



**MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**  
**Notes of Executive Council Meeting**  
**Saturday, February 6, 2010, 8:30 am**  
**Crowne Plaza Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

Present were: Ollie G. Christian	President
Jamie P. Baird	Secretary-Treasurer
Roma S. Hanks	President-Elect & Program Chair
Kimberly A. Davies	Past-President & Chair, Budget Committee
Timothy Gongaware	Vice-President, Editor, Forum
David LoConto	Vice-President-Elect
Jackie Eller	Coordinator, Stanford M. Lyman Memorial Scholarship
Obie Clayton, Jr.	Chair, Committee on Minorities, Hotel Negotiator
Rhonda Evans	Chair, Committee on Women
DeMond S. Miller	Chair, Committee on Small & Community College
Tina H. Deshotels	Chair, Committee on Membership
Carl L. Bankston	Chair, Nominations Committee
Thomas Durant, Jr.	Local Arrangements Committee
Guest: Thomas Kersen	
Absent Were: John Lynxwiler	Co-Editor, Sociological Spectrum
David Gay	Chair, Committee on Professions

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by the President Ollie G. Christian at 8:35 am. The President welcomed and thanked the members for attending.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 4, 5 & 7 2009**

The minutes of November 4, 5 & 7, 2009 were approved as corrected.

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Report from the President**

The president, Dr. Ollie G. Christian appreciated the support of the Executive Council, MSSA members as well as founding members of MSSA.

Dr. Christian introduced Dr. Kersen to the Executive Council. She stated that the organization needed to consider having a historian. Dr. Kersen is a Professor of Sociology at Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi.

Goals for 2010 are:

1. Fundraising must be a major priority.
2. Continue to focus on building membership, especially student membership.
3. Building relationships with other cognate organizations.
4. Increase awareness of international issues such as health care and health disparities.
5. Program Participants should become members of the organization.
6. Investigate and record the history of MSSA.

The report was accepted.

#### **Report from the Past-President**

The Past-President, Dr. Kimberly A. Davies, reported. The Georgia Sociological Association will get back with her on combining meetings. Also, she will follow-up with other organizations on collaboration.

The report was accepted.

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

The Vice-President, Dr. Timothy Gongaware, informed Council that he has a letter that he will send to graduate school directors in our region. Also have a time called Meet & Mentor (not a reception) this is a time for students to really get to talk with professors. If money is raised then there could be an opportunity for students to attend the meeting and rooms be paid for, a first come, first serve basis.

The report was accepted.

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

The Vice-President-Elect, Dr. David LoConto, reported

- A. Advertisement will be sent out with the next edition of MSSA Forum
- B. Advertisement will also be emailed to targeted sociology programs in 10 southern states. Names are being gathered by undergraduate students at Jacksonville State University for email.
- C. Targeted schools include schools in Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina.
- D. I currently have four undergraduate students identifying sociologists at universities and colleges in these 10 states. The goal is to create an updated potential membership list for the Membership Committee, and also for Dr. Hanks to access for email solicitation to attend the MSSA in Baton Rouge. They are to have their lists to me on February 4, 2010.
- E. Beginning in early March, the students will begin conducting telephone interviews with sociologists in these 10 states to ascertain reasons why they attend some conferences, while not others.
- F. Their findings should be reported next Fall in Baton Rouge.

The report was accepted.

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

- Announced Dr. Larry Hall Brain Cancer – 4 stage, has had surgery and is seeking treatment, will send information out about caring bridge
- Program report is set to be sent out via email
- Dr. Thomas Durant, Jr. is Local Arrangement Chair and has a wonderful committee

- Letters are out for a speaker (Dr. Ruffin) or (Dr. Tabon)
- From the Field Workshops – a. Attract community partners, b. Bringing in individuals to talk about being community partners
- Not trying to be a medical conference, but trying to increase audience
- Draw in Social Workers as well as Criminal Justice individuals

The report was accepted.

### **Report from the Secretary-Treasurer**

The Secretary-Treasurer, Ms. Jamie P. Baird, circulated a financial report for fiscal year 2009, budget analysis for 2009, Balance Sheet as of December 2009, Income and expenditure for fiscal year 2009, and Budget for fiscal year 2010. The Association has faced financial hardships due to the economy. Total assets at the end of 2009 were \$93,606.66. The assets were held in 7 different accounts. The major portion of assets was in the Operating Fund CD Account (\$37,970.94) and in the Stanford Lyman CD Account (44,392.19). The Income and Expenditure Statement for 2009 showed Income at \$31,041.60 and Expenditure at \$31,233.05. Realized ordinary net income for 2009 was \$(191.45).

