

**Midwest Sociological Society
2012 Annual Business Meeting
April 1, 2012
Minneapolis MN**

Call to Order and President's Report

President Mary Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 11:50. She reported progress is being made on the implementation of the strategic plan.

Approval of Minutes

President Zimmerman asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the 2011 Business meeting. Anne Eisenberg moved approval. Steve Carlton seconded. The minutes were approved without changes.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Robert Wazienski reported that the society's finances are in good shape. In the past five years, an effort has been made through the capital campaign and the work of the Finance Committee to create an investment strategy to achieve financial independence even if the revenue from *The Sociological Quarterly* were to be reduced or eliminated. During these years, MSS changed its investment practices. One goal is to have interest from investments pay for the funding of awards and other operating expenses. MSS has made significant progress to achieving this goal over the past two years. The Crockett Fund now has over \$500,000. The Exum Fund has \$339,000. The TSQ Fund has \$116,000. Eventually the goal is to achieve greater financial independence so that income from investments can cover operating costs. Given the progress that has been made, the state of finances for MSS is healthy. Bob expressed his appreciation to Lauren Tiffany for her help and to members of the Society generally for their support. Mary Zimmerman expressed her thanks to Bob for his work as Treasurer as did all those in attendance who gave Bob a round of applause.

Finance Committee Report

Treasurer Designate Tom Gerschick introduced Tim Pippert, the new chair of the Finance Committee. One of the priorities of the Finance Committee is to create greater continuity regarding officers responsible for the Society's finances. The committee is already beginning to search for the next person to serve as Treasurer-Designate. We currently have between 1.1 million and 1.2 million dollars in assets. To achieve financial sustainability, Tom estimates that we will need two million dollars. The Finance Committee plans to do a comprehensive review of expenditures. There is also a need for greater fund raising. Tom echoed Bob's comments that we need to be prepared if journal revenues decline because they are currently crucial for the financial health of MSS. Finally he added that although the hope is that investments will generate revenue for operating expenses, the investment approach has been to invest funds conservatively.

Annual Meeting Report

President Zimmerman introduced Barbara Keating, Program Chair for next year's meeting. Barbara asked those in attendance for their input in planning for next year. She said that she is committed to holding another trivia night. Mary also introduced Kevin Leicht who was recently elected as President-elect-elect.

President Zimmerman also introduced current Program Chair Linda Lindsey. She mentioned that this year's meetings integrated themes related to the 75th anniversary of MSS as well as the program of sociological understandings of the global transformation. This meeting also saw the trial run of trivial night and the introduction of the new MSS logo.

Past President's Report

None given

Ceremonial Transition of Presidents

Mary Zimmerman handed over the gavel to Linda Lindsey, symbolizing the transition from one president to the next. Linda expressed her thanks to Priya Dua, the student director who worked with her organizing the meetings. She also expressed her thanks to Mary Zimmerman for her assistance.

Linda Lindsey assumed the role of chair of the meeting and called for a motion to adjourn. The meeting ended at 12:10.

Submitted by Peter Parilla