

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of The Novel Club of Cleveland, Ohio
April 26, 2015
At the home of Tom Slavin

The meeting was called to order by President Anne Ogan at 4:30 p.m..

Since the members already received last year's minutes it was suggested that they not be read. The Treasurer's report was not available but Leigh Faben, who sent the donation check to Friends of the Cleveland Library, said that a thank-you note was received from that organization. Nick Ogan suggested that the minutes of the Annual meetings be archived. The next Novel Club meeting is May 5, at the home of the Stupays.

Membership was discussed and the importance of having 36 members was emphasized, so that the various tasks can be evenly distributed. Catherine LaCroix asked all in attendance to check the information for next year's booklet. Two changes in status were announced: Mary Douthit will be emeritus, and Carol Fox, our very efficient recording secretary, has resigned from the club. The role of a prospective member sponsor was discussed, including the responsibility of stating why a person should be considered for membership, as well as providing background information of a potential candidate. Diane Stupay made a motion to delete the resume requirement. The motion was passed. It was suggested that after attending a minimum of 3 meetings, participating in the discussions at the meetings and receiving letters of recommendations, regardless of the time of year, a person may be voted on, rather than wait for the Annual Meeting as had been done during previously. Jay Siegel, sponsor of Jim Schilling, suggested a vote be taken, and it was unanimous that Jim be accepted as a new member. Electronic voting was suggested for members not in attendance, in the coming years.

A discussion of the by-laws ensued but no vote was taken. The Council of Administration includes the retired past President and the other three members will be Jenny Kaffen, Art Stupay and Joyce Kessler. Tom Slavin will be the new recording secretary and Ham Emmons the new treasurer.

The Program Committee took turns presenting short, enticing descriptions of the books proposed for the next year. The recommendation of the 18 books included the novels of the First World War, this coming year's theme, Classics and the third category of Modern/contemporary. Bob Brody, Leigh Fabens, Louise Mooney, David Novak, Nick Ogan, and George Weimer were applauded for their scholarly work on this committee.

Those in attendance voted on the selections and the ballots were counted.

After a wonderful buffet dinner at the Slavins' home, beautifully presented and organized by Veronica Slavin, we were asked to sign up to host or write and present papers for the next season. The results of the votes were announced and are included in these minutes: W.W.1-Sebastian Faulks, *Birdsong*, Pat Barker, *The Ghost Road*, and *A Farewell to Arms*, by Ernest Hemingway.

The Classics chosen were *The Brothers Karamazov*, by Fyodor Dostoevsky, *The Ambassadors*, by Henry James and Virginia Woolf's, *Mrs. Dalloway*. In the Modern/contemporary category, these three books were chosen: *All the Light We Cannot See*, written by Anthony Doerr, who won The Pulitzer Prize, *The Blue Flower*, by Penelope Fitzgerald, and *Rabbit Run*, by John Updike.

If you missed the meeting, you missed a delightful time enjoyed by all. We missed you, too.

Respectfully submitted, Toby Siegel