The Secretary-Treasurer informed Council, on the basis of the projected budget for 2010 that expenditure would exceed income by approximately \$5, 100.00. This was because the budget was produced conservatively due to the economy and budget cuts at our member institutions. The deficit could grow if participation and registration in Baton Rouge doesn't meet levels from the past, even with contract adjustments made with the hotel.

The report was accepted.

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

The Editor, *Sociological Spectrum*, Dr. John Lynxwiler submitted notes on *Sociological Spectrum* for production year 2009. Seventy-five manuscripts were processed with the following outcomes: 10 accepted for publication, 19 outstanding revise and resubmit, 31 rejections, and 15 under review. Excluding the special issue manuscript, the submission rate for the journal in 2009 was up quite a bit (75 vs. 51) while the acceptance rate (13% vs. 23%) was down. Hence, when 2008 is compared to 2009, *Spectrum* appears to be more popular as well as more selective, and both of these points are viewed as positive by Taylor & Francis. Lauren Rowland is managing editor.

The report was accepted.

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

1. Winter 2010 *Forum* is nearly complete
  - a. Includes letter from President, list of deadlines, calls for competitions, note from *Spectrum*, and list of officers.
  - b. Since it hasn't been sent out yet, if others have something they'd like to include it needs to be to me by Monday, February 8.
  - c. Waiting on details of the call for session organizers for the conference and then will send copy to Jamie to send to members and will send a copy out via the listserv.
2. Call needs to be sent out from the Executive Committee requesting nominations to the committee for a new Forum Editor.
  - a. Their term would begin following the Fall conference.

The report was accepted.

### **Report from the Coordinator, The Stanford Lyman Memorial Scholarship**

1. An announcement was sent to all PhD program directors in the MSSA member states. The notice to them also included a list of the past three recipients. I will send the announcement again the end of the semester and the first of August.
2. Add past recipients of SLM Scholarship to the list serve and membership list
3. A Proposal will be put together that will reference an increase in the scholarship to \$1,500 and this will give the opportunity for the winner to come to the annual meeting and presenting.

The report was accepted.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Budget Committee Report**

The Chair of the Budget Committee, Dr. Kimberly A. Davies gave the report about the books of the Association. The books were in order.

The report was accepted.

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

The Chair, Committee on the Profession, Dr. David Gay was not present. No report was submitted.

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

The Chair Committee on Women, Dr. Rhonda Evans, reported:

The 2009 Women's Luncheon was widely attended, with approximately 25 people present. Considering the low overall attendance at this year's conference, this was a fairly good turn out.

Below is a slate of nominees to be supported by the Women's Caucus in the 2010 MSSA election. This list of nominees was given to the Chair of the Nominations Committee, Dr. Carl Bankston III. The slate of nominees proposed and supported by the Committee on Women and Women's Caucus is as follows:

President Elect:	Earl Wright
Vice President Elect:	Ruth Chananine-Hill
Chair of the Committee on Women:	JoAnne DeRouen
Chair of the Committee on Small and Community Colleges:	Claudia Hall-Elston
Chair of the Committee on Professions:	Lorraine Evans

Jackie Eller and Kim Davies discussed proposing a special edited volume for Sociological Spectrum on Gender/Women's Issues and asked for suggestions from the group. Some of the topics that were proposed were women and health issues, women in public policy. There was a brief discussion regarding how specific or general the proposal should be. They noted that they appreciated and would consider the suggestions of the group.

The report was accepted.

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

The Chair, Committee on Minorities, Dr. Obie Clayton, Jr. reported.

1. There was a letter sent out November 2009 to individuals in the membership that are minorities about our membership status.
2. There is a concerted effort to reach out to HBCUs
3. We need to connect to Tennessee State and Fisk

The report was accepted.

#### **Report from the Chair, Small & Community Colleges**

The Chair, Dr. DeMond Miller reported:

1. Small & Community Colleges will be hosting 2 sessions at the Annual mtg.
2. Oklahoma has really become involved in the Assn.
3. Doesn't think CEUs are worth what we would have to go through
4. Roma & Obie suggested contacting schools of Public Health & Social Work and there could be a possibility of CEUs

The report was accepted.

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

The Membership Committee has several plans for action to increase membership and participation in the MSSA this year. We are continuing our work to compile a list of potential members in our respective states. When we receive a call for session organizers we will then send this to our contacts.

We are also interested in doing an assessment survey to ascertain the level of participation, what facilitates participation and blocks to participation. This survey would begin with emails, and then progress to mailings and phone calls. These strategies will take place in conjunction with the emailing and mailing of calls for papers. We hope to also send a copy of Forum to each member and ask that each department post a copy of the flyer on their bulletin boards and encourage their faculty and students to attend.

I would like to recognize Dr. David LoConto who is working to help with the compilation of potential members as well as administer surveys.

