

Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature  
Business Meeting  
Saturday, May 13, 2006

President Jim Seaton opened the meeting.

*MidAmerica* and *Midwestern Miscellany* will be up to date in a matter of weeks. *MidAmerica* 2004 is now in the SSML office awaiting mailing. *MidAmerica* 2005 is now under peer review. Spring and fall 2005 issues of *Midwestern Miscellany* are at the printers, having been corrected through first and second proofs. Future *Midwestern Miscellany* issue editors and topics have been selected. The Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature owes Marcia Noe a great debt for moving these forward.

SSML has borrowed from its endowment in getting out multiple volumes in one year. We expect to recoup these costs from subscribing libraries as they receive their back issues.

Only the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award was awarded in 2005. Clare van Breemen Downes received the prize for the poem "Lost Luggage." The Paul Somers and Midwestern Heritage Awards were not awarded for 2005. All are encouraged to submit critical papers and creative writing for SSML prizes. People considering 2006 submissions should get them to Marilyn Atlas by June 15, 2006.

Marilyn Atlas is setting up M/MLA and MLA panels. Contact her about papers or panels.

Ned Watts reported on the Ohio University Midwestern Heritage Book Publication Prize. The book receiving the 2005 prize was William Barillas' *The Midwestern Pastoral*. All SSML members with single-author critical manuscripts of book length are invited to submit them to Ned Watts for consideration.

Mary Obuchowski expressed her thanks for the strong submissions for 2006.

All are asked to recruit students and others to SSML and to use the annual bibliography for recruiting.

Laura Julier is developing an SSML web presence. It will be capable of showing conference programs, calls for papers, bibliographies, databases of *MidAmerica* and *Midwestern Miscellany* titles and volumes, a mission statement (suggested below), links to the *Dictionary of Midwestern Literature*, and to other literary organizations and events. Member suggestions are requested on what the web site should include. Please send your suggestions to her at [julier@msu.edu](mailto:julier@msu.edu).

The suggested mission statement is: "The Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature is an organization that provides support wherever the interest and the imagination of its members may lead."

A logo will provide a similar look for all SSML documents and publications.

The membership voted and approved the slate of candidates proposed by the Executive Council:

Vice President/President Elect	Nancy McKinney
Executive Council	Jayne Waterman
	Christian Knoeller

Ten student scholarships were awarded for the 2006 SSML conference. Six of these received money in addition to conference attendance and banquet tickets. The membership approved the Executive Council's recommendation that, for 2007, student scholarships be limited to free conference registration and a free banquet ticket.

The membership approved the Executive Council's recommendation that the call for proposals for SSML 2007 use the following conference title:

The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature  
Writing the Midwest: A Symposium of Scholars, Poets, Writers, and Filmmakers

For 2007 and future years, individual members are invited to propose topics and solicit presenters for panels on single Midwestern writers or topics. Members should coordinate their efforts with program chair Mary Obuchowski.

The Midwestern Film Festival will be moved into normal conference program slots. It will not be held on Thursday evening.

2007 SSML conference dates will be May 10-11-12, 2007. The first call for papers will have a deadline of December 1, 2006. The second call deadline will be March 1, 2007. Postings will also be available on the SSML website.

The 2005 and all subsequent *MidAmerica* volumes will carry the following statement on the inside cover. "*MidAmerica* is a peer-reviewed journal of the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature."

The annual bibliography of Midwestern Literature will be used as a basis for recruiting members, particularly among those completing dissertations on topics in Midwestern literature. Forty-eight relevant dissertations were completed in 2005. All SSML members are encouraged to actively recruit students and others for SSML.

The Society will create a mentoring system to aid members seeking positions, tenure track positions, preparing for tenure. John Rohrkemper will coordinate this mentoring program. Christian Knoeller will work with John. They will prepare a list of people interested and willing to help.

Mary Obuchowski will further update the SSML brochure. Marilyn will take 40 copies to M/MLA and 50 or more copies to MLA.

The Society will put SSML conference information on the Penn "Call for Papers" website.

Marc Van Wormer received a special award for service to the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature.

The meeting adjourned.  
Philip Greasley, recording secretary