

Midwest Sociological Society
2008 Annual Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony

Saturday, March 29, 2008 4:30-6:15 PM

St. Louis Hilton at the Ballpark

1. **Call to order** – President Helen Moore called the 2008 Annual Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony to order at 4:33 PM and welcomed everyone.
2. **Approval of 2007 Annual Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony Minutes** – Anne Eisenberg moved to accept the minutes. Monica Snowden seconded. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved.
3. **MSS Awards Ceremony** – The following awards were presented.
 - a. **Social Action Community Awards** – Incoming chair, Ali Kamali presented the two awards which promote social justice and equality to the New Orleans Women’s Health Clinic and to the Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing Opportunity Council.
 - b. **Distinguished Book Award** – This is the inaugural award. It was presented by Rob Benford to Shirley Hill, University of Kansas, for her book *Black Intimacies: A Gender Perspective on Family Relationships*.
 - c. **Early Career Scholarship Award** – This is the inaugural award. There were two awards presented because it was felt they were of equal merit. They were presented by Diane Pike and Judith Wittner to Jennifer Dunn, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, and to Doug Hartmann, University of Minnesota.
 - d. **Stanley L. Saxton Applied Research Award of the Carl Couch Center for Social and Internet Research** – **Shing Ling Sarina Chen** presented the award to Kenneth Kolb, University of North Carolina, for “Empowered Emotion Management.”
 - e. **Jane Addams Outstanding Service Award** – The award was presented to Kathryn Ward for her work in the Bangladesh community.
4. **Recognition of the work of Sheryl Grana** – Helen Moore recognized the work of Sheryl Grana, University of Minnesota Duluth, as treasurer of MSS from 2002-2006 and her subsequent hard work and willingness to train later treasurers.
5. **Report on the 2008 Meeting** – Program Chair and incoming President Susan Stall thanked everyone for their hard work and noted that as of the meeting there were 860 registrations. The topic of public sociology was well accepted. More information would come in the formal report later.
6. **Treasurer’s Report** – Treasurer Zoann Snyder, Western Michigan University, distributed copies of the midyear budget report. As of 2/29/08 there was \$106,251 in the checking account, the day-to-day operating fund through which the society is run. She explained the Exum Fund, the TSQ Account, the Crockett Endowment and the MCSRA (Midwest Council for Social Research in Aging) Account. The Exum Fund supports the Minority Scholarship presented through ASA, and ASA continues to ask if and when MSS can support a second minority scholar. The TSQ Account, thanks to the leadership of Editor Peter Kivisto and MSS’s relationship with Blackwell, has been good. The Crockett Endowment supports the visiting scholar and researcher programs, scholarship programs, and provides for the day-to-day running of the society if needed. This money is not presently being used but provides an

important safety net. The MCSRA money is held by the society, and the interest can be spent. This year the organization sponsored a Special Betty Havens Lecture.

7. **Secretary's Report** – There was no formal report due to the absence of Betty Bullock, Johnson County Community College. She has been ill, and Helen voiced our best wishes for her.
8. **Annual Meeting Committee** – Lauren Tiffany, Executive Director of MSS, reported for Deb White, University of Minnesota Moorhead, who was unable to be at the Business meeting. The following places and dates have been finalized for future annual meetings: 2009 Des Moines Marriott, 4/2-5; 2010 Chicago Marriott (with NCSA), 3/31-4/2; 2011 St. Louis, TBA; 2012 Minneapolis Marriott, 3/29-4/1; 2013 Chicago Marriott, 3/26-30. To determine the membership's opinions on the meeting this year at the St. Louis Hilton at the Ballpark, Deb White will do an electronic survey and ask for input about attendees' experiences. Karen Branden, this year's Exhibits Manager, introduced Eve Blobaum, the new Exhibits Manager, who apprenticed with her this year. There were 15 exhibitors and all were happy because of the large turnout in the Exhibit Hall. She asked that whenever possible, activities be held in the Exhibit Hall. In anticipation of next year's meeting in Des Moines, the Des Moines Convention Center sent a digital picture frame to give out. Helen Moore drew Liddy Hope as the winner.
9. **Publications Reports**
 - a. Peter Kivisto, Editor of *The Sociological Quarterly*, thanked everyone who has helped as he transitions out of the position. In particular he highlighted Ruth Symons, the Managing Editor of the journal, incoming co-editors Brian Donovan and Bill Staples, Blackwell's Terry Teleen, and Lauren Tiffany as the Executive Director of MSS. He reported that the journal is doing well and is totally digitized on Blackwell's platform (Synergy) and is on JSTOR. Turnaround time on papers is 68 days, with the journal receiving almost 200 submissions a year. This journal has international reach with 20% of submissions coming regionally from states represented by MSS, 66% from the rest of the nation and 14% international submissions. Helen Moore thanked Peter for all his work and scholarship.
 - b. Kevin Leicht, outgoing Editor of *The Midwest Sociologist*, reported on the newsletter, noting that a transition to a new editor is a good time to make changes. If anyone has any ideas, they need to contact the Publications Committee. He also invited individuals to contact him for pictures he had taken.
 - c. Doug Hartmann reported that there would be a nomination for editor for TMS at the Sunday board meeting. He also reported that the Publications Committee had come up with a process for the selection of the TSQ award for next year.
10. **Nominations and Elective Committee** – Phyllis Baker spoke about getting people to come to the committee, confidentiality issues and the nomination process.
11. **Endowment Committee** – Marsha Smith reported they had organized a session for last year's winners. This year there were 32 applications, the most the committee has seen in recent years. The committee is looking to adjust how they use their money. Winners for this year included Zachary Neal, University of Chicago; Sandra W. Wessinger, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Meredith Klaycamp, University of Kansas, and Ryan Orr, Iowa State University.

