Delegate Assembly Agenda

At this year’s meeting, the Delegate Assembly will consider a proposal to increase association dues, three regular resolutions, and staff and committee reports on association activities. Also on the assembly’s agenda is a one-hour open discussion of two topics: MLA structures for the twenty-first century and the future of scholarly journals. Documents associated with these agenda items can be accessed at the MLA Web site (www.mla.org/dameeting_agenda).

Since the 1 October deadline for submitting motions and regular resolutions has passed, only emergency resolutions may be added to the assembly’s agenda. Members may submit emergency resolutions to the chair of the Delegate Assembly Organizing Committee up to twenty-four hours before the start of the assembly meeting. The last opportunity for submitting an emergency resolution comes at the Open Hearing on Resolutions at the convention (session 262). Please see the second section in Checklists for Submitting Resolutions (www.mla.org/submit_checklist) for information on submission requirements.

The assembly meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, 7 January, in room 6B of the Washington State Convention Center. Members may address the assembly on any of the issues on the assembly’s agenda. Because the assembly meeting is open-ended, latecomers will have a chance to join in important discussions of association policies.

2011 Election Results

Second Vice President. Margaret W. Ferguson (Univ. of California, Davis) was elected second vice president of the association. She will serve in that office from 9 January 2012 through the close of the January 2013 convention and will automatically become first vice president in 2013 and president of the MLA in 2014, serving in that office through the close of the January 2015 convention.

Executive Council. Lanisa Kitchiner (Howard Univ.), Lutz Koepnick (Washington Univ. in St. Louis), and Mecca Jamilah Sullivan (Univ. of Pennsylvania) were elected to the Executive Council for four-year terms (9 Jan. 2012 through the close of the Jan. 2016 convention).


Division and Discussion Group Executive Committees. Ninety members were elected to serve on division executive committees, and fifty members were elected to serve on discussion group executive committees. Most terms are five years (9 Jan. 2012 through the close of the Jan. 2017 convention). The names of those elected appear in the announcement of election results at www.mla.org/pdf/election_results_2011.pdf.

Presidential Address

The Presidential Address will take place at 6:45 p.m. this evening in the Sheraton Seattle (Metropolitan A, level 3). Executive Director Rosemary G. Feal will report on the association’s 2011 activities, and President Russell A. Berman will deliver the Presidential Address, announce the winner of the MLA Lifetime Achievement Award, and offer a statement of appreciation to Patricia Yaeger for her service as editor of PMLA (2006–11). The session is open to the public and will be followed by a reception. The awards formerly presented at this session will be given at the MLA Awards Ceremony at 6:45 p.m. tomorrow in Metropolitan A.

Online Program Access

A searchable Program for the convention is available online at www.mla.org/program, and attendees may access a streamlined version for mobile devices at mla12.org.

Guest Passes

A convention speaker may obtain a pass for a family member or friend who has no professional interest in language or literature to hear a paper given by that speaker. These passes must be requested at the MLA information center by the speaker on the day of the session. The speaker must provide his or her name, session details (session number, room, date, and time), and the guest’s name. Passes may not be requested by guests of speakers, MLA members who have not registered for the convention, or by speakers for guests for any reason other than to see that person speak in a particular session.

All MLA members and members of the profession that the MLA serves are required to register in order to participate in or attend sessions. Please note that if you need a pass for an evening session you must obtain it before the information center closes.

Twitter and Flickr

Tweets with the hashtag #mla12 and MLA convention photos posted on Flickr will appear on a screen in the registration area, and the Twitter feed will also be featured on the MLA home page throughout the convention. We encourage attendees to tweet sessions using the convention hashtag (#mla12) and session hashtags (e.g., #S380) and to tag their convention photos with mla12 on Flickr.

Exhibit Hall

Be sure to schedule time to visit the exhibit hall (Washington State Convention Center, South Lobby, 4B, level 4). The hall is open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on 6 and 7 January and from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on 8 January. Pick up a coupon book and take advantage of special promotions. Connect with over one hundred firms that represent a variety of materials and services of interest to teachers and students of language and literature. Admission to the exhibit area is restricted to persons wearing badges or carrying appropriate passes. To view a list of the 2012 exhibitors, please refer to the Convention Guide or visit www.mla.org/list_of_2012_exhibit.

MLA exhibit booth happenings (booth 300)

Friday, 6 January

2:00–5:00 p.m. The editor of the MLA International Bibliography will be in the MLA booth.
5:00–6:00 p.m. Reception celebrating the 127th MLA Annual Convention and all titles released by the MLA in 2011

Display and video of 2011 MLA-prize-winning books
A display of the books that are 2011 MLA prizewinners and a video featuring material from the winners will be located near the exhibit hall (outside Hall B, South Lobby, level 4). Many of the prizewinning publishers are exhibiting and will have copies of their books for sale at their booths. The winners will receive their awards at the MLA Awards Ceremony, which will take place Saturday, 7 January, at 6:45 p.m. in the Sheraton Seattle (Metropolitan A) and will be immediately followed by a reception.

Exhibit hall receptions and events
Check this section of the Convention Daily for updated information on receptions and events that will be taking place at various booths throughout the hall. Remember to wear your badge!

Friday, 6 January


3:00–4:00 p.m., Project MUSE (330). Wine and cheese reception celebrating the introduction of books to Project MUSE.

3:00–4:30 p.m., Chronicle of Higher Education (111). Wine and cheese reception.

3:30–4:30 p.m., W. W. Norton (208, 210). Reception celebrating fifty years of Norton anthologies and critical editions.

4:00 p.m., Palgrave Macmillan (200, 202, 204). Wine reception in honor of the winner of the MLA Prize for Independent Scholars, Tom Duggett, author of Gothic Romanticism.


