

Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature
Minutes from the General Membership Meeting
Saturday, May 10, 2014

Incoming President Scott Emmert called the meeting to order.

President Emmert identified two individuals nominated by the Executive Advisory Council for three-year terms on that Council: Mary Minock; Andy Oler.

There were no nominations from the floor. The existing nominations were approved unanimously.

Scott Emmert reported that the Executive Advisory Council had nominated Dawn Comer for the position as President Elect, succeeding Scott Emmert as President.

There were no nominations from the floor, and the membership elected Dawn Comer by acclamation.

Scott Emmert reported on the deliberations of the Executive Advisory Council.

The Society had a \$15,000 surplus for the past year, but this surplus was based on Dave Anderson's bequest. Without that, the Society would have had a \$15,000+ deficit. We will have to raise SSML membership and/or the conference registration fee next year.

A-V costs are very high. The Society will move to supplying the projector and require that individuals requesting A-V supply their own laptops. The membership approved this idea and recommended that it be in the call for proposals for the 2015 conference.

Student scholarships changed after last year's conference. Student scholarship recipients now get \$25 to \$200 depending on their distance from East Lansing.

Peggy Rozga asked members to work to increase conference attendance to improve the Society's financial situation.

Marcia Noe asked to add a call for donations to SSML to the call for papers.

Members are asked to use and "like" the SSML Facebook page.

Volume Two of the Dictionary of Midwestern Literature is under contract with Indiana University Press. All materials are due not later than March 31, 2015.

Marilyn Atlas is SSML's liaison with MLA and M/MLA. The SSML panel at MLA in Vancouver is set for 2014. Slots remain open for the SSML M/MLA panel on Urban Places in Detroit. One panel has been submitted; SSML could have two panels if there is member interest.

Send Marilyn entries for the SSML poetry, fiction, critical entries, and the student writing prizes.

We will have liaisons with other literary organizations:

ALA—in May in D.C. Sara Kosiba will coordinate.

ASLE—Christian Knoeller will coordinate.

Hemingway Society—Sara will coordinate.

American Culture Association/Pop Culture—Mary Catherine Harper will coordinate.

Author Societies—we will find SSML members to coordinate between SSML and those societies.

Past issues of SSML publications: make e-mail requests for specific issues to Roger Bresnahan.

Project Muse is being looked into.

We expect to hold the SSML conference at the Kellogg Center next year.

Jeff Hotz asked if it would be cheaper to have SSML conference sessions in MSU classrooms. Roger answered that it would, but there would still be an MSU charge for classroom use, and it would involve some walking. Roger also mentioned that all area hotels have an MSU/Big 10 hotel room rate. Mary Catherine Harper commended Kellogg for its comfort and convenience.

Ed Morin suggested that the Society ask people inside and outside SSML to donate to it.

Marcia Noe suggested adding something to the currently envisioned letter seeking donations for DML2, adding something about donations to the Society generally.

Mary Catherine Harper suggested that the Society get a committee together to increase fund-raising. She is willing to be on it, as are Ed Morin and Marcia Noe. The suggestion was made to make Pauline Adams the chair or honorary chair of the committee. A marketing person is needed for the committee.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Phil Greasley, Recording Secretary