12. **Finance Committee** – Bob Wazienski, chair of this committee and of the Capital Campaign Committee, announced the new vision statement and the Capital Campaign that had been decided last year. He reported that MSS is financially sound, but the campaign was developed to provide a financial cushion for the organization and to increase our ability to support sociologists and students in their work. He identified the present state as the Silent Phase initiated by a \$7000 donation by the Board of Directors of whom 100% participated. Next, Past Presidents will be approached to provide a gift, and Sue and Dean Wright would help with this. The last part, the Public Phase, would be Pledge Initiatives, where the general membership would be approached. This would occur after the Fall board meeting. Bob thanked Helen Moore for her leadership and support of the Capital Campaign.
13. **Long Range Planning Committee** – Chris Prendergast, the chair of the committee, reported that the committee had divided itself into six work groups to help realize the vision that had been proposed at last year's final board meeting and they were moving forward. More information would be provided at the Board Meeting on Sunday.
14. **Membership Committee** -- Lauren Tiffany would have final numbers at the Sunday Board Meeting.
15. **Minority Scholarship Committee** – The committee meeting was energetic with most of the members and the two minority scholars attending. They reported co-sponsoring several sessions including panel discussions with students of color, and were interested in working with data with regards to the ethnic/racial population of the society.
16. **Professional Issues and Standards** – Tracy Ore explained the purpose of the committee, and that they were intending to submit four sessions for next year on this topic. They are also going to spend some of their funds on how you work ethically with the communities in which our annual meetings are located, including bringing in Des Moines community members to present. They are concerned about staying at union hotels, pointing out that hotel workers need to be allowed to clean our rooms in order to get paid, and they need to be tipped.
17. **Social Action Committee** – Ali Kamali, incoming chair, noted that it had been a very productive year with five proposals and two awards. The committee believes more specific guidelines are needed as to the criteria for the awards. The committee sponsored four sessions in St. Louis and will do the same in Des Moines. He reported that the committee supported the following three items: (1) that the representative of Raise the Wage in Kansas be given 5 minutes on the Sunday Board Meeting agenda to ask for money for that organization, (2) that the board comes up with society/public related activities, and (3) that award winners report back to the committee how they used the awards. (Was it forwarding their causes?) They will also be placing a call for membership for this committee on the website.
18. **Sociological Practice** – Jim Sikora reported that they had had an active committee meeting where they had suggested that MSS take on global issues (like sustainability, global warming, etc.) and bring them to the regional meeting along with community experts and activists.
19. **Student Issues** – Tanya Gladney spoke about the Future Faculty certificate. The committee wanted to continue to sponsor sessions and add a third panel on preparing for the job market. They awarded 90 travel awards. The hospitality suite was a success, and because Student Night Out usually had low numbers, next year they will try pizza in the suite instead.

20. **Teaching and Learning** – Jason Karsky reported that they did not award a teaching award this year. They want to enhance promotion of the award and increase the number of nominations by modifying the award criteria. They will submit this to the board. The committee believes that next year's theme fits well with their committee.
21. **Women in the Profession** – Susan Wortmann reported that not a lot of people were at the meeting, but they do keep in touch by email. They look for more representatives from community colleges, from graduate students, and at different levels. They will call for self nominations through TMS. They would like to see more nominations for the Jane Addams award. Their committee is looking to code the annual program for representation, and they also would like to do a gender climate survey. They will be sponsoring three sessions in Des Moines.
22. **Student Paper Award** – Joan Hermsen of the MSS Publications Committee reported on the student paper competition. Awards were presented before the President's Address on Friday to: Geoff Harkness, Northwestern University; Dejun Kong, Washington University in St. Louis; and HarmoniJoie Noel, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, all of the graduate division; and to Jessica Davey, Marian College; and Ashley D. Vancil, Beloit College, in the undergraduate division.

New Business

- a. Diane Pike, 2009 Program Chair, is proposing online submission and will be submitting a formal report at the Sunday board meeting. She introduced Sadie Pendaz, the new student director.
 - b. Helen Moore thanked Linda Lindsey, local arrangements chair, for all of her hard work, and Linda thanked everyone that worked with her on the 2008 meeting and everyone for attending.
23. **Gavel was turned over by 2007-2008 president Helen Moore to 2008-2009 president Susan Stall.**
- a. Susan Stall thanked Helen for her mentorship and provided her with a plaque for recognition as chair of the 2007 MSS/NCS Program Chair and President for 2007-2008 and a framed program cover from that year.
 - b. Susan Stall gave a Presidential Special Award to Kevin Leicht for his service from 2001 to 2008 as TMS Editor and photographer. Kevin thanked everyone and said he's enjoyed his time as TMS editor, but he was happy that he's done, since he's been a member of MSS since he was 19.
 - c. Meeting was adjourned at 6:01 PM.