Ongoing in the Exhibit Hall

Refreshment Stand
6 January, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
7 January, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

2012 Program Update
The following list includes changes in meeting times and locations, speakers (and their paper titles and affiliations) who joined the MLA or who agreed to speak at a session after the 7 April deadline for inclusion in the Program, and other corrections. The list does not announce speaker cancellations. Changes in times and locations of meetings must be approved by the headquarters staff in the Washington State Convention Center (601, level 6) or the Sheraton Seattle (Fremont, 3rd floor).

Friday, 6 January

170. Queering Value
8:30–9:45 a.m., 619, WSCC
2. “Sovereign Debt, Queer Remainders,” Travis Sands, Univ. of Washington, Bothell

194. Activism in the Academy: Generational, Historical, and Theoretical Perspectives
8:30–9:45 a.m., Willow B, Sheraton
Additional speaker: Catharine R. Stimpson, New York Univ.

199. Reading Langston Hughes in the Age of Barack Obama
8:30–9:45 a.m., 614, WSCC
Presiding: Sharon Lynette Jones, Wright State Univ.

Business Meeting of the Reception Study Society
10:15–11:30 a.m., Kirkland, Sheraton

226. West Asia and the World Literature Debate
10:15–11:30 a.m., Ravenna C, Sheraton
This session has been canceled.

266. Realisms after Modernisms
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 616, WSCC

275. Recognition as Critique
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Jefferson, Sheraton
“The Neighbor’s Monstrous Face: Yi Cheongjun’s Lepers,” Youngju Ryu, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor

301. Reconfiguring Publishing
1:45–3:00 p.m., Grand A, Sheraton
Speaker: Carolyn Guertin, Univ. of Texas, Arlington

303. On War: Classical and Modern Perspectives
1:45–3:00 p.m., University, Sheraton
“Theaters of War,” Jana Adamitis, Christopher Newport Univ.

345. Animals, Machines, Forces of Nature: Alternative Agencies in Arthurian Literature
5:15–6:30 p.m., 308, WSCC
“Human versus Nonhuman: Collective Hybridity in Emilia Pardo Bazán’s The Last Fairy,” Lisa Nalbone, Univ. of Central Florida, Orlando

349. Digital Pedagogy
5:15–6:30 p.m., Grand A, Sheraton
Additional speakers: Jessica C. Murphy, Univ. of Texas, Dallas; Sara Steger, Univ. of Georgia

358. Scrittura e cultura in movimento: Italophone Literatures, Literatures of Italian Diaspora
5:15–6:30 p.m., Virginia, Sheraton
2. “Passing for Italian American: Between Whiteness and Blackness and Other Border Crossings in Kym Ragusa’s The Skin between Us and Fuori/Outside,” Jessica L. Maucione, Gonzaga Univ.

359A. Scholarship, Censorship, and Academic Change: The Case of A. K. Ramanujan [new session]
5:15–6:30 p.m., Willow A, Sheraton
Program arranged by the MLA Office of the Executive Director
Presiding: David Damrosch, Harvard Univ.
Speakers: David Damrosch; Vinay Dharwadker, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison; Niko Pfund, Oxford University Press; Sheldon Pollock, Columbia Univ.; Paula Richman, Oberlin Coll.

Cash Bar Arranged by the Discussion Group on Scottish Literature
7:00–8:15 p.m., 212, WSCC

Cash Bar Arranged by the University of Washington English Department
7:00–8:15 p.m., 213, WSCC

Saturday, 7 January

399. How Seattle Changed Comics
8:30–9:45 a.m., 303, WSCC
Presiding: Hillary L. Chute, Univ. of Chicago

404. Frost and the Politics of Poetry
8:30–9:45 a.m., 309, WSCC
2. “’Cuteness’ and Robert Frost,” Ethan R. Whittet, Northeastern Univ.

444. Preservation Is (Not) Just Another Word for Nothing Left to Lose
10:15–11:30 a.m., 307, WSCC
Speaker: Jeff Wilensky, ProQuest

453. Why Teach Literature
10:15–11:30 a.m., Grand A, Sheraton
This session has been moved from Grand C, Sheraton, to Grand A, Sheraton.

459. Work
10:15–11:30 a.m., Willow A, Sheraton
Presiding: Debra Ann Castillo, Cornell Univ.

501. Using Your Foreign Language Proficiency and Cultural Expertise in the Federal Government
1:30–3:30 p.m., 2B, WSCC
Additional speakers: Tiwanna Fields-Coleman, National Security Agency; Patrice Shackleford, National Security Agency

542. Exaltadas: Women and Transcendentalism
3:30–4:45 p.m., 308, WSCC
“Elizabeth Palmer Peabody: Woman of the Nineteenth Century,” Phyllis B. Cole, Penn State Univ., Brandywine

570. Ethnographic Encounters: Jewish American and Italian American Graphic Narratives
3:30–4:45 p.m., 307, WSCC
Respondent: Miriam Jaffe-Foger, Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick

Sunday, 8 January

645. “Continuous Voyage Orders”: From Komagata Maru to the Aftermath of 9/11
8:30–9:45 a.m., Ballard, Sheraton

655. Unemployment
8:30–9:45 a.m., 617, WSCC
“Tramping toward Washington: Coxey’s Army and Dreiser’s Sister Carrie,” Ryan Dillaha, Wayne State Univ.

728. New Paths of Flânerie: Crossings of Gender and Space and the Nineteenth-Century French Flâneur/Flâneuse
1:45–3:00 p.m., Aspen, Sheraton
Presiding: Heidi Megan Brevik-Zender, Univ. of California, Riverside