



**MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of Executive Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, October 22, 2008, 2:00 pm**  
**Holiday Inn, Huntsville, Alabama**

Present were:	Keith F. Durkin	President
	Carl L. Bankston, III.	Past-President
	Sahadeo Patram	Secretary-Treasurer
	Kimberly A. Davies	President-Elect
	Shirley Rainey	Vice-President
	Larry D. Hall	Vice-President-Elect
	Timothy B. Gongaware	Editor, Forum
	John Lynxwiler	Editor, Sociological Spectrum
	Mark Konty	Chair, Committee on the Profession
	Dana M. Greene	Chair, Committee on Minorities
	Tina Deshotels	Chair, Committee on Membership

Not Present were:

Nancy J. Finley	Chair, Local Arrangements Committee
Jackie A. Eller	Coordinator, Stanford Lyman Memorial Committee
Rhonda Evans	Chair, Committee on Women
Obie Clayton, Jr.	Hotel Contract Negotiator
Kathy A. Smith	Co-Chair, Committee on Small & Community Colleges
DeMond S. Miller	Co-Chair, Committee on Small & Community Colleges

By Invitation (Incoming Officers)

Jamie P. Baird	Secretary-Treasurer
Ollie G. Christian	President-Elect

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Dr. Keith F. Durkin at 2:00 pm. The President welcomed Executive Council Members, including Incoming Officers, to the meeting.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of February 2, 2008 were approved.

## **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORTS**

### **President's Report**

The President thanked Sahadeo Patram and emphasized how he couldn't thank him enough for his leadership, professionalism dedicated service to the MSSA during the past decade. Also he expressed appreciation to Dr. Kimberly A. Davies for a wonderful job as program chair organizing this year's meeting. The President reiterated the need to increase attendance at the annuals meeting and the imperative to meet the contractual minimum room nights requirement and avoid serious financial penalties. The President also noted the challenges in getting qualified members to accept nominations for elected offices. He urged Executive Council members to encourage their colleagues consider running for office..

The report was accepted.

### **Past-President's Report**

The report from the Past-President, Dr. Carl L. Bankston was deferred and would be taken together with that from the Budget Committee.

### **Report from the Vice-President**

The Vice-President, Dr. Shirley Rainey, reported there were four (4) papers for the Graduate Student Paper Competition.

There were four contestants that participated in the 2008 Graduate Student Paper Competition. The participants and their paper titles are as follows: Angela Abott from MTSU, " The Thin Line: Mental Health and Workforce Participation of Single Mothers on Welfare"; Yu Tao, Georgia Institute of Technology, " The Earnings of Asian Engineers in the United States: The Effect of the Origin of the Highest Degree"; Jennifer Cunningham, Tuskegee University, "A Survey of Risk Behaviors Associated with Human Papillomavirus among African American female college students in Alabama"; and Kristi M. Fondren, from Mississippi State University, "Sport and Stigma: Negative Recruiting and Institutional Identity of Ole Miss".

The winning paper was "The Thin Line: Mental Health and Workforce Participation of Single Mothers on Welfare" by Angela Abott.

The Vice-President expressed her appreciation of the services by members of the review committee.

The report was accepted.

### **Report from the Vice-President-Elect**

The Vice-President-Elect, Dr. Larry D. Hall, reported that two (2) papers were received for the Undergraduate Student Paper Competition. They were both Samford University students. The papers were:

“Attitudes Towards AIDS: The Influence of Education and Feelings About Homosexuality.” Haley Heckman.

“Removing the Veil: Religious Identification’s Influence in Gender Roles.” Jeanne Cross.

The first place award and certificate was given to Jeanne Cross.

The Vice-President elect thanked the MSSA members who served as judges of the undergraduate papers.

The report was accepted.

### **Report from the President-Elect/Program Chair**

The President-Elect/Program Chair, Dr. Kimberly A. Davies, thanked everyone who helped being the 2008 program together and especially those on the board who were timely in getting information to her. She thanked Dr. Steve Picou and Dr. Roma Hanks for funding election mailings this year; Nancy Finley and her committee for all they have done to make this conference so much better; Kim Smith and the ASU Public Relations Department for designing the cover of the program, and Lynda Lotz for proofing. Printing of this year’s program was paid for by the Augusta State University Foundation Funds. The Association actually had a net of \$1,050.00 from the program, the result of three and a half pages of advertising. The plenary address had to be changed to Thursday to accommodate the speaker’s schedule. Council congratulated Dr. Davies for producing an excellent program.

