

Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature

Business Meeting

May 12, 2007

President Jim Seaton opened the meeting and led the membership according to the pre-prepared meeting agenda.

1. Election of Officers:

The membership elected Ken Grant, SSML President Elect, and Martha Vertreace-Doody and Joe Wydeven as Executive Council members.

2. Ratification of Executive Council Actions:

The membership ratified the action taken by the Executive Council in naming Marcia Noe as Editor of MidAmerica and David D. Anderson as Founding Editor.

3. Information Items:

The following information items were presented.

A. Laura Julier will lead efforts to make cover changes for MidAmerica and Midwestern Miscellany as determined at the Friday Executive Council meeting.

B. President Jim Seaton notified the membership that the Michigan Humanities Council is interested in doing for Michigan literature much of the same thing that the Dictionary of Midwestern Literature is doing for Midwestern literature. They hope to create an online site for Michigan literature, to be: MichiganLiterature.org. They are offering to pay people who participate. Jim has provided a sign-up sheet. Laura Julier will post this on the SSML website.

C. Dues will increase by \$10 annually for members; by \$20 annually for institutional members. There will be no dues increases for students.

Laura Julier will send a conference flyer for those not using computers and the Internet. It will go out twice by the U.S. postal service as requested by Mary Obuchowski.

Marilyn Atlas suggested that SSML use the MLA approach and develop a list of people who don't want to get their SSML information by computer.

Marcia Noe will do a newsletter/conference promotion piece. The first call will go out in September. The second will be a conference brochure, going out in January.

4. Discussion Items:

The following discussion items were presented to the membership.

Marc Van Wormer spoke on containing conference costs. He proposed passing on the real cost of the banquet, for which we are currently losing \$7.00 per person.

Another conference issue is the rapidly increasing expectation that SSML conference presenters have for the availability of A-V equipment. Marc proposed writing in some specifications of what SSML will provide. Other suggestions included the possibility of an A-V deposit which will be refunded when the requesters attend and present. Roger will take these suggestions into consideration in making upcoming decisions.

Another suggestion to avoid use of extra rooms and to minimize the cost of providing A-V was starting at 10:30 on Thursday morning so that only three rooms would be needed throughout the conference. The concern was that many people can't attend and present on Thursday. Another related suggestion was to offer conference sessions on Thursday evening.

Roger Bresnahan suggested checking the possibility of meeting in MSU classroom spaces, as, for example, Bessey or Brody Hall, where "smart classrooms" are standard and come at no cost to users. Members suggested that conferencing comfort and amenities must be better than those of classrooms because people will be sitting for extended time periods for several days. Roger responded that he will check available MSU classroom locations with enhanced comfort. He suggested MSU's law school as one possibility.

Laura Julier indicated her sense that "the Forum" is not working. She proposed replacing it with an elective SSML listserv for interested people. She requests everyone's suggestions.

Lawrence Moe proposed the possibility of experienced SSML members meeting with younger members coming up for promotion. The idea is to provide a panel or less formal mentoring for younger members and interested students by more experienced members, who have experience on or even chairing search committees. Two possible times suggested were Friday at lunch and at the last session on Friday. Mary Obuchowski will send Lawrence Moe the names of younger members and students attending SSML.

Submitted by Phil Greasley, SSML Recording Secretary