

Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature
Annual Business Meeting Minutes
Saturday, May 9, 2009

SSML President Ken Grant opened the SSML annual business meeting. Reports followed.

Treasurer's Report: Roger Bresnahan presented the Treasurer's Report. Roger indicated that the conference runs slightly in the red each year and that Roger and Marc Van Wormer seek efficiencies. Jane Bakerman's bequest is sustaining us in these losses at present, but eventually it will be necessary to reduce expenses or, preferably, increase revenue.

Conference Report: Mary Obuchowski reported that this year's conference expects, when finished, to total between 115 and 120 participants; 31 of these are students. While these students are non-paying, they are the future of the Society and the Conference. The suggestion was received to send an e-mail call for papers/ presentations and a notice of the conference and also to send these by traditional mail to ensure that those not using e-mail are aware of and able to participate in the annual conference.

Publications Report: Marcia Noe reported that SSML publications are now up to date.

SSML Liaison to Ohio University Press Book Award: Roger reported that the Society needs a liaison to Ohio University Press for the SSML Book Publication Award. Two names were proposed: William Barillas and Robert Dunne. Bob Dunne was proposed as an alternate. (Bill Barillas has subsequently accepted the liaison role.)

SSML Paper/Presentation Prizes Report: Marilyn Atlas reported on SSML prizes arising from the conference. The committee is functioning. Fewer submissions are being received each year. Two issues were discussed: the awarding of multiple prizes when SSML planned funding calls for only one winner per category, and commitments to publish honorable mention awards in SSML publications. The question arose whether honorable mention papers/presentations should receive publication. Marcia Noe and Marilyn Atlas will work that out for this year because the application form promised publication, but in future years publication for honorable mention papers/presentations will not be guaranteed.

Dictionary of Midwestern Literature, Volume Two Report: Phil Greasley reported that the DML2 editorial board continues to work and that completion of the manuscript for volume two is expected within a year.

Mentoring Café Report: Lawrence Moe reported that the Mentoring Café, now in its second year, had gone well. Lawrence Moe, John Rohrkemper, Christian Knoeller, Sara Kosiba, and Jayne Waterman attended along with some graduate students. The Café was judged to be worthwhile and Lawrence Moe and Sara Kosiba expressed their sense that it stimulates graduate student participation. John Rohrkemper proposed sending the graduate students who attended a survey a month after the conference to see what they want.

SSML Elections: President Ken Grant conducted the election for two Executive Advisory Council positions with terms from 2010 through 2013 and also for the position as SSML Vice President/President Elect.

Scott Emmert and **Sandra Seaton** were elected to the **SSML Executive Council** positions, with terms running from 2010 through 2013.

Lawrence Moe was elected **SSML vice president/president elect** for 2009-2010.

Margaret (Peggy) Rozga moves automatically from vice president/president elect to **president** for the 2009-2010 year.

SSML By-Laws: Roger Bresnahan asked SSML members to look over the SSML bylaws and to make suggestions for modification to SSML's corporate board members: David D. Anderson, Roger Bresnahan, Marc Van Wormer, and Phil Greasley. Roger indicated that a fifth corporate board member will be named to fill the slot previously held by Patricia Anderson. Roger again requested people's thoughts on SSML members who should be considered for the empty corporate board slot. Names should be forwarded to current corporate board members.

Other Business:

Jim Seaton expressed his appreciation for a great 2009 SSML conference. He lauded the conference program done by Mary Obuchowski, the great attendance, the effective website, and the placing of the SSML call for papers on the Penn State University Call for Papers website.

Marcia Noe expressed her thanks to Laura Julier for her work on the SSML website.

President Ken Grant adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by Phil Greasley,
Recording Secretary