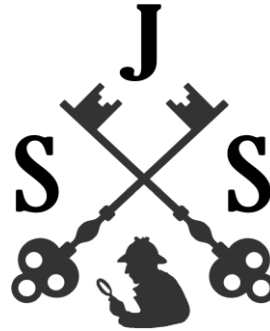
*It should be noted that the Board of Directors approved an increase in the maximum individual Grant funding from \$500 to \$600 for this year's applications.

This just in - DeeDee Headings, generous and long-time supporter of the Beacon Society, has joined the Grant Committee.

Dick Kitts, our Bursur, will continue as a non-voting ex officio member of the Committee (He likes to keep an eye on where the money goes).

The JUNIOR SHERLOCKIAN SOCIETY: Having celebrated their first birthday on August 9th, 2018, the JSS continues to offer and improve the Junior Sherlockian Training program.

Along with her committee of Conor, Alex Katz and Greg Ruby, Chair Shannon Carlisle is enthusiastic as ever promoting Sherlock Holmes to our youth.



Promotions of the JSS have been popping up on a number of websites and journals.

The Committee's website, www.Juniorsherlockian.com, has been averaging 3,000 visits per month, and the committee will be promoting its Facebook Page in 2019.

Because of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, the JSS does not keep any personal information of the person's participating in the Junior Sherlockian Training Program.

But with 3,000 visits a month, it is a good bet that Shannon and her crew are hatching a new generation of Sherlockians.

By-Law Revisions

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, our proposed By-Law changes have been given the legal go ahead.

The central purpose of the change is to allow the Society to consider Grant applications from foreign countries.

As previously written, the Society was restricted to giving grants only to other U.S. non-profit entities.

There are a few other minor changes in the revised By-Laws.



The revised By-laws are posted on the Website, as well as included at the end of this newsletter.

If you have comments or questions, please contact me at dendobry@ptd.net.

MEMBER VOTING FOR BY-LAW CHANGES

If you are a member of the Beacon Society, then we are asking you to review the changes to the by-laws and vote to either approve or not-approve the proposed changes.

So that we can get this finalized, please vote by THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28.



You have two options for voting...

1. You can simply send an email to Steve Mason at mason.steve8080@gmail.com

You can cut and paste the following sentence.

I vote to approve not approve of the proposed revisions to the by-laws of the Beacon Society

- 2 or you can go to our website, www.beaconsociety.com and vote online on the front page.

The R. Joel Senter Sr. Prize

Again, as I mentioned in the previous Newsletter, Carolyn Senter has reached out to the Beacon Society to help her establish a tribute/memorial to her husband Joel so that his contributions to the Sherlockian world will be remembered.

A committee consisting of Bill Mason (past Headlight), Art Renkwitz (Awards Committee Chair), Dan Andriacco (personal friend of the Senters), and myself have been working on establishing an Essay competition with awards for students in the fourth to twelfth grades.

As we envision the program now, it would be launched in the Fall of this year.

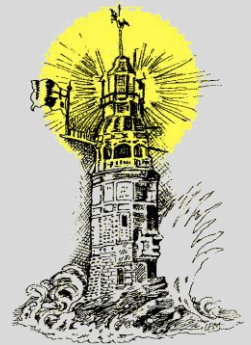
I will report on our progress in the next newsletter.



Thanks to all of you who have made this past year a great success for the Beacon Society!

Keeping green the memory of the Master,

**I remain,
Denny Dobry, BSI
Headlight**



If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me (dendobry@ptd.net)

THE BEACON SOCIETY
A Sherlock Holmes Society
BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1 - NAME, PURPOSE

Section 1: The name of the organization shall be the Beacon Society. ~~It is a Sherlock Holmes Society.~~ **The Beacon Society is a scion society of The Baker Street Irregulars.**

Section 2: The mission of the Beacon Society is to support educational experiences that introduce young people to **Sherlock Holmes** ~~the Canon~~ and to recognize exemplary efforts that do so.

Section 3: The Beacon Society is a not-for-profit organization **under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code** that will use its financial resources to fulfill its mission.

