

MayDay Group
Business Meeting Report
19 June 2010

This year's business meeting was held in several parts on Saturday, 19 June, instead of on Sunday, to accommodate early-Sunday travel schedules of many members.

Part I: 8:40-9:00 a.m.

A. Terry Gates called the meeting to order and announced that about \$600 was received from book royalties and sent to Wayne Bowman to help cover ACT journal expenses. The MDG now has a small checking account in Brandon and Bowman is acting as treasurer. Gates announced that it cost him about \$400 per year to run the non-ACT activities and services of The MDG.

B. Gates announced that two invitations to host next year's Colloquium were received, one from Sandra Stauffer at Arizona State University and one from Joelle Lien at the University of Utah. The consensus was to accept the Utah invitation for June 2011. John Kratus suggested a mid-year colloquium in addition. Thomas Regelski observed that we have done a second colloquium several times in the past, but the consensus was to concentrate on the June event. Note: Any member can mount a regional MayDay Group colloquium as long as it follows MDG practice: a) the organizers craft a central theme and accept only those presentations that contribute to it, and b) there is sufficient time allotted to general discussion after each presentation.

C. Gates announced that Eva Egolf, our web master, was ready to redesign the web site, making it more functional and attractive. But, she needed software to do that work, costing about \$359US (the student price for the Web Premium CS5 Mac package at the NYU bookstore). Gates asked for donations, as is our practice.

D. Bowman gave a brief report on ACT. The next issue will be out in about a month, with two more issues in various stages of being assembled. One of them is on ethics, and Bowman urged presenters at the Montclair conference to submit expanded versions of their papers suitable for ACT material to Carlos Rodriguez <rodriguez@arts.usf.edu> with a copy to him <bowmanwd@gmail.com>. Rodriguez is the special issue editor for the ethics topic.

Bowman also invited applications for assistant editor of ACT, as announced in several newsletter postings this spring. Contact him if you are interested in volunteering for ACT.

Bowman introduced with appreciation the members of the ACT production team, Chris Trinidad (not present), Kristen Myers, and Mary Kate Newell. The members thanked them with applause.

Part II: 5:15-6:15 p.m.

A. Gates announced that \$310 was received in donations to support the software

needed for updating the web site earlier in the day and invited further donations from those who were not at the breakfast meeting. An additional \$10 donation was received. Donations from members not present are encouraged. Make checks or money orders in US funds payable to The MayDay Group and send them to Gates at 9053 Saranac Drive; St. Louis, MO 63117 USA.

B. [Gates distributed copies of the draft governance document, with email comments received at the banquet the previous evening, with the invitation to provide written pre-meeting comments during Saturday. Several were received.]

The governance document was discussed, section by section. After the meeting, Gates and Regelski will make a second draft with changes resulting from the meeting input. The second draft will reflect suggestions made in the meeting and will be distributed to the members by email for a ratification (approval/non-approval) vote.

Note: This governance document is different from by-laws, although it might move in that direction in time. It is intended to regulate MDG operations, to clarify position titles and duties, and to increase the transparency of MDG decision making. It is best thought of as a Memorandum of Understanding among the members of The MDG.

ACT ejournal governance is covered by a separate document. That document will appear as an appendix in the revised draft governance document.

C. John Richmond encouraged the incorporation of The MDG, either under US 501(c)(3) regulations for non-profits, or under US Legal Corporation laws. This, he pointed out, would protect agents' personal assets from legal actions taken against the organization and would provide the necessary separation of personal and organizational assets in banks. Gates reported that he has created and maintains such a corporation for another entity; expenses are beyond current MDG means. For example, 501(c)(3) corporations do not pay federal taxes in the US, but must file a yearly tax return (Form 990). The tax return is complicated enough that even a small non-profit must engage professional help. Richmond suggested that this help might be donated. Gates will explore this further and report to the membership.

One recommendation is to have a college or university "adopt" The MDG as an approved organization, set up a separate account for the organization, and handle income and disbursements. A MDG member in the institution would act as secretary/treasurer. We need a volunteer to set this up.

D. Regelski noted that we need a volunteer to serve as Colloquium Coordinator. [Subsequent to the meeting, Marissa Silverman volunteered to serve as Colloquium Coordinator, and she will begin her duties this summer.]

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.