

2015 SSML General Membership Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

President Dawn Comer called the membership meeting into session.

President Comer provided the slate of candidates for SSML president-elect and for the two Executive Advisory Board Members with terms from 2016 to 2019. They are:

Jeff Swenson (Hiram College): president-elect 2016, advancing to president in 2017

Patricia Oman (Hastings College): Executive Advisory Council Member 2016 to 2019

Douglas Sheldon (University of Illinois-Chicago) Executive Advisory Council Member 2016 to 2019

There were no nominations from the floor. All candidates were approved by the membership.

Dawn Comer provided a brief overview of SSML income and expenditures for 2014. The Society loses some money every year, but the 2014 performance was better than the \$6,000+ lost in 2013. SSML also took in over \$100,000 from David D. Anderson's estate and is expected to receive \$25,000 from David Diamond's estate.

Dawn Comer proposed Thursday through Saturday, June 2–4, 2016, at the Kellogg Center as the dates and location for the 2016 conference. Members present at the membership meeting saw no difficulty with those dates and approved the dates.

The *Dictionary of Midwestern Literature* is now officially "in press." All materials (text and images) have been received and approved by Indiana University Press. The volume is expected to be available for sale in spring 2016. Contributors will be able to get 40% discounts at the first sale and thereafter by identifying themselves as contributors to IU Press.

SSML engagement with other organizations, particularly MLA, M/MLA, ALA, and PCA, is going well. Sara Kosiba reported that SSML is attempting to build participation at other organizations' conferences. Marilyn Atlas asked members to write to her if interested in participating at SSML sessions at MLA and M/MLA. If selected for participation, all presenters must be paid members of SSML. She noted that participation in SSML-affiliated organization sessions helps build SSML.

Dawn Comer reported that SSML's Facebook page is phenomenal and is receiving significant hits. The new SSML website, developed by Laura Julier, is also excellent and has much expanded capabilities.

Jon Lauck reported that the Midwestern History Association is reaching out to six organizations, including SSML, seeking individuals to serve on that organization's board.

Marilyn Atlas reported that submissions for the various categories of SSML prizes have not always had sufficient applicants to be awarded. The submission form is on the back of the SSML conference program. The deadline for submission in 2015 is August 1.

Dawn Comer reported that members with recommendations for the Mark Twain or MidAmerica Awards should write to Roger Bresnahan. Recommendations must be received by July 1, 2015.

Because the 2015 conference is later than in past years, the deadline for submission of entries for consideration for *MidAmerica* is July 1, 2015.

Dawn Comer described the Executive Advisory Council to members, saying that the Council looks at the broader picture and issues impacting the Society. Mary Obuchowski told members that if they are interested in service on the Council, they should contact Roger Bresnahan or other SSML board members.

President Comer adjourned the meeting.

Phil Greasley
Recording Secretary