We plan to continue to target current members in our efforts. We recognize our current members as the backbone of the organization. We are sending them flyers and asking that they help encourage participation and attendance.

Our strategy entailed using email lists, address lists, letters, phone calls and personal contacts to further the goal of maintaining and increasing membership.

The report was accepted.

#### **Report from the Chair Committee on Nominations**

The Chair, Committee on Nominations, Dr. Carl L. Bankston, III, reported:

The Nominations Committee has sought nominations by sending out general calls to the list serve and by contacting specific individuals to ask for nominations. Although we did get nominations for the major offices (president and vice president), nominations for committee chairs have been much slower and fewer in number. Moreover, nominations so far have resulted most often either in failures to respond by the nominees or in an unwillingness to stand for office. The problem has been exacerbated by the fact that some members have been repeatedly nominated for an office, and have declined to run.

We currently have at least one candidate who has agreed to run for each of the offices. I would prefer to submit the names of the current candidates informally to the Winter Meeting at this point because we are still attempting to complete a full ballot. I hope to have this task done by the end of the current month (February). That will still leave us plenty of time to hold an election.

There is one (1) candidate for President and one (1) in the works that was a Past-President. The list of nominations will be double checked to make sure there are none from the Nominations Committee. Jamie will check nominees to make sure they are current members.

The report was accepted.

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

The Chair, Site Selection Committee, Dr. Kimberly Davies deferred Site Selection to Obie Clayton the hotel negotiator.

#### **AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **Report from the chair, Local Arrangements Committee**

The Chair, Local Arrangements Committee, Dr. Thomas Durant, Jr., reported:

There was a brief report from Karen Alford who is with the Baton Rouge Convention & Visitors Bureau, which gave us information on what they could offer during the annual meeting:

- Host/Hostess for eight (8) hrs. during the conference
- Email blast about the meeting
- Name badges - \$.15 for pin, \$.31 for clip and \$1.00 for around the neck

Also, the committee for Local Arrangements has been formed.

The report was accepted.

##### **Report for the Hotel Contract Negotiator**

The Hotel Contract Negotiator, Dr. Obie Clayton, Jr., reported:

The written report was sent for your review. Also, there was a meeting with the Crowne Plaza to negotiate reducing obligations that the Assn. has for the October meeting. The results of negotiations are as follows:

- The room night obligation was reduced from 375 to 190 and the price of the room nights went from \$101 to \$115 a night + 13% tax and energy surcharge of \$4.95 a night.
- The Food & Beverage obligation went from \$12,500 to \$6,000 for the meeting
- The meeting room space has been reduced from nine (9) to six (6)

The new contract will be sent to me and I will sign the new contract.

Patram and I will go over the Little Rock contract again to see if there is any way for us to reduce the obligations in that contract. Also, it is recommended that we do not negotiate any other hotel contracts past the years we are already obligated.

The report was accepted.

##### **Report for the Stan Lyman Distinguished Book Award**

The coordinator is Thomas Durant, Jr..

##### **Report for the MSSA surveys**

The Chair, MSSA surveys, Dr. Mark Konty, was not present. No report was submitted.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- A.** Website update: Tim agrees to update, but there needs to be a place to host domain. David L. will check with a student about designing a website. Tim will talk with David Witt 1<sup>st</sup> about redesign and about updating website, If David doesn't want to update or redesign then check on a student doing the work. There was a motion made and second about paying a student \$250.00 to do the work.
- B.** The suggestion for the EC meetings is to have the meeting on the Wed. of the conference from 2pm-5pm and invite the new officers. Then we would meet on Sat. from 10am-12pm.
- C.** Dr. Thomas Kersen – Jackson State University, combine duties of archivist with historian to get the history of MSSA. There are MSSA records at UL-Monroe. The historian would be an Ad Hoc position; there was a motion made and second. Tina Deshotels would like to do the interview with S. Brabant. Check in the minutes and program from 2000 or 2001 to get some history of Women's involvement in the Assn.
- D.** The Forum – Dana Greene will be emailed to see if she is still interested in taking over the responsibilities of the Forum, if not then there will be a call put in the Forum.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- A.** There needs to be a chair (Ad Hoc) for the student scholarship fund. There was a nomination for Thomas Calhoun. Dr. Clayton will call Tom.
- B.** The Local Arrangement committee is in charge of entertainment (e.g. band).
- C.** There needs to be changes made to the wording in the OPM about electronic voting. Tim Gongaware will work on that and send out to the EC.
- D.** Ollie will send out the student letter
- E.** Tim will send out a letter to Graduate program directors
- F.** Roma will come up with the email blast for the visitors bureau and a call for papers, Tim will send out meeting information in the Forum
- G.** There needs to be a query done on current membership for Ollie and a query on membership 2003-present sent to Tina.

**The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.**