MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2004

January 8, 2005, the Algonquin Hotel, New York City.

Head Light Scott Monty chaired the meeting and announced that we are working towards 501(C)(3) status as an independent entity, thanks to the good offices of John Genova, which means that donations to the Beacons will become tax deductible this year. Betsy Rosenblatt is going to be our source on intellectual property issues that may arise around curricula development. If individuals would like to claim propriety ownership to certain modules, we might be well served to suggest a donation to benefit the Beacons.

Bursar Richard Olken reported that the treasury is sound with a balance of approximately $2,700.

Congratulations go to Myrtle Robinson, Dr. Twyla Tuten, and the Hansom Wheels of South Carolina, the recipients of the 2005 Beacon Award for their annual HOUN project! The Award recognizes exemplary accomplishments in the area of Sherlockian outreach. Myrtle, Dr. Tuten, and the Hansom Wheels have been sponsoring this most innovative project since 2002 and have made extraordinary commitments of time and money to ensure that 8th grade students in their area become acquainted with the Canon. [More information on this project and the Beacon Award can be seen on BeaconSociety.com.]

The Programming task group, headed by Myrtle Robinson, developed a survey to find out what various scion societies are doing in terms of outreach and to help shape the Society's programs. To date, 18 Sherlockians have responded on-line. Early data indicates that 75% of respondents are interested in supporting the goals of the Beacons. The top two most-preferred program suggestions are providing source materials for teachers to download and developing program guides and lesson plans. Everyone is welcome to participate. Go to: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=68015785066> to respond. No personal information will be captured or shared.

One project already underway is to develop a syllabus for incorporating the Canon into a college chemistry course. Needless to say, we feel this is a project that would be near and dear to the Master's heart.

Chuck Kovacic has agreed to prepare a set of guidelines on organizing and participating in book fairs, fund raising for books for school libraries, etc using questions from the Programming task group to establish his framework. The Programming task group will be working to develop the questions.

Myrtle also has the promise of a study outline from an 8th grade teacher who has been participating in the Hansom Wheels HOUN project for the past three years. She anticipates it will be web site ready in spring 2005.

The Programming Committee is also considering the following activities: (a) guidelines for Sherlockians who would like to be involved with schools in a limited way such as one-time visits, (b) guidelines for elementary school children involvement, (c) a directory of scions with individuals whom teachers could contact for help, and (d) a sharing program in which products of school projects could be shared with Sherlockians and educators.

Burt Wolder, Chair of the Communications Task Group, has just established the Beacon web site (<www.beaconsociety.com>) and also has an outline for a newsletter. He needs content for both. Thanks also go to Burt for underwriting the first year of web site costs.

Andy Solberg reported on the success of the recently launched essay contest sponsored by Watson's Tin Box with funds provided by Barnes & Noble. We hope to have his framework up on the web site and are working to obtain approval of those involved.

As you can see, much has been accomplished in the past year. Thanks go to all of the individuals who've been helping but especially our three committee chairs: Andy, Burt, and Myrtle.

Percy Phelps

Secretary a.k.a. Susan Diamond <susanzdiamond@yahoo.com>