

MINUTES  
of the Annual Business Meeting of  
The Novel Club of Cleveland  
April 22, 2018

Late Sunday afternoon, and the sun shone down on the handsome new home of Jay and Toby Siegel, as the Novel Club gathered to celebrate another bibliophilic year drawing to a close (not yet ended, mind you), and plan the next one. After initial socializing, the proceedings were opened by our spiritual leader, David Novak, who offered a prayer of blessing on the new home, with gifts of bread, salt and sugar symbolizing sustenance, savor, and felicity in years to come. The president then thanked our hostess, but was too modest to thank the host! Your humble scribe takes it upon himself to express warm appreciation on behalf of all of us to Toby and Jay.

The minutes were approved. The only committee report was offered by Jennie Kaffen on behalf of the Council. Jennie first proposed two new members: Patricia Smith (letters from Linda Sandhaus, Bob Brody, and Leigh Fabens) and Jill Corbin (letters from Molly Berger, Peter Haas and Joyce Kessler). She reviewed their backgrounds and qualifications, which were truly outstanding. The question arose whether a month's delay need elapse before voting, to give time for comments. It was decided, and unanimously voted, that the requirement could be waived in this case, and both candidates were welcomed by acclamation.

Jennie then listed the new officers and committee members for the coming year. They were unanimously accepted without debate. Below is a list (subject to correction) of all officers and committees for the year 2018-2019, as far as is known at this time. Those voted on at the meeting are starred.

President – Ham Emmons\*

Vice President – Louise Mooney\*

Corresponding Secretaries – Leigh Fabens (mail), Catherine LaCroix (Evite)

Recording Secretary – Jennie Kaffen\*

Council of Administration and Membership

Jennie Kaffen (chair)

Molly Berger

Peter Haas\*

Program Committee

Catherine LaCroix (chair)\*

Peter Haas

Toby Siegel

Joyce Kessler

Website Committee

Ham Emmons

Catherine LaCroix

Calendar Design and Production

Catherine LaCroix

Jane Hammond

Archives

James Saunders (paper)

Ham Emmons (electronic)

The final order of business, and most important, was the selection of next year's books. The 18 candidates were presented by their sponsors and discussed, the vote was taken, and the following nine novels were announced as the victors:

East of Eden, by John Steinbeck

Persepolis, by Marjane Satrapi

The End of the Affair, by Graham Greene

Kim, by Rudyard Kipling

Manhattan Beach, by Jennifer Egan

The Dark Flood Rises, by Margaret Drabble

Invitation of a Beheading, by Vladimir Nabokov

The Counterfeiters, by Andre Gide

Saturday, by Ian McEwan

After all this worthy work, there was festive feasting, accompanied by cordial converse until the fond farewells.

Respectfully submitted

Hamilton Emmons