**USITT CONFERENCE 2023**

PUBS MEETING (IN PERSON)

Laclede Boardroom, Marriott St. Louis Grand

March 16, 2023, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM

**Present:** Rafael Jaen, Dan Calhoune, Margaret Mitchell, Peggy Rosefelt, Mike Monsos, Mark Blackmon, Jessica Champagne Hanson, Mark Shanda, Deb Sherrer, Eileen Curly, Ashley Bellet, and Laura Lea Everett joined us for a brief time.

**Reports**

1. Chair: Rafael called the meeting to order and asked us to recruit new members of Pubs who reflected the diversity of the membership -- just look at this year’s conference attendees.
2. Director of Engagement: Mark Blackmon reported on outreach.
   1. Jenn is podcasting on the Expo floor, weekly newsletters and podcasting are positive.
   2. Mark raises the point Sightlines has morphed into Weekly Newsletter. Mark Shanda stated that sunsetting “Sightlines” needs to be an intentional act by Pubs.
   3. Mark Blackmon stated “We have no intention of sunsetting *TD&T*.”
3. TD & T Editor: Eileen Curley reported on article output.
   1. *TD&T*: It’s been rough with pandemic and managing *TD&T* authors… The Winter Issue is coming out next week late. The Spring issue will cover the conference.
   2. Gregg’s Award is going to Jerry Odie and Kathleen Holland
   3. **Problem:** Bellman Archive access and web navigation clarity.
      1. Mark Blackmon stated the Archive is set up on an outside software system and we have no control over the internal software.
      2. Margaret suggested and Mark Shanda supported revising the USITT page with instructions for access to the Bellman Archive.
      3. **ACTION ITEM**: Eileen has a draft of such a document she will send to Mark Blackmon.
   4. Proquest and Gale can now interface with *TD&T.*
   5. The celebration of the 60th anniversary issue coming up. Eileen called for ideas for articles.
   6. There are fewer and fewer lifetime members. Should we place the Fellows in the list?
      1. Mark Shanda stated there is not a protocol for choosing a lifetime member. Mark’s opinion is that we should not add the Fellows to the masthead and others concurred.
   7. Mark Blackmon pointed out there are three levels of donors- and the “Supporting” level is not included on the masthead by design based on pre-existing agreements.
      1. Discussion ensued about corporate sponsors and interface of acknowledgement of these entities in print and online.
   8. Mark Blackmon pointed out USITT has not fully engaged *TD&T.*
      1. **IDEA:** Ashley Bellet suggested a session next year on using *TD&T* in the classroom as a teaching tool.
      2. **IDEA:** TD&T presence at the conference with QR Code and/or interactive touch screen so members can have access to current and previous journal issues.
   9. PQ Issue
      1. Possible authors were identified, including Ashley Bellet, Margaret Mitchell, Susan Tsu, and Bill Kenyon. Eileen stated she had one author already committed.
   10. Authorship
       1. Eileen is interested in having some backup articles if authors fall apart… Contributing editors used to contribute… Eileen says the budget line to hire a writer and she has used that for the portfolio issue.
   11. Staffing
       1. Rafael brought up new staff in the office is needed. Mark Blackmon says a single writer who splits time between developing USITT general content and a staff writer for *TD&T* might be the right approach.\
       2. **ACTION ITEM:** resolve the contract decision this summer with Hickman Brady, renew Eileen’s contract, and check with FOCAL Press about the Routledge-USITT publishing *Backstage* series partnership.
   12. Budget:
       1. The budget of *TD&T* has appeared in Mark Blackmon’s budget. Laura Lea will do the contract negotiations with Hickman Brady
       2. Mark Shanda stated *TD&T* cannot be supported by advertising, and all were in agreement about issues between print and digital consumption.
       3. **ACTION ITEM:** Rafael needs to ask Fran about seeing the Pubs and *TD&T* budgets.
   13. Portfolio Issue:
       1. August Wilson. Eileen gave an update. They have almost all content and it is with the estate for review. The content has not been approved by the estate yet and they don’t have Constanza’s pieces yet.
4. **Other Topics**
   1. Mark Shanda asks about Pubs mission and a publishing entity…and our goals about the Portfolio Issue.
   2. Deb and Mark Shanda discuss the directory issue and opting out of the directory.
   3. Mark Blackmon stated it’s too expensive to make the Directory fields optional and there are privacy issues with emails on the web.
   4. Margaret brought up a possible USITT Handbook. There was discussion and Rafael tabled the issue.
   5. Rafael stated he had a meeting with Lea Asberg discussing needing editor/writer in the USITT staff to define documents about standard style.
      1. **ACTION ITEM:** Rafael will discuss the need for an editor/writer in the USITT staff to create the style guidelines for documents related to best practice and standards.
   6. Rafael stated that the *Backstage Series* book work is ongoing…the contract with Focal Press ends when the third installment of the Backstage book series is complete.
   7. Rafael stated that we didn’t choose a Golden Pen winner this year because the books didn’t meet the requirements listed on our website.
      1. **ACTION ITEM:** Call for submissions for the Oscar G. Brockett Golden Pen could be a House Ad in *TD&T.*

Adjournment: 11:05