

MINUTES
of the Annual Meeting of
The Novel Club of Cleveland
April 28, 2013

Hosts: Jay and Toby Siegel

The meeting was called to order by President Gabinet at 5:18. Twenty-eight members were present.

On information received by President Gabinet, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to put Arthur Newman on emeritus status. Additionally, the Kirbys have written to resign from the club. The total result of this would be to open up three vacancies to be filled. There seemed some question as to the Kirbys' reasons for resigning, and/or whether their resignation was to be immediate or just for next year. President Gabinet will investigate further, and members will look into finding potential new members.

Treasurer Mary Douthitt reported that the Club's bank balance is over \$2,000.00, and the question was raised as to whether dues should be reduced. Anne Ogan suggested a donation on behalf of the club to some book-oriented charity. Others suggested such donations should be individual, and dues put toward a gala on the occasion of the club's 120th anniversary upcoming in two more years. A motion was made to reduce this year's dues to \$10 per person, since there was no immediately obvious choice of a cause to support. Charities were suggested (e.g. Cleveland Reads, or adult literacy). Ted Sande suggested putting off the decision until more thought could be put into the choice. A show-of-hands vote was taken on the motion to reduce dues; the motion failed, so dues for this year will remain at \$20. Follow-on discussion about funding/donations trailed off. The motion to make a donation was re-raised; then there was a motion to table that motion, and the tabling motion passed.

The floor was turned over to Jane Hammond for presentation of the Books for Consideration for next year. Choice of the "focus category" of Canadian authors was explained by Leigh Fabens, who said that she and Andy have a place in Canada and have therefore become familiar with a wide range of high-quality contemporary Canadian novels. Leigh has read all of the nominated novels, and thinks they are worthy of Novel Club consideration. Some members requested a quick review of Committee comments on each of the Books for Consideration; others objected to going through this procedure since the comments had been published and distributed in advance. Instead, individual ad hoc comments on various books were offered by members who had remarks to add to the Program Committee's pre-published Brief Reviews.

Ballots were distributed, marked, and collected by approximately 6 p.m. At 6:20, results were announced:

Classics—Tristram Shandy; Indian Summer; and The Electra Plays

Canadian—A Map of Glass; River Thieves; and Through Black Spruce
Contemporary—Freaky Deaky; Independence Day; and Kafka on the Shore

Dinner was served, and the meeting adjourned around 7:30.