Section 4: The Beacon Society is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to **organizations including, but not limited to schools, libraries and museums,** that **promote the introduction of Sherlock Holmes** ~~the Canon~~ **to young people.** ~~qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.~~

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Membership in the Beacon Society shall be open to anyone who is willing to be actively involved in promoting the introduction of young people to Sherlock Holmes ~~by educational and other means.~~

Section 2: Membership shall be granted upon contacting the Society Secretary (hereafter referred to as "Percy Phelps") either directly or through requesting membership on the Beacon Society electronic group list. Members are strongly encouraged to join a committee and actively participate in that committee.

Section 3: Voting Rights.

Voting rights will be open to all Society members for the following issues:

1. Voting on the Officers of the Society,
2. Voting to change the By-Laws,
- ~~3. Voting on final award recipients, and~~
- ~~4.~~ **3.** Voting on other matters as seen fit by the Board of Directors.
- ~~5.~~ **4.** Each member has one vote.

~~**Section 4:** The Board of Directors shall have the authority to establish and define nonvoting categories of membership.~~

ARTICLE III - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1: Board of Directors Composition, Size, and Role.

The Board of Directors is composed of the Officers and standing Committee chairs (hereafter referred to as the "Sidelights"). The Board of Directors is responsible for overall policy and direction of the Society. The Board has responsibility and authority to review and has final approval over any Committee proposal. The Board receives no compensation other than at-cost reimbursement for Society initiated expenses authorized by the Board.

Section 2: Meetings of the Board.

The Board communicates electronically as needed.

Section 3: Board Elections.

Any member of the Beacon Society may run for office. The Officers shall be elected by the general membership of the Society.

Section 4: Election Procedures.

Board Officers shall be elected from nominations made by the general Society's membership. Members may nominate anyone for specific offices from among the existing members. The Board will set dates for receiving and closing nominations. All nominees will be included on the ballot when they provide a brief statement of their qualifications and goals for the office they are seeking. The statements will be sent to the membership along with the ballot. Society members will then be given ten days to vote for Board Officers via email. Any member unable to vote electronically needs to contact Percy Phelps and ~~make arrangements~~ arrange to vote by postal mail or fax. The candidate for each office who receives the most votes wins. In case of a tie, the current Board will select the new officer from the tied nominees.

Section 5: At-Large Board Members.

The Board members may recruit and elect up to four additional people from among the Society's Membership to serve as at-large members of the Board for specific projects, initiatives, or for other specific reasons. At-Large Board members shall be non-voting members of the Board.

Section 6: Terms.

1. All Officers shall serve three-year terms and are eligible for re-election.
2. At-large Board members may serve annual terms or until the special projects on which they are working conclude (whichever is shorter). They may be reappointed by the Board.

Section 7: Quorum.

A quorum must be established by participation of at least four Board members before business can be transacted or motions made or passed. Decisions made via electronic means must have participation of at least four Board members.

Section 8: Notice.

An official Board meeting requires that each Board member have written (or e-mail) notice two weeks in advance.

Section 9: Officers and Duties.

There shall be three officers of the Board consisting of:

- 1. Head Light (Chairperson).** The Head Light will be responsible for the overall leadership of the Society. He or she will represent the Society at various events

and may act as the official voice of the Society or assign others to do so from time to time.

2. **Percy Phelps (Secretary).** Percy will be responsible for maintaining minutes of all Board Meetings, for providing notification to the General Membership of meetings, and for correspondence as necessary.
3. **Bursar (Treasurer).** The Bursar is responsible for developing and reviewing fiscal procedures and annual budget with other Board members. The Board must approve the budget, and all expenditures must be within the budget. Any major change in the budget must be approved by the Board. The fiscal year shall be the calendar year. The Bursar will present a financial report to the membership at the annual meeting including the current bank balance, funds collected and disbursed during the year, and a summary of the report will be included in the meeting minutes published on the electronic list. The Bursar will provide the Board with interim financial reports during the year as needed. The financial records of the Society are public information and shall be made available to the membership, Board members, and the public upon request.

These Officers shall be separate from the Sidelights. ~~, unless interest necessitates otherwise.~~

Section 10: Vacancies.

When a vacancy on the Board exists, the Society's general membership will be given notice that they have two weeks to nominate candidates from the general membership for vacant Board positions. See Article III, Section 4 Election Procedures for additional procedures.

