



DENVER
BRANCH

July - August 2023 Newsletter

Executive Committee

President: Cynthia Poinsett
Treasurer: Bruce Haefner

Board of Directors

July 2020 – June 2023: Emily Pool
Tom Tafoya
Michael Thornton
June 2021- June 2024: Ingerid Kelley
Julia Patterson
Millicent Ambroggio
July 2022 – June 2025: Polly Cox
Bruce Haefner
Charles Thompson
Joyce Wilson

Committee Chairs

Finance and Governance: Emily Pool
Membership: Polly Cox
Programs: Ingerid Kelley

Education Program Coordinators

Teachers Learning
Abroad UK: Cami Van Anne
Dr. Howard F. Beckley
Writing Competition: Cami Van Anne
Shakespeare Competition: Cindy Poinsett

Secretary/Administrator Cami Van Anne

ESU Denver Branch

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President's Corner

Dear members of ESU-Denver Branch,

I hope your summer is going well and I you have been able to get out and enjoy all that Denver has to offer!

Being part of the ESU over the past 10 years has brought me such joy. Not only am I able to work and socialize with people that have very similar interests and passions, I am very proud to be part of an organization that values teachers and their students.

We continue to offer summer fellowships to the U.K. (TLab), the Beckley Writing Competition, English in Action, as well as the Shakespeare Competition. Cami Van Anne has so graciously stepped in to help coordinate, both the writing competition and Shakespeare Competition. The Shakespeare Competition was held at the DCPA with Sam Wood, Director of Shakespeare Studies, holding a workshop and coaching sessions for Branch Winner, Ben Feldman. I am so grateful for the board members who pitched to help with this.

This year we really saw the effects Covid had on our membership numbers, as well as our board members. I am so grateful for our board members who stepped in to help "fill in the holes," when we lacked a chair or coordinator. We are hoping that our members might consider serving on the board if your schedule allows it. The Denver Branch has proven itself to be resilient during one the most difficult times the world has seen.

Since July is the ESU's membership drive month, I encourage you to attend our annual meeting on July 29, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. at the Denver Country Club, bring a friend, and renew your membership, so that we can continue to offer these wonderful programs to our community. I look forward to a fun and exciting year with you all!

Sincerely,
Cindy Poinsett, President ESU-Denver Branch

Save the Date
Upcoming ESU Calendar



Saturday
July 29, 2023
10:30am

Annual Meeting Event
Denver Country Club
1700 E. First Avenue

Saturday
August 5
5:30 picnic
7:00pm show

Colorado Shakespeare Outing
The Winter's Tale
Roe Green Theatre
University of Colorado

Monday
September 18
4:00pm

Wrench Speaker Event
Denver Women's Press Club
1325 Logan Street

Join Us for the
ESU Denver Annual Meeting
& Member Celebration

SATURDAY, JULY 29, 10:30 AM
DENVER COUNTRY CLUB - 1700 E AVE.

\$25/PER PERSON FOR BRUNCH BUFFET
Alcoholic Drink Coupons sold onsite for cash (no credit cards)

The meeting will include a review of the 2022-2023 Denver Branch program year with reports from Branch Officers and Committee Chairs and election of Board Members.

RESERVATION REQUIRED BY
JULY 22

TWO WAYS TO SAVE ON THIS EVENT

1. Renew your membership by July 20th – you & one guest pay only \$20 to attend
2. Renew your membership & purchase a guest membership you and your new member pay only \$10 each to attend

Renew online [Online Renewal](#)
or by mail using the form BELOW

Annual Meeting/Member Celebration Reservation DUE JULY 22

Member(s) _____

Guest(s) _____

Standard cost for member & guest(s):

Total enclosed (member & guest(s) @ \$25 each) _____

Additional savings:

Reduced cost for member & guest option #1:

I renewed my membership online

Enclosed is my membership renewal

Total enclosed (member & 1 guest @ \$20 each) _____

Reduced cost for member & guest option #2:

I purchased a guest membership online

Enclosed is my guest membership

Total enclosed (current member & new member @ \$10.00 each) _____

Make Check Payable to: ESU

Mail to: ESU Denver 5930 S. Cimarron Way Littleton, CO 80123

Membership Form

Renewal

Name: _____

Spouse/Partner: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

<p>_____ Teacher.....\$50.00</p> <p>_____ English in Action Tutor.....\$35.00</p> <p>_____ Single.....\$60.00</p> <p>_____ Couple.....\$100.00</p>	<p>Renew at National Patron Level (your single or couple membership is included) up to 1/2 of your contribution can be designated to support the Denver Branch</p> <p>_____ National Donor \$300 _____ National Sponsor \$500</p> <p>_____ National Sustainer \$750 _____ President's Circle \$1,000</p> <p>_____ Vice-Chairman's Circle \$1,500 _____ Chairman's Circle \$1,500</p> <p>% of National Patron contribution for Denver Branch _____ %</p>
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Guest Membership

Name: _____

Spouse/Partner: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

_____ Teacher.....\$50.00

_____ English in Action Tutor.....\$35.00

_____ Single.....\$60.00

_____ Couple.....\$100.00

Make Check Payable to: English-Speaking Union

Mail to: ESU Denver 5930 S. Cimarron Way Littleton, CO 80123

BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

Members will vote at the Annual Meeting to approve nominees to the Denver Branch Board of Directors.

