

## Ohio Classical Conference Post-Meeting Notes

Tuesday 15 November 2022 on Zoom, 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

In attendance (list by alphabetical order): Mary Jo Behrensmeyer (**MJB**), Christy Bening (**CB**), Edith Foster (**EF**), Sherwin Little (**SL**), Benjamin Lupica (**BL**), Kenneth Silverman (**KS**), Timothy Wutrich (**TW**).

Jeff Kolo (**JK**) had communicated in advance his absence. This was noted at the start of the meeting. Steve Tuck (**ST**) and Katherine DeBoer (**KDB**), both of Miami University, had registered for the Zoom meeting, but were not in attendance.

**I. Old Business:** Before following the agenda order, **TW** asked that we suspend the agenda and let **CB** speak out of order, since she could only stay for a short while. All agreed, so **CB** took the floor. **CB** asked us to consider dates for the fall 2023 meeting: either the weekend of 29 - 30 September or 13 - 14 October. Columbus Academy needs to have a precise date soon, because the school is planning for the new year. All present expressed a preference for 13- 14 October 2023. **CB** also asked that we pursue **Madeline Miller** as keynote speaker in 2023. There was some brief discussion about Vergilian Luncheon speaker, since all agree that this feature of the annual meeting should remain. No specific name was mentioned, but **GJ** suggested that someone at OSU might be asked, in an effort to bring this major player back into the OCC. **SL** also suggested someone at U of C, such as **Lynne Lancaster**, or **Zara Torlone** at Miami. **MJB** agreed that we could afford this. **TW** said he will contact Miller's agent. **CB** also asked us to consider event insurance, given the litigious nature of people in the USA at the current moment. All agreed. **SL**, with his experience in the American Classical League, said that he knows some insurance people, if we need to contact them. Finally, **CB** mentioned her colleague, **Jen Conti**, who served as our technology advisor this past October. **CB** recommended that we engage her as the official tech advisor and offer her a stipend in 2023. All agreed. **CB** left the meeting around 7:15 p.m.

We then returned to the planned agenda order. There was a discussion of the Centennial meeting. **TW** called the event a success. Panels, speakers, the play, special events, all went as planned, and students from **CWRU**, **Wooster**, **Ashland**, and **Kenyon** got together and even talked about making future plans to meet. **EF** echoed these remarks, but thought more high school teachers should be involved: not a single high-school teacher gave a talk. She suggested that in future, perhaps a panel could be composed of high-school teachers, or they could have a workshop or poster session. **KS** also found the conference a success, and then offered a self-critique of the academic panel, expressing the wish that he had done a better job of introducing the academic panel. All the others assured him that his work was first-rate and successful. **BL** also found the conference a success, pointing especially to the keynote speaker **George O'Conner**. **BL** thought the focus on graphic novels and mythology worked well; he liked the presence of the high school audience at the event with the OCC attendees. He also noted that **Catherine Peters** enjoyed the conference. **GJ** thought the conference was a success. **SL**, who could not be present because of his ACL duties, said that he could be a resource in getting more high school involvement.

**II. New Business.** **TW** gave an overview of the new business to be considered, all items mentioned during the Centennial meeting. He observed that in the current climate of overworked faculty, many people of goodwill towards OCC are simply too busy to join. They need to have some reason, something in it for themselves to make time for another activity, one which brings little prestige. He then turned the floor over to **GJ**.

**GJ** reviewed the revision of the OCC Constitution that he began back in 2019 after the annual meeting. He noted that his goal was to simplify the original document. He suggested that more people might join the OCC, if they could be persuaded that it might help them prepare the AP exams with their classes, or something similar to this. From his position as CAMWS Vice President and his work on the AP Latin exams, he observed that there are lots of high school AP Latin teachers in Ohio. He said that more K – 12 teachers needed to be involved in OCC.

**SL** spoke next. He stated that all state Classics organizations are having these types of discussion; OCC is not unique. There are no easy answers. Professors at the large universities aren't interested; it is up to people like us. But we are not a failure, something proved by our recent successful meeting. He is happy to serve as a consultant regarding any non-profit status issues, since this is his realm. Speaking with **MJB** (who communicated with nods of her head, since her microphone was not working for the entire meeting) he determined the following about OCC:

- We are a non-profit.
- We are incorporated in Ohio.
- We have a tax identification number.
- We are tax exempt.

At this point **EF** commented on the non-profit document she had read and sent to **KS** and **TW**. She told us that as a non-profit we are required to register with the state of Ohio a statement of existence. She asked whether this had been done. **MJB** confirmed that she has done this on the OCC's behalf. She is the statutory agent. All thanked her.

The issue of officers came up. **GJ** nominated and **EF** seconded **TW** as president. Having asked if anyone else wanted to serve, and seeing no one willing, **TW** agreed to serve as president. **SL** asked whether we have a nominating committee that might do this; **GJ** agreed that we should have such a committee, and should seek officers and council members throughout Ohio, but pointed out that we are in an emergency status, that we need officers so that **MJB** can file her reports. So the following people agreed to serve as officers:

- TW** president
- KS** Vice President
- EF** Secretary
- MJB** Treasurer\*
- JK** Webmaster\* (the position has taken on much of the responsibility once accorded to the editor of *Humanitas*)
- GJ, BL, SL, CB** were made Council Members

**TW** then turned to the agenda and to the committee and asked whether we should next tackle the constitution. **EF** said that she had not yet studied it. **GJ** stated that we had already done quite a bit of important work for one night, so all agreed (1.) to study **GJ**'s revision of the constitution, (2.) to invite three or four other colleagues to the next meeting, and (3.) to meet again via a Zoom meeting on **Tuesday 13 December 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**

**III. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

\***MJB** and **JK** had agreed to continue in these offices at the October 2022 Centennial meeting. We are all grateful for their service.

*Minutes taken by Timothy Wutrich*