The report was accepted.

### **Secretary-Treasurer’s Report**

The Secretary-Treasurer reported that the Association remains in reasonably good financial health. Current assets as of October 17 were \$105,987.16. The assets are in the following accounts:

Capitol City Bank – CD-OFA	\$43,951.02
Capitol City Bank – OFA	\$ 8,875.89
Capitol City Bank - Reserve Fund Account	\$ 1,108.62
Capitol City Bank – RFA-CD	\$ 5,275.00
Spectrum Petty Cash-UCF	\$ 796.54
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>\$60,007.07</b>

Stanford M. Lyman Memorial Scholarship Fund

Lyman MSF Account	\$ 4,648.62
Certificates of Deposits	\$41,331.91
	<b><u>\$41,331.91</u></b>

**TOTAL** **\$105,987.60**

The Association is again facing possible financial hardships due to weather and the national and global financial crisis. We negotiated with the Holiday Inn Huntsville and obtained partial waivers of our contractual obligations. The association will not be penalized for failure to meet room night’s requirements. There will be a deficit of approximately \$7,310.00 in financing this year’s meeting activities. The shortfall in revenue is the result of very weak annual pre-registration (81). The association will be able to meet the shortfall in revenue from reserve funds accumulated over the past nine years.

The above figures do not include the plenary speaker incidental expenses and the cost of preparing the various awards and certificates. Those expenses were pre-paid prior to the preparation of the financial statement..

The Association cannot expect to avoid contractual obligations in the future and steps should be taken to ensure that all contractual obligations are financed from current revenues. To achieve these objectives the Association should try to retain current members and recruit new ones. Also, there were suggestions to consider increases in fees for registration, sponsoring undergraduates and the banquet. There was background information given about member registration from the last few years. The suggestions on increase in registration fees was deferred to the meeting on Friday, Oct. 24, 2008.

There were comments made to make sure that MSSA members are listed as members when they make hotel reservations.

Council thanked the Secretary-Treasurer for successfully managing the finances of the Association.

The report was accepted.

### **Report from the Editor, *Sociological Spectrum***

Dr. John Lynxwiler reported that Pia Aliperti was named the Managing Editor at Taylor & Francis and continues as the contact person for *Sociological Spectrum* in Philadelphia.

The *Sociological Spectrum* article of the year award for 2008 was made to Jason Ulsperger and David Knottnerus for their article "The Social Dynamics of Elder Care: Rituals of Bureaucracy and Physical Neglect in Nursing Homes" (*Sociological Spectrum* Volume 28, Number 4:357-388).

Between Oct. 2007 and Oct. 2008, *Spectrum* received 61 manuscripts. The journal's current rate of acceptance is 33 percent. In addition, the *Spectrum's* Impact factor increased from .198 in 2006 to .525 in 2007.

The *Spectrum* web page was up and running..

Six members of the *Sociological Spectrum* Editorial Board that would be completing their 3-year term as of Dec. 31, 2008. The Editorial Board would discuss replacement nominations at the MSSA 2008 *Spectrum* Board meeting.

Sara Neuenschwander was recognition for her hard work as managing editor of *Sociological Spactrem*. Along with managing the journal she completed her M.A. thesis and obtained university funding for her PhD. degree.

The report was accepted.

### **Report from the Editor, *Forum***

There were no issues of *Forum* this year because of insufficient information. The Editor, Dr. Timothy Gongaware, reported that information from the Local Arrangements Chair was sent the membership via list serve.

There were suggestions to move *Forum* to the format of a blog? This suggestion was consideration, but tabled for discussion at the meeting, Friday, Oct. 24, 2008.

The report was accepted.