Nominees:

Cynthia (Cindy) Poinsett is nominated to serve a new term on the board. Cindy was elected as Denver Branch President at last year's Annual Meeting. Cindy has served as Shakespeare Competition Coordinator for much of her time with the branch. She is Director of Theatre at Cherokee Trail High School in Aurora. She was a TLab fellow at Shakespeare's Globe in 2014. Cynthia graduated from Fort Lewis College with a Bachelor of Arts in English and Theatre and holds a Master of Fine Arts in Acting from Western Illinois University. She lives in Aurora with her husband, Mark and son Ethan.

Tom Tafoya is nominated to serve a new term on the board. a Colorado native who grew up just outside of Pueblo, Tom has a BA in English from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a MAT in Humanities from The Colorado College. Tom teaches English at Smoky Hill High School where he coaches competitive speech and debate. As an ESU Denver member, he participated in ESU and The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust's week-long Page to Stage seminar and immersive theater workshop with the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-upon-Avon and at The Globe in London. Post pandemic, Tom studied at Shakespeare's Globe as a TLab fellow. When Tom is not doing his teacher thing, he's out exploring the world and discovering its beauty.

Denver Branch Schedule of Events*

July: Member Celebration/Annual Meeting

August: Colorado Shakespeare Outing

September: Wrench Speaker

October: ESUUS Annual Conference

November: TLab Dinner

December: Holiday/Writing Competition Celebration

January: Wine Night

February: Denver Branch Shakespeare Competition

March:

April: National Shakespeare Competition

May: Branch Movie Outing

June: High Tea

Plus – National Online ESUUS Happy Hours:

exclusively for ESU members, this series of virtual programs features engaging speakers covering a wide variety of topics

*Events and Dates Subject to Change

ESU Denver Branch Annual Meeting Minutes Sunday, July 10, 2022

The Annual Meeting of the ESU Denver Branch was held at Denver Country Club.

Meeting Called to Order: 11:37am by Bruce Haefner

In Attendance: 13 members

Minutes: Cami Van Anne asked for additions or corrections to the July 2021 Annual Meeting minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Bruce Haefner presented the financials from the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. The Income Statement reflected net dues and net programming slightly under projection and net contributions better than projected resulting in favorable total income. The Expenses Report was favorable to projection due to the cancelation of the Gala and subsequent travel. Under Grants and Outreach, only 2 of 4 budgeted TLab Scholars were traveling so expense was roughly half of budget. The Fund Balances Report showed the main source of income was from Milton Trust distributions. The Vanguard Fund was down and showing an unrealized loss of approximately \$90,000. Bruce will attend the virtual ESUUS Treasurer Town Hall. Bruce asked for approval of the Treasurer's Report. Polly Cox moved and Jim Wilson seconded. **Motion carried.**

President's Report: Cami Van Anne read the President's report submitted by Kate Murphy. (see attached)

Finance and Governance: Bruce Haefner reported that Emily Pool successfully served as chairperson of the committee and fulfilled all duties.

Membership: Polly Cox reported that there are 41 total members: 29 single and 6 couple memberships. There were 9 members at the Patron level and Polly encouraged members to consider joining at that level when renewing their memberships. The membership renewal letters were sent by National and the Denver Branch now offers \$35 English-In-Action Tutor and Student membership levels.

Region VIII: Michael Thornton reported on his work as Region VIII Representative. He shared that there were challenges due to the distance of the member chapters. A number of chapters were experiencing difficulty attracting new members and the Denver Branch has done a good job of maintaining membership and hosting events. The Region will be holding breakout sessions/workshops at the National Meeting.

TLAB-UK: In Jeannine Mortell's absence, Cami Van Anne reported that after a two-year hiatus Tom Tafoya the Globe and Millicent Ambroggio to Oxford have successfully made it to their

respective programs. Third TLab Fellow Heather Anderson had some changes in her life decided to forgo the program. She reminded everyone to attend the annual TLab Dinner in the fall to hear about the Fellows' adventures.

Shakespeare: Cindy Poinsett reported that the Branch was able to host an in-person competition at McNichols Civic Center through a partnership with Visionbox. The Branch has decided that this partnership was not the right fit and will work to partner with the Denver Center for Performing Arts for next year's competition. Unfortunately, the National Competition was held virtually and student's were not able to travel to New York.

Writing Competition: In Committee Chair, Nicole Guagliardo's absence, Cami Van Anne reported that there were 27 student essays discussing the question posed by competition prompt "which canonical author OR social influencer should be required reading/viewing in the classroom and why." The first-place student received \$500 and a gift certificate for a class at Lighthouse Writers Workshop. Second place received \$250 and third place \$100 – two other students were recognized as honorable mention. The competition deadline was postponed until January 22 in an effort to get more entries but in typical fashion they all came in the final weekend – this timing combined with uncertainty surrounding Covid and variants did not allow us to schedule an in-person event honoring the students.

English-In-Action: Bruce Haefner reported that the Denver Branch was able to launch this program in conjunction with National ESUUS. Meetings were held virtually once per week and Polly Cox and Bruce Haefner were able to meet with students via Zoom as part of pilot program. He encouraged all in attendance to consider joining this rewarding program next year.

New Business: Bruce Haefner shared that Denver Branch Board had voted to establish 4 scholarships at the University of Colorado Denver in an effort to attract participation from young educators. Bruce proposed that Kate Murphy be permitted to sign the agreement with the University as Past-President. Bruce Haefner moved, Donna Altieri seconded. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee: Polly Cox, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, noted that there was the quorum necessary for election of the slate of nominees. She then introduced the slate as: Cindy Poinsett (for President) Polly Cox (BOD), Bruce Haefner (BOD), Chuck Thompson (BOD), and Joyce Wilson (BOD)

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Bruce Haefner.

Adjournment: 12:22 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Cami Van Anne, Secretary