



**MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of the Executive Council Fall Meetings**  
**Wednesday, October 23, 2013, 3pm**  
**Holiday Inn: Atlanta Capitol Conference Center, Atlanta, GA**

**Wednesday, October 23, 2013, 3pm**

Present:	Earl Wright II	President
	Tim Gongaware	President-Elect
	Ruth Chananie	Secretary-Treasurer
	Jackie Eller	Chair, Committee on the Profession
	Brian Hinote	Co-Editor, Spectrum
	Katie Worman-Ross	Chair, Committee on Women
	Claire Norris	Chair, Committee on Small & Community Colleges
	Dennis Peck	Hotel Negotiator
	David LoConto	Incoming Chair, Stan Lyman Book Award Committee
	Anita Bledsoe-Gardner	Incoming President-Elect

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by President Earl Wright II at 3:10pm

Ruth passed around copies of committee reports and mid-year meeting minutes. **MOTION** to accept Minutes from Mid-Year Meetings February 2013 as is:

- **M/S/P**

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Past President's Report:** (Past President Mark Konty, not present, see attached report)

- *The report was accepted*

**President's Report:** (President Earl Wright II presented)

- We have come a long way in terms of financial recovery but still have work to do. We are on an upward trajectory.
- Discussion on whether or not to conduct financial audit
  - Possibly a waste of time and money because our loss was a "small amount" in terms of corporate cases
  - However, the EC did approve an audit up to 10k at the mid-year meetings
  - Tim suggested we hire an accountant
  - Brian suggested we need to verify costs before acting

- Jackie offered a friendly amendment to the audit costs – **MOTION** to cap audit costs to 5k **M/S/P**
- Earl said we need to file for 501c3 reinstatement and that he would take care of it
- Earl also said he would look into getting legal insurance – **MOTION** to obtain legal insurance **M/S/P**
- Earl will update EC on progress of 501c3 and legal insurance
- *The report was accepted*

**Secretary-Treasurer’s Report:** (Sec-Treas. Ruth Chanane presented, see attached report)

- Tim: we are doing better but still needs work. A semi-healthy regional organization should have about 200-250k in reserves.
- Earl said that membership growth is key to success, especially through small and community colleges.
  - *The report was accepted*

**Program Committee Report:** (President-Elect Tim Gongaware presented, see attached report)

- *The report was accepted*

**Committee on the Profession Report:** (Jackie Eller presented, see attached report)

- Goals include looking at ethics statement and Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE) for possible revisions
- Committee to meet Thursday evening here at conference
- Possibility that committee should poll membership to see if any issues our membership is concerned with that are not being addressed
- Should re-visit the committee’s duties
  - *The report was accepted*

**Committee on Women Report:** (Katie Worman-Ross presented)

- The special issue was published although there is concern with the lack of race analysis
- Brian says we need focused, timely topical special issues
- Will address this issue at caucus meeting
- Katie also wants to work on revising mission statement and organizing a mentoring session/panel for next year
  - *The report was accepted*

**Committee on Minorities:** (Tom Calhoun not present, no report)

**Committee on Small & Community Colleges:** (Claire Norris presented, see attached report)

- Wants to brainstorm about funding conference attendees from small & community colleges, who are often underfunded in terms of travel reimbursement
- Should emphasize/invite junior faculty especially. Perhaps a research session just for jr. faculty
  - *The report was accepted*

**Committee on Membership:** (Carl Bankston not present, no report)

**Committee on Nominations:** (Nicole Carr not present, see attached report)

- *The report was accepted*

**Spectrum Editors' Report** (Brian Hinote presented, see attached report)

- Brian met with Taylor & Francis marketing reps at ASA – they were cooperative.
- The editors are working to raise Spectrum's profile.
- Spectrum has converted to online only submissions.
- Brian encourages the membership to register as a reviewer – see Spectrum website: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/sociologicalspectrum>
- Ruth is to send the editors a membership database with specialties for their use in identifying reviewers
  - o *The report was accepted*

**Webmaster and Forum Editor's report** (Tina Deshotels not present, no report)

**Stanford Lyman Scholarship Committee Report** (David Knottnerus not present, see attached report)

- o *The report was accepted*

**Hotel Negotiator Report** (Dennis Peck presented)

- EC members thanked Dennis for doing an outstanding job as negotiator and expressed their appreciation for his efforts.
- Dennis said he travelled to several locations to renegotiate contracts, which was difficult but so far successful.
  - o *The report was accepted*

**Stanford Lyman Distinguished Book Award Report** (David LoConto and Dennis Peck presented, see attached report)

- Revisions to the OPM were submitted and discussed (see attached).
- Jackie made a **MOTION** to amend criteria #6 to read "To be eligible for the award, **at least one author** must hold current membership....." **M/S/P**
  - o *The report was accepted*

There was no further old or new business. Meeting adjourned at 5:20pm.



**MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of the Executive Council Fall Meetings**  
**Saturday, October 26, 2013, 12pm**  
**Holiday Inn: Atlanta Capitol Conference Center, Atlanta, GA**

**Saturday, October 26, 2013, 12pm**

Present:	Tim Gongaware	President
	Anita Bledsoe-Gardner	President-Elect
	Ruth Chanie	Secretary-Treasurer
	Shelly McGrath	Vice President-Elect
	Jackie Eller	Chair, Committee on the Profession
	Katie Worman-Ross	Chair, Committee on Women
	Claire Norris	Chair, Committee on Small & Community Colleges
	Dennis Peck	Hotel Negotiator
	David LoConto	Chair, Stan Lyman Book Award Committee
	Vivian Carter	Chair, Committee on Minorities
	Theresa Davidson	Chair, Committee on Membership
	Meredith Dye	Chair, Nominations Committee
	Marc Matre	Chair, Local Arrangements Committee (Mobile)

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by President Tim Gongaware at 12:10pm

**Secretary-Treasurer's Report:** (Sec-Treas. Ruth Chanie presented, see below for final report)

- Preliminary report: 94 students, 145 faculty, total registered 239. \$17,245 (FUZZY) \$7000 membership, \$800 to AKD, \$630 MSSA contributions... ~\$26000.....after \$404.91 final hotel bill. Deposited, from conference location \$3975.
- Sec-Treas. made bank register available to EC to view.
  - o *The report was accepted*
- **UPDATED FINAL CONFERENCE NUMBERS, as of 12/11/2013:**
  - o 243 MSSA Registrations (including 1 complementary for Robert Benford, plenary speaker) = \$17,285
    - 138 faculty/emeritus
    - 94 students
    - 11 other (joint, independent, non-academic)
  - o 32 AKD Symposium Registrations = \$780 (to go to AKD)
  - o 196 paid 2014 members (several payments still expected) + 5 paid 2013 new members (to receive back issues) = \$7,195

- 196 new 2014 members breakdown:
      - 123 faculty/emeritus
      - 62 students
      - 11 other
  - MSSA Contributions:
    - \$780 General MSSA Fund
    - \$135 Minority Fund
    - \$ 85 Stan Lyman Scholarship Fund
  - Sponsorships for Breakfasts, President's and Welcoming Receptions, Advertisement revenues, and Bonilla-Silva contribution to Stan Lyman Fund = \$8,300
  - Total monies collected from registrations, memberships, and contributions = \$35,560
  - *Sec-Treasurer will provide a full and separate accounting of expenses and revenues at the 2014 Mid-Year meetings as well as a projected 2014 budget.* Meanwhile, here are the bank balances as of 12/11/2013:
    - Checking: \$30,662.20
    - Savings: \$31,010.35

**Past President's Report:** (President Tim Gongaware, presented for Past President Earl Wright II)

- Tim gave Earl's report on our 5013c status and obtaining legal insurance (Earl will work on these)
- Also, Tim will try to renegotiate our contract with Taylor & Francis, hopefully to get member subscriptions for no cost
  - *The report was accepted*

**President's Report:** (President Tim Gongaware presented)

- Discussion of strengths and weaknesses of conference. Conference a success overall, with the main weaknesses being lack of or sporadic wireless internet access and the physical isolation of the hotel from places to eat and shop.
- Claire remarked that the isolation increased conference participation, but David remarked that people were gone for several hours if they did leave the hotel.
- Jackie reported that some students who shared rooms had problems getting receipts in their name and in the right amounts for travel reimbursement. If we cannot avoid this with future hotel sites, then we need to make the payment method very explicit on our registration forms.
- All agreed that the breakfasts were a success, and we should continue offering them, as long as we offset the costs with sponsorships (they are expensive).
- The Mississippi State party was a success, and Nicole Radar will organize again next year.
- Other matters:
  - David will look at old programs to compile a list of past Distinguished Career Award Winners. If anyone has suggestions for next year, please contact Tim.
  - Marc Matre offered to put together archived historical records of MSSA. He is going down to the Univ. of Louisiana-Monroe in December to look at records, and then in the summer he will go through them, to create a skeleton of what happened. He will also be asking other members for records, etc.
  - *The report was accepted*

**Vice President's Report:** (Vice-President Jon Epstein, not present, no report)

- Note: Winner of the Graduate Student Paper Award for 2013 was Brett Lehman, Louisiana State University, for "Gender Differences in Bullying Victimization: The Role of Academics and School Context."

**Vice President Elect's Report:** (Vice-President Elect Shelly McGrath presented)

- Note: The winner of the Undergraduate Student Paper Award for 2013 was Taylor Bandler, Samford University, for "Obedience vs. Autonomy in Children: A Study of Religious Influence Theory"
- Shelly will tap into former grad school friends who are at smaller schools to get their students to submit. She will also reach out beyond the mid-south area.
  - o *The report was accepted*

**UPDATES FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Stanford Lyman Distinguished Book Award:** (David LoConto presented, see attached updated second report)

- David said the call for book award nominations should be send out widely – beyond the MSSA membership list.
- Dennis said we need to establish an award template, and David and Tim said they would work on developing one.

