

**Midwest Sociological Society
2013 Annual Business Meeting
March 30th 8:00- 8:45 AM
Chicago IL**

Call to Order and President's Report

President Linda Lindsey called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. She reported that MSS has had a successful year with progress on the strategic plan, and a strong showing at the annual meeting. One issue addressed in this year's meeting was the ongoing effort to avoid booking with non-union hotels.

Minutes of 2012 Business Meeting, Secretary's Report

Minutes of the 2012 Business Meeting were distributed. Incoming Secretary Lee Miller reported for Peter Parilla who was called away on a family emergency. Lee Miller reported from the Membership Committee that a survey of past members whose membership has lapsed is in the works thanks to Julie Pelton. The Membership Committee plans to analyze membership data to understand who we have and who we are not attracting. Recruiting efforts in the upcoming year will be led by the State Directors and coordinated with the Minority Scholars Committee and the Program Committee, among other groups.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tom Gerschick reported that the society's finances are in good shape. The investments rode the rise in the stock market to over a million dollars in total assets. However, the Treasurer, Treasurer-elect and Finance Committee remain concerned about how Open Access will affect MSS income since TSQ represented over 62% of total income in the fiscal year ending August 31, 2012. The contract with Wiley-Blackwell ends December 31, 2016, and the Publications Committee will begin negotiating a new journal contract in fall 2014. Since it is unclear what Open Access will mean for such a substantial portion of the MSS revenue, the Treasurer suggests that the Society build the endowment to 2 million dollars, with the goal of utilizing the interest to pay some of the annual expenses. This would help ensure a secure financial future and allow MSS to keep membership dues and conference fees low. An article explaining the concerns and suggestions is scheduled to appear in the next issue of TMS.

Finance Committee Report

Treasurer – Designate Tim Pippert (Finance Committee Chair) solicited volunteers or nominations for another member of the Finance Committee. To serve on the Committee one need not be an accountant, just be comfortable working with numbers. The first year of the 3-year membership option has been a success; about 16% of memberships opted for this new rate. Somewhat unexpectedly, it is popular among student members. The Finance Committee and MSS Board are considering another new category of membership for long-term members.

Keith Johnson spoke from the floor to applaud the Left Behind Sociology as next year's theme, encourage adjunct participation, and suggest reduced dues for members who are adjuncts or part-time instructors. He has done a survey on adjunct faculty. Lauren Tiffany asked to have a copy of study results.

Annual Meeting Report

Barbara Keating reported that the annual meeting included – 138 formal paper sessions, 32 panels, 21 workshops, 21 roundtables, 19 committee meetings, 3 Author-Meets-Critics sessions, 3 poster sessions, and 10 other events/meetings. This year the Program Committee addressed two issues identified by the MSS Task Force on Scholarly Quality: session quality and no-shows. Steps taken are detailed in Keating's report to Board. Close email contact with session organizers seems to have helped. Reminder emails to participants resulted in spikes in registration. There were 31 paper withdrawals before program went to printer, 19 additional after printing was in progress. Total registration: 975 advance, 71 onsite registrants.

Past President's Report

None given.

Linda Lindsey will represent MSS at ASA annual meeting this year. Past President Mary Zimmerman could not attend last year. Diane Pike went in her place. Diane reported that she met with Sally Hillsman (ASA) to report on MSS business and discussed regional association relationships with ASA.

President-Elect Kevin Leicht presented his new theme, "Left Behind Sociology: Re-visiting Old Ideas, Old Theories, and Understudied People." Kevin is enthusiastic about the annual meeting in Omaha. Look for call for panels and session ideas.

Call for business from the floor:

Keith Johnson, attended ASA and Illinois Sociological Association, how to stimulate attendance and membership of locals? Linda Lindsey replied that the State Association Presidents and MSS State Directors met and are trying to rejuvenate the state associations.

Betty Cooper - Missouri Representative, mentioned that Missouri state association memberships are down and professional involvement is nil. We need professionals involved. Recruiting of students works.

Gail Wallace – Minority Issues Committee Chair reported that the Minority Scholars reception was well attended and thanked MSS for annual reception.

Jean Karlen – mentioned that she still had a few "I Love Omaha" stickers and encouraged people to take them to distribute at state meetings to publicize the 2014 conference in Omaha.

Official gavel hand off from Linda Lindsey to Barbara Keating

Kim Maas and Lauren Tiffany were both recognized for their tremendous help in organizing the meeting.

President Barbara Keating called for a motion to adjourn. Keith Johnson moved to adjourn and Diane Pike seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:30am.

Submitted by Lee Miller