



THE BEACON SOCIETY

*Supporting and recognizing exemplary educational experiences
that introduce young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories*



*A Scion Society of the
Baker Street Irregulars*

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2009

January 15, 2010: Algonquin Hotel, New York City. Sixteen members were in attendance.

Head Light Joseph Coppola chaired the meeting and called on Pj Doyle for a report on our registration as a 501(c)(3) corporation. Pj stated that it should be completed in early 2010. We now have an EIN and will no longer have to pay sales tax on purchases. Pj has donated to the Society all of the costs associated with this process. Head Light Joseph Coppola thanked Pj for all her efforts and suggested she be appointed to the Board permanently as she will continue ownership of this process and do all necessary filings.

Percy Phelps (a.k.a. Susan Diamond) reported that she has kept the Yahoo mailing list up-to-date and will be glad to send invitations to any prospective members. Head Light Coppola requested that meeting minutes from previous years be added to the website. A report of the Society's annual meeting has appeared in the Baker Street Journal for the past two years.

Bursar Carol Cavalluzzi reported a balance of \$4,379.33, a decrease of \$628.19 from the previous year. Major expenditures were the purchase of pins, a grant which will be discussed in the Awards report, website fees, office supplies, and flyers for the birthday weekend. Donations were down, but obtaining 501(c)(3) status and subsequently being able to accept funds through PayPal on the website should rectify that situation. Pin sales over the weekend have been extremely strong.

Communications Task Group chair and Beacon webmaster Marilynne McKay provided a detailed report on the reinstatement and expansion of the Society's website, the press releases that have been prepared with the help of John Sherwood, the development of the Society's new pin, and the inclusion of a Beacon Society flyer in all of the weekend dinner packets. The entire group expressed its thanks to Marilynne for her exceptional efforts during the past year.

Retiring Programming Task Group chair Myrtle Robinson could not attend, but the new chair, Francine Kitts, was present. Myrtle's final report summarized various items that have been added to the website over the past year. All members are encouraged to visit BeaconSociety.com to see the new materials, as well as the site's very user-friendly format. Myrtle is committed to working with Francine to ensure a smooth transition for this task group. Francine announced that Carol Cavalluzzi, Elaine Coppola, and Susan Diamond have joined the Programming Task Group. Pj Doyle volunteered to join at the meeting and was accepted. Andy Solberg has resigned from the task group due to extensive other commitments. Francine has sent Flo Spector an e-mail asking her to remain on the task group, but has not yet heard back from Flo.

Andrew Solberg, chair of the Awards Task Group, announced that the first Jan Stauber grant of \$250.00 was given to Karen Paulsen, an English teacher from Wisconsin. Changes were discussed for the grant program in 2010 to extend it to Canada and the United Kingdom. Andy also announced that the 2010 Beacon Award was given to Myrtle Robinson in recognition of her work with schools in South Carolina.

The Head Light announced that the Society needs a Fundraising Chair and requested volunteers and/or recommendations for the position. Thanks go to Christopher Roden for arranging the donation of 5 Barnes and Noble editions of the Canon (Chris wrote the foreword). New Beacon Peggy Perdue reported on her activities with schools in Canada. Her program on working with elementary schools have already been added to the website.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Z Diamond, a.k.a. Percy Phelps (Secretary)