

**Midwest Sociological Society
2009 Annual Business Meeting
Sunday, April 5, 2009
10:00 – 10:45 AM
Des Moines Marriott Downtown**

1. Call to order and President's Report

President Susan Stall called the 2009 Annual Business Meeting to order at 10:09. Susan said that it has been a great pleasure to serve as President of the MSS. She said that this year's conference has been excellent and thanked Diane Pike. She thanked Sadie Pendaz for her work as Student Director. This year's student social event was the most successful ever. She thanked Laurie Linhart for chairing local arrangements and thanked the 48 Drake students who helped with them. She expressed her gratitude to Lauren Tiffany for all her help. She also said that Helen Moore had been a great role model.

2. Approval of 2008 Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Mary Kelly moved to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved.

3. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer-designate Bob Wazienski gave the report for Zoann Snyder. This report is a mid-year one. Income continues to exceed expenditures. MSS holds in excess of \$662,000 in restricted accounts. One of these accounts, the Crockett Endowment, has lost money in the past year. The balance in checking has not diminished and is \$137,827.69. Combining the checking balance and the restricted accounts, total assets exceed \$800,000. As far as expenses, the amount budgeted was \$276,000. The amount of expected income is just under \$300,000.

4. Finance Committee Report

Bob Wazienski also reported on the Finance Committee. The committee believes that we need to reformulate our investment policy. We need to reexamine how we prioritize our investment goals. The value of the Society's assets is now so large that we should obtain professional advice. The plan is to submit requests for proposals to find a professional financial planner. He hopes to have a proposal for the Board's fall meeting. He said that the committee is interested in having Tom Gerschick appointed as Treasurer-designate. He also hopes that Lou Mennerick will join the committee. Mary Zimmerman, a current member, will be leaving the committee to take up her duties as President-elect-elect but will continue on the committee for the short term. He then turned to the topic of the capital campaign. The first two phases of the campaign have been successful. All members of the Board have contributed or made commitments. Most of the Past-Presidents have as well. Solicitation has now begun with the general membership. To date, the campaign has received \$22,000. It is a three-year campaign and there is a need for greater participation. He also mentioned that \$1000 has been budgeted as money for expenses of state directors and state presidents. These funds need to be publicized.

5. Secretary's Report

Peter Parilla, who serves as the chair of the Membership Committee, reported that the current number of members is 1051. This number is a mid-year number making it difficult to compare with previous year's totals. The number of members in 2008 (1112) was lower than in 2007 (1379). Whether this decline is the beginning of a longer term downward trend or is a cyclical variation due to the location of the conference is unknown. We should have a better idea next year when the conference is in Chicago.

6. Annual Meeting Report

Diane Pike offered her thanks to Susan Stall. There were 811 persons pre-registered for the conference. There were approximately 170 registrations at the meetings. Diane thought the meetings went well. The changes to the plenary sessions and the open meetings met her expectations. She reminded those in attendance to fill out a survey with their views of the meetings or to email Diane with comments. She also said that feedback about quality ought not just go to the program chair; MSS needs to change our culture so that persons give feedback to each other.

The format of this business meeting is different from past meetings. The only oral reports are those that are required by the bylaws. Committee reports will be published in *The Midwest Sociologist*. Awards were done at other times in the meeting which led to much higher attendance for the awards ceremonies than previously, when awards were given at the business meeting.

At this point, Susan Stall passed the gavel to Diane Pike, symbolizing the transition in the presidency.

7. Past President's Report

Helen Moore was not in attendance.

Diane asked for comments from the floor.

Gail Wallace observed that the MSS seeks to be inclusive. At the same time, she would like to see more leadership opportunities available for persons of color. Organizations need to structure opportunities for members. She appreciates the support that does exist.

Tom Gerschick, a member of the Nominations and Elections Committee, responded that the committee is seeking to be responsive to such concerns. It is reformulating nomination/recruitment strategies so that persons with a wide range of differences are given the opportunity to develop as leaders by first serving on committees, then serving as a chair and then to higher positions.

Tom also said that in future site selection it is important to find conference sites where it is possible to get a quick meal and not need to miss a session.

Tracy Ore, President of MSWS, reported that at the MSWS business meeting, MSWS members thought that this year's program was an improvement in terms of coverage of gender. Still there is a need for more opportunities such as having women making the plenary addresses.

Tom Gerschick said that he would like to see more didactic seminars such as annual reviews of changes in a field or reviews of software programs.

Carol Jenkins mentioned that next year's meeting will be a joint one with NCSA. Feedback from membership will help guide the program chairs.

Bob Wazienski made pledge sheets available for the capital campaign.

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Peter Parilla, Secretary