About the MLA Convention

THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION CONVENTION, FIRST HELD in 1883, is an annual gathering of teachers and scholars in the field of language and literature study. The convention enables members of the profession to share their ideas and research with colleagues from other universities and colleges. Sessions will be in the Austin Convention Center and the JW Marriott, the exhibit hall will be in the Austin Convention Center, and the Job Information Center and childcare will be in the Hilton Austin. Sessions begin at 12:00 noon on 7 January, and there are workshops at 8:30 and 11:45 a.m. The last sessions will end at 3:00 p.m. on 10 January.

Convention sessions are organized by MLA members, but nonmembers are welcome to attend. All participants—members and nonmembers alike—must pay registration fees. Registrants receive badges, which entitle convention attendees to gain admittance to sessions, the Job Information Center, and the exhibit hall. Registrants who lose their badges may purchase replacements at the registration areas.

Sessions

Most sessions at the 2016 MLA convention were arranged by the membership at large, either through the association's forums or by individual members. Attendance is open to all convention registrants, but only current MLA members may organize or participate formally in sessions. On occasion, the membership requirement is waived for individuals whose main interests are in other disciplines. The kinds of sessions arranged for this year's convention are described below.

© 2015 THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

https://doi.org/10.1632/pmla.2015.130.4.916 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Forum Sessions

MLA forums encompass the scholarly and professional concerns of the association; to this end, their executive committees advise on specific research and pedagogical needs, propose to the MLA Executive Council programs that might be undertaken on behalf of their forums, compile information of interest to their members for publication in MLA periodicals or in special mailings, and elect forum representatives to serve in the MLA Delegate Assembly.

Members who have suggestions for a forum's sessions or who would like to participate in those sessions should correspond with the 2016 secretary of the appropriate forum, since 2016 secretaries become chairs for the 2017 convention (see the list of executive committee members that follows the sessions listing). For forums approved in 2015, the executive committee members will be listed on the MLA Web site in January 2016.

Plenaries

Arranged by forums or individual members, plenaries are meetings on topics of broad interest. The MLA executive director, with the assistance of the Program Committee, has final responsibility for approving plenaries.

Special Sessions

MLA members whose scholarly or professional interests are not adequately accommodated through convention programs arranged by the forums may propose special sessions. These sessions are the most specialized of all convention meetings and are intended to enable participants to exchange ideas on specific topics.

Members who wish to organize a special session for the 2017 convention should carefully read the guidelines, available on the MLA Web site (www.mla.org/conv_procedures), governing the organization of these sessions and should observe the deadlines for 2016–17 announced in the Fall *MLA Newsletter* and on the MLA Web site. Proposals for special sessions must be submitted on the forms provided for this purpose; the forms and other useful information about submitting a proposal will be available on the MLA Web site.

Allied Organization Sessions

Other scholarly, business, or social meetings are arranged in conjunction with the MLA convention by officially recognized allied organizations. Typically, these organizations are learned societies or professional associations whose purposes are closely allied with those of the MLA.

New Forum Structure

Beginning with the 2016 convention, entities formerly known as divisions and discussion groups have become forums, and new forums that were approved in 2014 are now sponsoring sessions at the meeting. Sessions previously called forums are now called plenary sessions. More information about the new forum structure is available on *MLA Commons* (http://executivecouncil.commons.mla.org/2014/05/14/an-introduction-to-the-new-forum-structure/).

Organizing Sessions for 2017

Please see the Procedures for Organizing Meetings on the MLA Web site (www.mla.org/conv_procedures) for further details on all types of sessions. All program copy is due 1 April 2016 for the 2017 convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

https://doi.org/10.1632/pmla.2015.130.4.916 Published online by Cambridge University Press