Section 11: Resignation, Termination and Absences.

Resignation from the Board must be in writing (or e-mail) and received by the Head Light. The Head Light's resignation is to be received by Percy Phelps. A Board member may be removed for non-performance of duties or other reasons by a three-fourths majority vote of the remaining Board members.

Section 12: Dues.

If deemed appropriate, the Board may recommend a dues schedule to the general membership for their ratification.

Section 13: Personal Liability.

No member, officer or Director of the Society shall be personally liable for the debts or obligations of the Society of any nature whatsoever, nor shall any of the property of the members, officers or Directors be subject to the payment of the debts or obligations of this Society.

ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

Section 1: Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting is called by the "Head Light" or the Board of Directors. It is scheduled at an appropriate time during the Baker Street Irregulars Birthday Weekend each January.

Section 2: Special Meetings.

Special Meetings may be called by the "Head Light", the Board of Directors, or a simple majority of the Society's voting members. Special meetings must be scheduled through

Percy Phelps. Special meetings may be held electronically.

Section 3: Notice.

Notice of each meeting shall be given to each voting member, by e-mail, not less than ten days before the meeting.

ARTICLE V - COMMITTEES

Section 1: Committees.

The Board may create Committees as needed. There shall be six standing Committees:

1. Programming
2. Awards
3. Grants
4. Fundraising
5. Communications
6. Junior Sherlockian

The Head Light appoints all Sidelights (Committee chairs) for three-year terms, with ratification by the Board. Sidelights will become full voting members of the Board. No member (other than ex-officio members) shall sit on both the Awards and Grants Committees. Both members of a domestic partnership may not serve on the same Committee. Committee members shall be appointed by the Head-Light in consultation with that Committee's Sidelight. **Committee membership shall be limited to 5 members inclusive of the Committee Chair.**

Section 2: Programming Committee

This Committee will be responsible for proposing to the Board and implementing Beacon Society education related initiatives; reviewing any proposals for programs and initiatives from the general membership and making recommendations to the Board regarding such proposals; and screening contributions or submissions for the website.

Section 3: Awards Committee

This Committee will be responsible for proposing to the Board the **Susan Z. Diamond** Beacon Award nominee and what, if any, other awards the Beacon Society will bestow upon individuals or groups for outstanding efforts toward introducing young people to Sherlock Holmes. The Committee will also be responsible for proposing to the Board ~~both a~~ nominations and selection process for recipients of such awards and ~~also~~ the names of proposed recipients, resulting from such processes.

Section 4: Grants Committee

This Committee will be responsible for overseeing the annual Stauber Grants, and proposing to the Board what, if any, other grants the Beacon Society will bestow upon individuals or groups for outstanding efforts toward introducing young people to Sherlock Holmes. The Committee will also be responsible for proposing to the Board ~~both a~~ nominations and selection process for recipients of such grants and ~~also~~ the names of proposed recipients, resulting from such processes.

Section 5: Fundraising Committee

This Committee will be responsible ~~to raise~~ **for raising** funds to support Society education-related initiatives, grants and awards.

Section 6: Communications Committee

This Committee is ~~a technical assistance group which has the responsibility~~ **responsible for maintaining the Society's website and** ~~of~~ assisting other Committees and the Board in communicating the Beacon Society's mission, programs, and initiatives.

Section 7: Junior Sherlockian Committee

This Committee shall oversee the Junior Sherlockian Society, with the goal of introducing individual children and youth to Sherlock Holmes and recognizing participants for their efforts.

ARTICLE VI - DISSOLUTION

Section 1: This Society may be dissolved in accordance with the laws of the State of Minnesota. Upon dissolution, any surplus property remaining after the payment of its debts shall be disposed of by transfer to one or more corporations, associations, institutions, trusts, community chests or foundations organized and operated exclusively for one or more of the purposes of the **Society and** described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, for exclusively public purposes, in such proportions as the Board of Directors of the Society shall determine.

ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS

Section 1: These By-Laws may be amended when necessary by a majority of the Society's Membership that vote. Proposed amendments must be submitted to Percy Phelps. The proposed amendment/s will be sent to the membership for a vote. The amendment/s will be effective with a majority approval.