

**Annual General Business Meeting
Media Ecology Association
June 29, 2019
Location: MEA Convention, Toronto, ON**

The meeting was called to order at 9:35am EST

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 2018 MEA BUSINESS MEETING

The minutes of the previous MEA Business Meeting, held in June 2018 in Orono were approved unanimously.

II. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

President (Paul Grosswiler)

- Welcome message, especially to new members and attendees.
- Kudos given to Paolo and his crew at St. Michaels for organizing this year's convention.

Vice President Select/2019 Convention Coordinator (Peggy Cassidy)

- Welcome everyone to attend next convention at Adelphi University, Garden City, June 18-20, 2020
- Has had lots of feedback from attendees at the St. Michaels' convention
- Take advantage of being in the Tri-state area
- Meeting soon with Adelphi people now that she sees what is needed
- Call for papers is in the paper
- It is a short train ride to Manhattan (from Long Island Railroad about 40 minutes, Penn Station, lovely neighbourhood), working on housing, new dorms on campus
- It is closest to JFK, but LaGuardia is not too much farther
- Welcome volunteers, Thom's band to play

Vice President/Convention Coordinator (Paolo Granata)

- 361 presenters; 91 panels; multiple social events; good turn out of people; preconference event
- Many new members; we should identify some way to encourage new members to attend next convention
- 40 partner organizations supported the convention; including in-kind contributions; a number attended the opening meeting
- Financially: new registrations allowed us to cover everything
- Used professionals (rather than students—who provided a human component to welcome, respond to questions) to deal with technical issues: this worked very well
- Thanked everyone for all the support he received
- Add to convention planning guidelines: follow-up survey (Paolo will be doing this) to help gather concerns/ideas for next meeting
- Paolo to send out survey based on Congress template (flagging new members)
- The program was a huge editorial effort (106 page program); we no longer print proceedings so it is good to have record of the abstracts, bios, etc. It will also be online (on our website like previous convention programs)

- Important to have the land acknowledgment and Indigenous ceremony at the beginning
- First Edition of Mechanical Bride to go to Top Paper.
- One third of the presenters were students;

Treasurer (Paul Soukup)

- Details on our finances will be available on the web;
- Overview: lost about \$500 last year; income \$23,500; expenses \$24,000; biggest expense is EME (printing, mailing); then the convention; also for the Board meeting travel in January
- Wild Apricot membership system
- Future planning: explore other revenue sources;
- We are eligible for Amazon Smile (members can choose to support MEA): this can help
- Paolo identified another possible fundraising approach
- Cutting down on F2F board meetings; most meetings are online
- This year, many more attendees than usual: good, but also increases the cost of printing EME, and postage
- Wild Apricot can set up donations

Editor of *EME* (Lance Strate for Ernie Hakanen)

- May have seen Explorations 18.1 and 18.2 (double issue) in our convention bag
- 3 year term—selected new editor at the end of the 2nd term (Ernie Hakanen incoming)
- 3rd issue are waiting on copy edits (out in September); includes a nice piece on the media environment in Iran, plus a set of 4 papers on RD Laing organized by Cory; plus a couple of probes, poetry and pedagogy piece; plus book reviews. The poetry involves colors images
- 4th issue will include a tribute to Eric McLuhan; we need to get the op papers for this issue;
- Incoming editor—Ernest Hakanen, Senior scholar at Drexel University--will issue new call for papers in September; at which point he takes over for 2020 editions (19.1 and on)
- Has new board and section editors
- Check to see if your institutions' library carries this, and if not, please ask them to subscribe

Internet Officer and Chair, Inclusivity Committee (Carolyn Aronis)

- We have a new website, still in progress
- Followed recommendations of a consultant to improve online presence
- People can follow us on social media
- We have issues with the listserv and are going to change it; I will be recruiting people to assist with this process and/or with the website (we will list you on the website for your contributions)
- Please take a look at the details of this online,
- If there is an issue, please reach out to any of the board members
- A link to the Inclusivity policy will be provided on the survey
- Need to have a practice to debrief after the conference (brief discussion about one concern)
- Carolyn also leading our Strategic committee to increase recognition of MEA

- Carolin to provide more information in the upcoming Newsletter

Awards Officer (Brian Cogan)

- Not present

Editor of *In Medias Res* Newsletter (Scott Church)

- Scott will be sending out the July newsletter today
- He has sent out monthly; thanks to all have contributed
- We are now publicizing to all, MEA members are the only people who can post to it (this is a benefit): mostly looking for achievements of members, upcoming papers (this is posted at the bottom of the newsletter; want to hear stories: will be showcasing veterans and new members (about 100 words)
- How many are opening? 65% - 80% (according to Wild Apricot): this is very good

Historian (Matt)

- In the last 6 months this position is being reimagined with a digital component;
- The public facing part of our history is now online and searchable on the new website
- Old proceedings are there now. Including Neil Postman's 2000 address.
- Send materials to Matt or Carolin
- Paul: we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Matt and Carolin!

Executive Secretary (Fernando Gutiérrez)

- Maintains MEA records: can write to him
- Last year we closed with 134 members; this year we had 348 members (we doubled) from 29 countries: US, Canada, Brazil, Italy, Mexico, China (top 6 in order)
- As member you can access all digital versions of EME via the members area;
- Members portal: questions can go to Fernando

Immediate Past President/Chair of Election Committee (Ed Tywoniuk)

- Ed opened the nominations for election to the MEA Board.
- Overview of election process: there are 12 positions, staggered for continuity.
- Nominations will stay open now until September 27th
- Information will be sent out via newsletter plus posted on the MEA website
- The following week (October 4 – 18), the ballots will go out to all members in good standing
- Results reports October 25th; this will give people time to make plans to attend the F2F meeting in January 2020

Four positions are currently open:

(1) Vice President-Elect/Convention Coordinator 2021

- This position is to host the 2021 convention: this is a 4-year position that shifts to President, and then ascends to the clouds, etc.)
- Lance is nominating Mike Plugh as the Vice President-Elect (Matt seconds)
- Paul G. is nominating Adriana as the Vice President-Elect (withdraws nomination until she has clarified)

- (2) Recording Secretary (1 year)
 - Open; records the activities of the association
 - Cathy Adams agreed to let her name stand again.
 - Lance nominates Cathy (Mike Plugh seconds)
- (3) *In Medias Res* Newsletter Editor (1 year)
 - Currently open (Scott not returning);
 - None offered yet
- (4) At-Large Officer (3 years): 2020 - 2022
 - Help to promote MEA;
 - 1 position is open
 - Mike Plugh nominating Austin Hestdalen (Thom seconded)

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation of the First Edition of McLuhan's *Mechanical Bride* to Top Paper winner.
2. Announcement: Eleni Lamberti—we are running a summer school; looking to send/sponsor an Italian student; hoping to secure a scholarship to send to MEA convention; consider affecting change in universities; welcome feedback; we run an annual lecture in Media Ecology (in September or October) in Bologna, by streaming in the afternoon, many can attend: need to advertise in the Newsletter; would like to have MEA convention back in Italy
3. Paolo—sponsorship of two students by Wired in Italy to come to Toronto summer school
4. Paul—expression of appreciation of thanks

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cathy Adams', with a small flourish at the end.

Cathy Adams
Recording Secretary (2019)