More than 1,000 English honor society members will gather at the New Orleans Marriott to reawaken their love of language, literature, service, and culture.

**Early Registration:** January 4 - January 25
Register online by credit card, or download a registration form to pay by check, at www.englishconvention.org.

**Common Reader: Bellocq's Ophelia by Natasha Trethewey**
The goal of the common reader is to celebrate the works of our featured speakers, to provide a common text for our own reading and enjoyment, and to establish a focus for chapter activities fostering literacy and the pleasures of reading in our local communities.

**Convention T-shirts:** Purchase by February 15
Purchase your *Reawaken* T-shirt for $10 when you register! Only a limited number will be for sale on-site.

**Chapter Merchandise Sales:** March 2 and 3
If your chapter has a T-shirt or other merchandise you would like to sell at the convention, please contact Deb Seyler in the Central Office at dseyler@niu.edu to reserve a table and time slot on Friday and Saturday.

**What to Wear at the Convention**
Presenters should wear business attire for their presentations. For the semi-formal Saturday evening Red & Black Gala Dinner and Convention Awards, members are encouraged to wear Society colors.

**Voting Student Delegate Reimbursement**
Chapters that send a voting student delegate to the Informal Regional Caucuses on Thursday and to the Business Meeting and Regional Caucuses on Friday qualify for a $200 voting delegate reimbursement ($400 for chapters not in the continental U.S.A.).

**Program Highlights**

**Wednesday, February 29**
- Register and pick up a ticket for Naomi Shihab Nye’s Wednesday evening event or Thursday afternoon workshop. (Registration desk open 3:00 to 8:00 p.m.)
- Attend the *Pre-Convention Literacy Celebration* featuring Naomi Shihab Nye, sponsored by NEHS.
- Applaud members as they read works published in *The Sigma Tau Delta Rectangle*.
- Brush off your best poem or short fiction excerpt for *Open Mic*, sponsored by Student Leadership and Alumni Epsilon.

**Thursday, March 1**
- Attend paper and roundtable presentations.
- Participate in a workshop lead by Naomi Shihab Nye followed by a book signing open to all attendees.
- Learn from ΣΤΔ's most successful chapters! The Student Representatives and Student Advisors are sponsoring workshops throughout the convention on important chapter management and student leadership topics.
- Applaud scholarship and award winners and celebrate chapter and sponsor anniversaries at the Awards and Recognition Ceremony.
- Get acquainted with your Regent, Student Representatives, and other chapter members at your Informal Regional Caucus.
- Go to a reading by featured speaker Anthony Doerr.
- Participate in the (Dry) T-shirt and Skit Competition and the Bad Poetry Contest. Cheer and jeer while your peers recreate humiliating childhood scenes, conjure up adolescent turmoil, and expose their wounded hearts!

**Friday, March 2**
- Attend paper and roundtable presentations.
- Spend time with featured speaker Anthony Doerr in a workshop, followed by a book signing open to all attendees.
- Attend the Business Meeting and Regional Caucuses.
- Sponsors, plan on the Regents and Sponsors Luncheon—with special guest speaker Emily Toth, author of the Ms. Mentor column in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.
- Faculty and alumni, attend the President’s Reception.
- Enjoy featured speaker and author of the Common Reader, Natasha Trethewey.
- Experience the sights and sounds of New Orleans at night, or stay in for an event sponsored by our Host Chapter.

**Saturday, March 3**
- Attend paper and roundtable presentations.
- Gain insight into Natasha Trethewey's writing process in a Question and Answer Session with the poet, followed by a book signing open to all attendees.
- Hum along in a songwriting workshop with singer/songwriter Tom Kimmel (sponsored by Sigma Kappa Delta).
- Relax with complimentary punch or purchase a drink from the cash bar at the Student Leadership Reception immediately before the gala.
- Enjoy the food and celebrate excellence at the Red & Black Gala Dinner and Convention Awards.