

Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature
Business Meeting Minutes
Saturday, May 10, 2008

SSML President Nancy McKinney called the annual business meeting to order.

She reported the discussion and recommendations made at the Executive Committee meeting on Friday, May 9.

She reported that approximately 100 of 130 entries and related elements for Volume Two of the Dictionary of Midwestern Literature have been received and are in the process of revision. She emphasized the importance of finding writers for the Ohio and South Dakota literature entries. If members are interested in writing either of these entries or know of people who are, they should contact Phil Greasley at greasle@email.uky.edu.

Marc Van Wormer reported that the 2008 SSML conference has been very successful. He believes the key is that long-time members have proposed and brought people for panels on specific topics.

It has been proposed that SSML's 40th anniversary be celebrated with a special additional conference—Midwesterners in the City of Light—to occur in October of that year. The May conference will also be held as normal in East Lansing. Christian Knoeller has proposed having a major keynote speaker, like Scott Russell Sanders, at the 40th anniversary conference in East Lansing. He also proposed making the Poetry Festival more prominent in the conference by publishing the Proceedings of the Poetry Festival.

Ken Grant suggested using electronic issues of SSML publications and having an electronic journal aggregator make *MidAmerica* available in a database in return for payment to SSML.

The selection committee for the Mark Twain and MidAmerica Awards will consist of David D. Anderson, Roger Bresnahan, Phil Greasley, and Marcia Noe. All SSML members may nominate people to receive these awards. The deadline for submission of nominations is July 1 of each year, and a rationale should accompany each nomination.

Lawrence Moe reported on the first SSML Mentoring Café. Lawrence, John Rohrkemper, Jayne Waterman, and other faculty participated along with eleven graduate students. They discussed academic and nonacademic job searches and considered the session successful and worth repeating next year.

The members approved the slate of offices/board members proposed by the Executive Committee:

President Elect: Margaret (Peggy) Rozga, University of Wisconsin, Waukesha
Board: Michael Kula, Carroll College
Sara Kosiba, Merrimack College

The meeting adjourned.

Phil Greasley, SSML Recording Secretary