

Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature
Annual General Membership Meeting Minutes
Saturday, June 4, 2016

SSML President Jeff Swenson opened the meeting. He thanked Dawn Comer for her work as president of SSML and Scott Emmert for serving as SSML program chair and for the great conference program.

Jeff reported that the Executive Committee had nominated Mary Catherine Harper as SSML vice president/president elect and Jane Holwerda and Ed Morin for three-year terms on the Executive Advisory Committee (2017-2020). He invited discussion and other names from the floor. No names were brought forward. All nominees were elected by acclamation.

SSML's 50th anniversary meeting will be in 2020. There is some interest in having that special conference in an alternate location. Many SSML members expressed interest in holding the meeting in Chicago; one liked Cleveland; one expressed interest in Mackinac Island. Concern was raised that Mackinac Island, with its prices and inaccessibility by car, creates huge obstacles to graduate and undergraduate students attending the conference. Jeff expressed the fear that a Mackinac conference would result in fewer people attending. A committee will be set up to explore the possibility of holding the conference in Chicago and in Mackinac and develop proposals for each. If Mackinac is selected, it would be helpful to find a donor to subsidize student hotel costs.

Mary Catherine Harper reported on SSML's connection with PCA. SSML can have a permanent session at PCA, but we should be aware that PCA is very expensive and only one year in every five will the conference be held in the Midwest. The alternative is continuing to hold "special topics" sessions. The Executive Committee felt it best for SSML to continue having "special topics" sessions at PCA.

Phil Greasley reported that DML2 is finished and will be available in August. Contributors will get one copy free and subsequent copies at a 40% discount by identifying themselves as contributors. Others can get a 30% discount by ordering online at: iupress.indiana.edu and using the code "FMG3XX." Flyers for the discounts for noncontributors will be available on the SSML website and its Facebook pages.

Marcia Noe asked SSML members to send their recommendations on who should receive the Mark Twain and MidAmerica Awards. Recommendations should include some rationale and evidence to support the named candidates. All such recommendations should be sent to Roger Bresnahan (rogerbres@gmail.com).

Presenters interested in having their conference essays considered for publication in *MidAmerica* should send one electronic copy (to marcia-noe@utc.edu) and one hard copy to Marcia Noe at 1012 Forest Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37405 by July 1, 2016. See instructions on the conference program.

Individuals interested in having their conference presentations considered for the SSML Symposium Prizes should submit four blind hard copies by August 1, 2016 to Marilyn Atlas, SSML prize coordinator, 230 North Roosevelt Avenue, Bexley, OH 43209. See instructions on the conference program.

Roger Bresnahan reported that in 2017 SSML will seek to hold the conference at the same time as 2016. In 2018 SSML will try to hold the conference during the second week of May.

Roger also mentioned that in 2017 the awards luncheon will be included in the graduate student scholarships.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Greasley, recording secretary