

Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature  
General Membership Meeting  
Saturday, May 19, 2018

SSML President Jeff Hotz called the meeting to order.

The membership heard of the nominations of Mary Minock for SSML President Elect and of Donald Daiker and Joyce Meier as members of the Executive Advisory Council with terms running from 2019 to 2021. President Hotz invited additional nominations from the floor, but there were none. The three nominees were elected by the membership.

President Hotz led the Society in thanking past-president Mary Catherine Harper and Laura Julier for their service to the Society of the past year.

President Hotz recapped the treasurer's report, which included approximately \$39,000 coming in each year and under \$50,000 going out, with a comfortable capital cushion.

The 49<sup>th</sup> SSML Conference will be held in the MSU Kellogg Center from Thursday, May 16, through Saturday, May 18, 2019. The Society is considering holding the 50<sup>th</sup> annual conference in Chicago in 2020.

Laura Julier reported that the 2018 SSML conference had 26 panels and approximately 80 people presenting and/or moderating. Twelve students got SSML scholarships to attend the conference, with awards of \$80 to \$420 depending on the distance of their travel. Approximately 15 students attended the mentoring café.

The submission deadline for conference proposals for the 2019 conference will be January 31, 2019. That will be a firm deadline. Those submitting proposals will receive automatic confirmation of receipt of their proposals.

This year's conference brought in \$7,375 plus the banquet income, about the same as last year's conference.

The Philip Levine issue of the *Midwestern Miscellany* will be out in approximately one month. The next *Midwestern Miscellany* will be next year.

July 1, 2018 will be the deadline for receipt of submissions for publication consideration in *MidAmerica*. Submissions should go to Marcia Noe. August 1, 2018 is the deadline for receipt of submissions for SSML conference prizes. Submissions should go to Marilyn Atlas. See the conference prize and publication form on the back page of the 2018 conference program.

A new prize, the David D. Anderson Prize, has been established for the best article relating to Midwestern Literature published each year. The first award will be made in 2019 for articles published in 2018. Recipients need not be members of SSML. SSML members are also eligible for consideration, but the articles cannot have been published in SSML's journals. Nominations and self-nominations are welcome. The nomination form is available online at the SSML website. A PDF copy of the nominated article should accompany the nomination.

Sara Kosiba reported that an expanded email newsletter for SSML is now operating. It includes member news along with other information. It goes to SSML members and interested others. In the future it will include a member spotlight and post information on articles, readings, talks, etc. If you have ideas or suggestions or ideas for the newsletter, please send them to Sara Kosiba

A committee composed of Ross Tangedal, Rachel Price, and Patricia Oman will look into SSML's available options for future printing of its publications and make recommendations to the corporate board by August 2018.

A former student of Joanne Isbey's reported that the Rustbelt Poetry Festival is being held in Detroit on June 1 and 2. It holds a Knight Foundation grant. For information, go to: [rustbeltpoetryfestival.com](http://rustbeltpoetryfestival.com). All events, except for the poetry slam finals, are free.

Ross Tangedal expressed his thanks to the Society for its letter of support for the English program to UW-Stevens Point leaders who are considering elimination of several arts and humanities programs.

Jim Gorman thanked the Society and its members for their support across the years.

The meeting adjourned.

Phil Greasley  
Recording Secretary