2019 LGBTQ Writers Caucus Meeting at AWP19

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE
● Samantha Tetangco, President
● Julia(n) Leslie Guarch, Vice President
● Marlena Lynne, Communications Coordinator

BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE
● Zane DeZeeuw, Secretary - Could not make it to AWP; also decided to step down as Secretary

55 members in attendance (excluding Board Members)

Note: Meeting minutes were taken by Julia(n) Leslie Guarch and Samantha Tetangco in the absence of Zane, the Caucus’s Secretary, who could not attend.

CAUCUS MEETING SCHEDULE
1. Welcome
   a. Current Board introduction (Name / quick intro / pronouns)
      i. Brief explanation of each role
   b. Purpose of this meeting/Overview of the next 1.25 Hours:
      i. Updates on what has been happening throughout the year and an overview of the caucus to help you stay connected
      ii. Community Building & Gathering Feedback to report to AWP
      iii. Elections for Next Year’s Board
2. 2019-2020 Executive Board Reports & Updates
   a. Caucus overview for new / first time attendees
      i. Overview of the Year & Timeline of what to expect from the Caucus in upcoming year (also for those interested in joining the board!) - Sam
      ii. Staying Connected throughout the year - Communication & Social Media Outreach – FB, Blog, Twitter, Instagram - Marlena
         a. LGBTQ Writers Caucus Blog: https://lgbtqwriterscaucus.wordpress.com/
         b. Private Facebook group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/337720386280712/
         c. Caucus social media accounts:
            i. Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/LGBTQWritersCaucus/
2. Twitter: https://twitter.com/lgbtqwriters
3. Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/lgbtq_writers_caucus/
   d. Caucus Email Distribution List - lgbtq.writers.caucus@gmail.com
   e. #AWPLGBTQ / #AWP19

C. Next Year AWP Call for Proposals – What to look out for on the FB group; (caucus generated spreadsheet, panel review support, etc) – Julia
   ● Event Proposal Deadline: May 1, 11:59 p.m.

D. Other Updates & Announcements?
1. Fundraiser and Queer Mixer with Lambda
   a. Hosting Another Mixer with Lambda Literary. This will take place at CC Slaughters Nightclub and Lounge, 219 NW Davis St, Portland, OR 97209 & 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 28th - right after the meeting!
      i. Special shout out to everyone who contributed, but especially to Gertrude Press and the Gertie Book Club who made a couple of large donations.
   b. Increased communications/outreach with/from AWP
      i. Call for craft essays from the “Writer’s Chronicle” - Email from Chloe Schwenke, AWP Interim Executive Director
      ii. AWP also added a new Literary Caucuses page & “promoting all caucus meetings in our social media accounts leading up to the conference”
   c. Living Handbook: updated with each new board - Sam
   d. Safety concerns & Conflicted feelings about AWP’s response– Julia

III. Icebreaker & Connection Building –

A. Overview - Sam
   a. Excuse to hand out business cards. Way to find a group of people who will be walking over to the mixer. Members more comfortable with expressing their opinions and concerns.
   b. Notekeeper for each group – to write contact information, and to be used throughout the meeting for various bits of feedback - We will collect these.

B. Icebreaker & Group Discussion – Marlena Talk to those around you:
What panels have you checked out?
What panels are you looking forward to?
In terms of AWP in general, what are you liking so far?
What types of things do you want AWP to improve on?
How do you feel about representation of queer writers this year?
Are you going to the mixer? Why/why not?
Are you interested in being on the Caucus Board?

4. BOARD ELECTIONS
   1. President: Samantha Tetangleo - stepping down as President
   2. Vice President: Julia(n) Leslie Guarch - stepping down as Vice President
   3. 2 Social Media Coordinators: Marlena - stepping down as Communications
       Coordinators
   4. Secretary: Zane (Not present at meeting) - stepped down as Secretary

2019 – 2020 BOARD MEMBERS
(all nominated and voted in)
Bruce Owens Grimm, President
A Poythress (A.P.), Vice President
Eduardo Ballestero, Secretary
Megan Bronson, Communications Coordinator
And Schuster, Communications Coordinator
Alan Lessik, Treasurer (New Position)

List of MEMBER CONCERNS
(Curated from each small group’s written and verbal notes)
   ● ACCESSIBILITY:
     ● Extend the time between panels (15 minutes is not enough time for those with
       disabilities; allows more time to connect with panelists as well)
     ● Either record panels and offer them on the website for a limited time after the
       conference, preferably captioned
     ● Offer Skyping as an option for panelists who cannot attend; offer live streaming
       purposes for such members as well
     ● Ensure tech support is available (many panels had technical issues without a way
       to get assistance; some panelists not even able to present)

   ● REQUESTS FOR AWP (NOT REGARDING ACCESSIBILITY)
• Offer a section of time for AWP members to voice concerns to AWP; scheduled at a time no other event or panel is scheduled
• Staggering the Caucuses so that members of AWP do not need to choose between caucuses with which they identify
• Include clear option for pronouns on badges and in the bios (Ex. “Writing Writer (they/them) is a…”)
• Having clear signage for gender neutral bathrooms on map and at conference entrances
• Clearly indicate who chooses featured events/panels and why
• Give preference to convention centers with easily accessible gender neutral bathrooms (in number as well as accessibility for abled and disabled members)
• Ensure queer identities are represented in non-queer focused panels
• Request feedback and suggestions about security

• CAUCUS SPECIFIC INITIATIVES:
  • Utilize Wednesday for connecting and socializing with people
    ■ “Orientation”
    ■ Table with queer friendly folks set up near entrances, potentially with available LGBTQ resources
  • Include snacks in LGBTQ Writers Caucus Meeting
  • Make another spreadsheet for panel ideas
  • Fund another mixer, preferably closer to the convention center
  • More communication and action between Caucuses
  • Help members from particular areas or areas of expertise to connect outside of AWP
    ■ Utilize surveys created last year
  • Create a budget for LGBTQ Writers Scholarships
  • Share LGBTQ resources, safe spaces, and LGBTQ Guide for San Antonio
  • Guidebook to queer agents, editors, and presses
  • Guidebook to queer-friendly agents, editors, and presses
  • Continue to promote member publication news
  • Continue to send panel proposals to members for approval/suggestions
    ■ David Groff

• FUTURE PANELS:
  • Panels about screenplay
  • Panels focusing on LGBTQ Projects in the area (ex. Gay & Lesbian Archive of the Pacific NW, ONE Archive @ USC, etc.)
  • Caucus of Caucuses Meeting
• POSITIVE FEEDBACK:
  • Best quality panels so far (in terms of content and representation)
    ■ Continue to add more queer representation on other panels for the future

Caucus Interaction
• Minority Caucuses are communicating through Caucus of Caucuses Facebook group and duel members