### **Report from the Coordinator, Stan Lyman Memorial Scholarship Committee**

The Chair, Stanford M. Lyman Memorial Scholarship, Dr. Jackie Eller, was unavoidably absent. A written report was submitted and presented by Dr. Carl L.

Bankston, III Dr. Bankston, III. will announce the winners of the Stan Lyman Memorial Scholarship at the banquet, Oct. 23, 2008.

There was discussion on procedures presented on SLM Scholarship for inclusion as an Appendix to the Operations Manual. Some members felt that the term of service for the Coordinator (four years) was inconsistent with the three years for other appointed members (Secretary-Treasurer and Editors of Sociological Spectrum and Forum). The Secretary-Treasurer reminded members that the Constitutional amendment which added the Coordinator of Sociological was approved by Council at its meeting of February 2, 2008 was consistent with that in the proposed addition to the OPM. Council could not agree on how to proceed on this matter and it was decided that the Constitution amendment be reviewed.

The report was accepted.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Report from the Chair, Committee on the Profession**

The Chair, Committee on the Profession, Dr. Mark Konty, reported that he has put together a packet of all of the Job Postings and will have it with the book exhibits. He also reported that two members on his committee of ethics asked to postpone their meeting, so they have yet to meet.

The report was accepted.

### **Report from the Chair, Committee on Women**

The Chair, Committee on Women, Dr. Dana M. Greene, reported for Dr. Rhonda Evans who was not present. Dr. Greene reported that they are working on the mentorship caucus and they are going to add graduate students.

The report was accepted.

### **Report from the Chair, Committee on Minorities**

The Chair, Committee on Minorities, Dr. Dana M. Greene, reported that the committee was drafting a statement of purpose. Applications will be given out at the banquet and they have pledged monies, but \$700 has not been received.

The report was accepted.

### **Report from the Chair, Site Selection Committee**

The report was deferred until Friday, Oct. 24, 2008 until the report from the Hotel Negotiator was given.

## **Report from the Chair, Committee on Membership**

The Chair of the Membership Committee, Dr. Tina Deshotels, presented that the goal is to encourage non-renewals to come back to the fold, current members to stay, and increase members from new populations. The strategies were presented to complete these tasks.

The report was accepted.

## **AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Report for the Chair, Stanford Lyman Distinguished Book Award.**

Dr. Thomas C. Calhoun, Chair of the Committee, reported that two nominations were received for the Stanford M. Lyman DBA award. One of the nominations was not eligible because the author was not a current member of the Association. The committee decided that the book authored by DeMond S. Miller and Jason D. Rivera **Hurricane Katrina and the Redefinition of Landscape**. 2008. Lanham, MD. Lexington Books, fitted the criteria for the award and recommended, with the exception of one abstention, that the award be given to the two authors.

The abstention was based on whether an award should be made when there was only one eligible nominee or only a certificate of achievement be given.

Council unanimously agreed that when there is only one nomination and the book meets all criteria for the award, the award must be given to the author(s). Council also agreed that the practice of presenting plaques to joint authors of a winning nomination be continued.

The report was accepted.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.



**MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of Executive Council Meeting**  
**Friday, October 24, 2008, 9:45 am**  
**Holiday Inn, Huntsville, Alabama**

Present were:	Keith F. Durkin	President
	Carl L. Bankston, III.	Past-President
	Sahadeo Patram	Secretary-Treasurer
	Kimberly A. Davies	President-Elect
	Shirley Rainey	Vice-President
	Larry D. Hall	Vice-President-Elect
	Timothy B. Gongaware	Editor, Forum
	John Lynxwiler	Editor, Sociological Spectrum
	Mark Konty	Chair, Committee on the Profession
	Dana M. Greene	Chair, Committee on Minorities
	Tina Deshotels	Chair, Committee on Membership
	Obie Clayton, Jr.	Hotel Contract Negotiator
	Kathy A. Smith	Co-Chair, Committee on Small & Community Colleges
	DeMond S. Miller	Co-Chair, Committee on Small & Community Colleges

Not Present were:

Nancy J. Finley	Chair, Local Arrangements Committee
Jackie A. Eller	Coordinator, Stanford Lyman Memorial Committee
Rhonda Evans	Chair, Committee on Women

By Invitation (Incoming Officers)

Jamie P. Baird	Secretary-Treasurer
Ollie G. Christian	President-Elect

**CALL TO ORDER**

The adjourned meeting of October 22, 2008 was called to order by President Keith F. Durkin at 9:45 am.

