

Annual report, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
Zoom meeting, 21 May 2020
Sara Gilk-Baumer, Chair

2020 Update:

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee consists of the following members: Cheryl Barnes, Lauren Divine, Lisa Fox, Sara Gilk-Baumer, Jesse Gordon, and Janessa Esquible.

We met in January to further revise the Travel Award application for clarification, confidentiality, and award criteria. We solicited applications from around the state and met in early March to decide on an awardee. We received applications from 3 qualified candidates, and chose an awardee, Court Pegus. Due to COVID causing the cancellation of the Chapter meeting, we were not able to give out the award. We'd like to offer the award to Court to attend next year's meeting.

The Committee is continuing to work on finding ways to both solidify the award process and to extend the role of the Committee in diversifying Chapter membership. We have been discussing the possibility of giving out two awards each year: one for "entry level" applicants, and another for "early career level" applicants. We would like to establish a more reliable fund for this award in order to more reliably give out two awards each year. In addition, we continue to look for tangible ways to enhance diversity in the Chapter, including: a panel discussion at a Chapter meeting; annual round-table lunch for past recipients of award at Chapter meetings; mentorship program; establishing a small scholarship program for outreach projects; inclusion items similar to the Sitka meeting. The Committee would like to focus our energy on one additional task for the next Chapter Meeting (2021), and that likely will be a panel discussion.

We welcome any additional thoughts or ideas about how the Committee can continue to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion within the Chapter.