**Committee on Women:** (Katie Worman-Ross presented)

- To address the lack of racial diversity in the latest special issue of Spectrum, there should be a new special issue emphasizing intersectionality. This should be done in conjunction with the minority caucus.
- The Women's Caucus will develop a facebook group for mentoring, work on revising the mission statement, and discuss updating the name of the caucus to encompass women, gender, and sexuality.
- Jackie pointed out that these updates will have to go to the membership for discussion as per constitution rules.

**Committee on Minorities:** (Vivian Carter presented)

- The Minorities Caucus needs to reach out to Tribal and Hispanic colleges in addition to HBCUs and to identify issues related to these kinds of institutions. Need to establish collaborations across institutions and disciplines.
- The caucus will be revisiting the mission statement.

**Committee on Small & Community Colleges:** (Claire Norris presented)

- Had jr. faculty/grad student session but only grad students attended
- Need funds for student travel and perhaps a buddy system to connect hotel roommates to share costs
- The conference food was excellent, as was the student encouragement from faculty members
- Need to more clearly define what qualifies as small and community colleges (also on the registration form), and reach out more to them. Also need to develop a more comprehensive list of such institutions.

**Committee on the Profession:** (Jackie Eller presented)

- The committee met Thursday, and came up with 5 goals (see attached report)
  - o evaluate and update the committee description.
  - o reconsider code of ethics/timeline/sanctions
  - o ethics statements from regional associations and contact ASA on COPE v. Committee Professions
  - o poll members about potential problems not being addressed
  - o Brief session each year to make sure members of exec council are up to date on procedures

**Committee on Membership:** (Theresa Davidson presented)

- Carl Bankston is to continue managing the MSSA email listserv
- membership - cost issue, what are some ways to decrease cost for people
- reach out to online colleges
- reach out to social science and public health departments and orgs
- Theresa and Claire will work on twitter.
- Need to expand MSSA Facebook group.

**Committee on Nominations:** (Meredith Dye presented)

- Passing out the nominations forms at the banquet was a good idea...should keep doing that
- Kim Davies will continue to oversee the online election process
- Need to get a nominations committee together.
- Need to revisit timeline for nominations and elections

**Hotel Negotiator** (Dennis Peck presented)

- First contract renegotiated was the Atlanta Holiday Inn for this year (2013), with lowered room nights and lower food & bev costs.
- Second contract renegotiated was Mobile for 2012 with significant cost savings.
- Next one was the 2014 Mobile contract (Renaissance): For 2014 down to 275 room nights from 340 (15% attrition allowable). increased breakout rooms 6-8, went down on F&B but to 10600 (down from 12000)
- For 2015: Hilton in Lafayette, also negotiated down. Renegotiation wasn't easy, went to them hat in hand, but went there looking for what would be in favor of organization.
- 2016:
  - o Will provide a number of proposals submitted to a committee to make decision. Need latitude and has taken it. Recommend not making a decision until mid-year meeting....contracts slow coming in for a variety of reasons. cities:
    - Memphis, TN
    - Chattanooga, TN
    - Jackson, MS
    - Savannah, GA
    - Charleston, SC
- Suggests program committee of three, comprised of past presidents - look into how to do that in the bylaws and make it an action item at mid-year.
  - o Need to be able to play the hotels off of each other
  - o Trying to lock in third or fourth weeks of October.

- David L. stated that he felt that given the trend toward the majority of papers coming in after classes begin in the Fall, that we should be clear not to have the conference beginning before October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Dennis said he wanted to make sure the meetings were between the middle and end of October, and that Mobile was one week too late in 2014.

**2014 Program Report:** (President-Elect Anita Bledsoe-Gardner presented)

- Needs suggestions for securing funding/advertisements/sponsors
  - Perhaps pursue corporate sponsorships (including Wells Fargo)
  - Ask for sponsored ad from each EC member's institution
- Marc Matre volunteered to chair the Local Arrangements Committee in Mobile
  - Marc to contact local businesses to sponsor
- Need to increase membership, especially with small and community colleges, former members, practitioners, and non-traditional institutions (our niche areas)
- Think about offering institutional memberships
- Will call for session organizers early

**New Business:**

- Ruth and Tim to gather information and implement online registration payment
  - **MOTION** to give them carte blanche to get it done **M/S/P**
- Registration form needs to be updated.
  - Ruth will do new form with categories.
  - We need to consider other conference registration structures
    - Tim MSS, David PSA, Meredith SSS, Vivian ESS, Shelly NCSA
    - Will send forms to Tim
    - Discussion was tabled until further information is gathered.
- The Mid-Year meetings will be Feb. 15 at the Mobile Renaissance
  - Ruth will contact Karyl Hanish to verify arrangements (our contact).

Meeting adjourned at 2:40pm.

End of Report.