

TRANSACTIONS OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Swedenborg Scientific Association was held on April 27, 2009, in two parts: The business meeting was held in room 1 on the lower level of Pendleton Hall at 7 P.M.

Present: Rev. Dr. Reuben Bell, Dr. Erland Brock, Les Alden, Dr. Dan Synnestvedt, Mrs. Aubrey Odhner, Rev. Dr. Erik Sandstrom, Dr. Richard Shank, Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Odhner, Rev. Kurt Nemitz, Mrs. Phyllis Pitcairn, and Mrs. Lisa Childs (Secretary).

Dr. Bell started off by stating that this is the 112th year of the SSA. SSA is a small group which has been doing the very important job of keeping Swedenborg's scientific books in print. In the past, it was difficult to get books in print, as large quantities had to be ordered. Now via a phone call, twenty-five copies at a time can be ordered from Fidler Doubleday. For 111 years, the books have been kept in print and now the SSA has entered the digital age. New reprints are in soft cover. The SSA does what it should do and is expanding its mission in scholarship and research. People are finding the SSA when they are looking to do research work. Our mission is well covered by a small but dedicated group of people. Erland and Dan have done a huge portion of the work and they need to be particularly identified and appreciated. Regarding nominations to the board, Aubrey Odhner has done a great job over the years tracking data.

Dr. Bell discussed the Samara Center for Practical Spirituality in Saco, Maine. He explained that a "samara" is a botany term for a seed with wings. The Samara Center provides informal doctrinal classes. During a class, the Word is open, Dr. Bell lectures on one doctrinal point, and the seeds are planted. It is a church organization that goes out to the people, putting out ideas that can be used in people's lives. "You can come, but you can't stay." The church is out there as a feeding station. It is held on Thursday evenings so it does not make anyone choose between churches. All faiths are invited—"these ideas will enhance who you are."

Dr. Bell went on to say that Swedenborg "revs us up" in the scientific works to move into the religious works. osteopaths have discovered that

Swedenborg is at the root of osteopathy. Dr. Bell will be the keynote speaker at an upcoming gathering of 500 osteopaths.

Vice-President Dan Synnstedt has served on the board for eleven years. Dr. Bell read a letter received from Dan: Bryn Athyn College is entering into a new phase and Dan can no longer serve on the SSA board and he is asking for a leave of absence. There was a motion to give Dan the leave of absence. The motion was seconded and approved. A motion was proposed, seconded, and accepted to accept a slate of people for Vice-President. A comment was made that the vice-president is on the board of trustees and a voting member.

Les Alden presented SSA Financials: (see also Treasurer's Report). "Best of times, worst of Times." This was a great year for contributions; they were up 40%. The dues base has also increased. The same is true for Swedenborg Publishers International.

For SSA Operating Fund:

The New Philosophy is 1/3 of expenses

Salaries are 1/3 of expenses

The other 1/3 is computer and other expenses

For SPI:

Grants are a large part of costs

2/3 of expenses are for large projects

Worst of times: The Endowment was \$343,000 at the beginning of 2009 and dropped to \$233,000 YTD (April 2009). Diversification has been and will continue to be practiced. The 1st quarter values were down 6% and now they are up from there. Les is anticipating funds to come back and continuing operations should do well.

Dr. Brock then presented the publisher/editor report (see Publisher/Editor Report), stating in conclusion that Dr. Bell has been a real inspiration as president, and that he is sorry that Dan, of necessity, must take a leave of absence as vice-president.

There was a motion to adjourn, which was seconded and approved.

The Annual Meeting then continued in the Pendleton Hall auditorium. Dr. Bell introduced Edward Sylvia who gave the annual address

titled: "God's Ecology and Spiritual Gardening" to a large and appreciative audience. This was followed by a questions-and-answers period, an expression of gratitude to the speaker, and a gathering in the Pendleton Hall's commons for conversation and refreshments.

Respectfully submitted
Lisa Childs, *Secretary*

PUBLISHER/EDITOR'S REPORT

Annual Meeting, April 26, 2008, 7:00PM

Book Production

We are pleased to announce that all out-of-print titles are available. We are especially grateful to Kirsten Gyllenhaal for creating the covers, to Reuben Bell for writing the back cover copy for all but one of them, and to Stephen Cole who wrote the copy for *A Philosopher's Notebook*. Reading these provides not only a synopsis of the texts, but also places them in the story of Swedenborg's developing thought on how the soul operates in its domain, the human body.

The Journal

The January–June 2009 issue is in preparation. It includes the closing installment of Shanda Heindricks' "Religion: The 'Indispensible Support' of the Nation"; "The Life Cycle of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus: a Useful tool for Teaching Scientific and New Church Principles in the Biology Classroom" by Fredrik Bryntesson; and "Dostoyevsky's *Crime and Punishment* and Swedenborg's *Heaven and Hell*" by David Simpson.