## **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORTS**

### **Report from the Past President/ Chair, Budget Committee.**

The Chair of the Budget Committee, Dr. Carl L. Bankston, III, reported that the financial records of the Association were examined and found to be in order.

The report was accepted.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Report from the Co-Chair, Committee on Small & Community Colleges**

The Co-Chair of the Committee on Small and Community Colleges, DeMond S. Miller, reported that the committee will be looking at giving out 1 or 2 awards, Innovation of Service & Innovation of Teaching. Also, they will continue to reach out to community colleges in the MSSA region.

The report was accepted.

### **Report for the Chair, Committee on Nominations**

The Chair, Committee on Nominations, Dr. Nicole Carr, submitted a written report. The following were elected:

President-Elect: Ollie G. Christian

Vice-President-Elect: Timothy B. Gongaware

Chair, Committee on Nominations: Jackie Eller

Chair, Committee on the Profession: Ana-Marie Gonzales Wahl

Chair, Committee on Small and Community Colleges: DeMond S. Miller.

There was discussion to move to electronic voting. Mark Konty gave some background information about Survey Monkey. If we purchase Survey Monkey, then we could do surveys about site selections for meetings, electronic voting for Executive Council members and we could start by doing a survey on the MSSA meeting in Huntsville, AL.

A motion to use the Survey Monkey software for MSSA surveys of membership on hotel sites and other issues. Mark Konty agreed to serve as the research contact for this project. Also, the Sec. /Treas. was authorized to purchase Survey Monkey as soon as possible.

The report was accepted.

**Report from the Chair, Site Selection Committee**

The Site Selection Report was presented by Dr. Obie Clayton, Jr., the hotel contract negotiator. Dr. Clayton informed Council that he had finalized contracts to 2014, with 2013 still needing to be decided on. Below is the list of hotels, with room and food and beverage requirements:

Date	Location	Hotel	Cost
2009	Lafayette	Hilton	\$112.00
2010	Baton Rouge	Holiday Inn	\$101.00
2011	Little Rock	Doubletree	\$118.00
2012	Mobile	Riverview Plaza	\$135.00
2014	Mobile	Riverview Plaza	\$145.00

He suggested that the annual meetings be held in Mobile every other year or every third year because Mobile has always been the site with consistent good attendance. After some discussion, Council agreed to have Lafayette and Mobile as core cities, but not tie the hands of the Hotel Negotiator to seek sites elsewhere. A few sites ( New Orleans, Orlando, Lexington, Jackson and Nashville) were suggested for future consideration.

Also, dates and sites of future meetings should be posted on the website.

Council felt that there was need to survey membership again on possible sites for future meetings. Dr..Obie Clayton, Jr. was asked to send members the past survey that MSSA used to identify possible sites. Huntsville, Alabama should be listed as a possible site on the survey, along with other potential cities in other States.

We could send out results with nominations, also could send out constitutional amendments through this Survey Monkey.

The report was accepted.

**AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Report for the Chair, Local Arrangements.**

Dr. Nancy J. Finley, Chair of the Committee, was not present. Jamie Baird passed out a printed report. Included in this report was a checklist for those who will be local arrangement chair to use as a guide. The council asked that Nancy email this report to David Witt to be put on the website and it is available to everyone.

The report was accepted.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Registration Fee suggestions from the Sec./Treas. There was discussion about working on membership recruitment. It was moved and approved to table these suggestions until the meeting in Oct. 2009 in Lafayette, LA
- B. Going to online registration, having Forum as a blog. There is more information that is needed. Timothy Gongaware agreed to get information about online registration and present at the meeting on Saturday, Oct. 25, 2008
- C. Student Forum- Undergraduates and Graduate
  - They would like to have their own sessions with a faculty mentor, they would actually run the sessions
  - Panels that are separate from the paper competitions
  - Having a workshop with a resource person (the job market, applying to grad school, etc.)
  - Would love to have a non-voting student as a member of the Executive Council
  - Student Newsletter
  - Student Caucus Breakfast (possibly the Thursday morning during the annual meeting). Jean Shin has agreed to fund through ASA \$300.00 to go towards getting this started

This was voted on and approved to make it happen and once the \$300.00 runs out the Association will come up with a way of funding this endeavor.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.



**MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of Executive Council Meeting**  
**Saturday, October 25, 2008, 9:45 am**  
**Holiday Inn, Huntsville, Alabama**

Present were: Kimberly A. Davies	President
Keith F. Durkin	Past-President
Sahadeo Patram	Secretary-Treasurer
Ollie G. Christian	President-Elect
Timothy B. Gongaware	Vice-President-Elect
John Lynxwiler	Editor, Sociological Spectrum
Demond S. Miller	Chair, Committee on Small & Community Colleges
Dana M. Greene	Chair, Committee on Minorities
Tina Deshotels	Chair, Committee on Membership

Not Present were:

Larry D. Hall	Vice-President
Jackie A. Eller	Coordinator, Stanford Lyman Memorial Committee & Chair, Committee on Nominations
Ana-Marie Gonzales Wahl	Chair, Committee on the Profession
Rhonda Evans	Chair, Committee on Women

By Invitation (Incoming Officers)

Jamie P. Baird	Associate Secretary-Treasurer
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**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Dr. Kimberly A. Davies, at 9:45 am on Saturday, October 25, 2008. The President welcomed members to the meeting.

**CARRY OVER BUSINESS FROM MEETING OF OCTOBER 24, 2008.**

The correct title of the book award should be referenced by looking at minutes from the past.

Please remember to send your reports to the Sec./Treas. electronically and have hard copies available at the meeting for committee members.

We have agreed to tentatively appoint John Lynxwiler as editor of Spectrum and he will receive a letter from the President of MSSA. He will take this letter to his dept. to see about getting institutional support financially and his new term will begin 1/1/10. There was also agreement that MSSA will support him if he can't get institutional funds.

Registration by credit card would cost \$.30 per transaction and 2.9%. The process would be 2-steps; it would be more expensive to have it in one step. Also, we would have to set up website standards. To use as a reference go to the Alabama/Mississippi Association's website at [www.a-msa.org](http://www.a-msa.org). Information will be presented in detail at the winter meeting and we will vote on this process of credit card registration.

In reference to Forum:

\*If we go with a blog system that is free, there will be advertisers that we have no control over

\*We could change the shell of the MSSA website and purchase a pkg., but this is pricey

\*Tim is willing to set up things to have a blog & Dana will work with him on Forum

There was a general consensus to ask Sara Neuenschwander to be the non-voting student as a member of the Executive Council. Kim is to contact Sara.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

We should have the General business meeting on Friday before the president's reception. That will allow the current president to preside over the meeting on Wed. & Fri. The official passing of the gavel will occur at this business meeting. All reports will be given at this meeting and will be two (2) minutes long so the meeting will last approx. 30 minutes.

Carl L. Bankston, III was appointed as Chair of the Stan Lyman Distinguished Book Award Committee..

It was suggested something special be done next year to mark the 35<sup>th</sup> year of MSSA.

Also, suggestions made about awards given out for those that have given meritorious service. Then everyone was asked to reference the Operations and Procedures manual were there is an award for Citizen-Sociologist and Distinguished Career.

## **WINTER MEETING 2009**

### **Date and Site**

Date: February 21, 2009  
Site: Hilton Hotel, Lafayette, LA  
1521 W. Pinhook Road  
P.O. Box 52286  
Lafayette, LA 70505-2286  
337-235-6111  
[www.lafayette.hilton.com](http://www.lafayette.hilton.com)

## **ANNUAL MEETINGS: 2009**

### **Dates and Site**

Dates: November 4 – 7, 2009  
Site: Hilton Hotel, Lafayette, LA  
1521 W. Pinhook Road  
P.O. Box 52286  
Lafayette, LA 70505-2286  
337-235-6111  
[www.lafayette.hilton.com](http://www.lafayette.hilton.com)

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.