

**Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature**  
**2019 General Membership Business Meeting Minutes**  
May 18, 2019

President Mary Minock called the meeting to order and thanked outgoing President Jeff Hotz for his service to the Society.

President Minock reported that the Executive Advisory Council had nominated two people for the two currently available seats on that body, with three-year terms beginning in 2020. The two nominees are Dan Lockhart and Michelle Campbell. Mary asked if there were additional nominations from the floor. There were none. She called for a vote and both were elected.

Mary told the membership that the Executive Advisory Council had nominated Andy Oler as President Elect of SSML. She asked for additional nominations from the floor. There were none. She called for a vote and Andy was elected by the membership.

Mary briefly described the outcomes of the Executive Advisory Council, starting by reporting that SSML Treasurer Roger Bresnahan had indicated that the Society's finances are in good shape.

Mary asked for reactions to this year's conference. Responses indicated the feeling that this year's conference was very good and very successful. She thanked Sara Kosiba and Laura Julier for their hard work. This year's conference expanded the number of panels and increased the number of people attending. Six panels covered the work of Bonnie Jo Campbell.

Marcia Noe reported that SSML's journals are in good shape and out on time.

Andy Oler reported on the new David D. Anderson Award. The award is the outcome of two years of consideration by the Executive Advisory Council and work by the committee. Andy said that the first award and SSML session went very well, with SSML members and the twenty nominees for the award impressed, excited, and well pleased. Forty-seven people attended the D. D. Anderson award session. The outside judge, Lisa Wilson, was an excellent addition to the selection committee. Plans are already set for the second year of the award. The hope is that the winner and others will return to the SSML conference in future years.

Notification of the second year of the award will come out on the SSML website, Facebook, and the SSML post-conference email. Members are invited to nominate excellent articles relating to Midwestern literature and published in 2019 in paper or electronic journals. Nominations must be received by November 30, 2019. Articles published in *MidAmerica* and *Midwestern Miscellany* are not eligible, but articles published elsewhere by SSML members are eligible.

Committee member terms are staggered three-year terms. Andy will name the committee soon. Any SSML members interested in serving on the committee should contact Andy. Committee work will be done by email and/or Google Docs.

Marilyn Atlas reported on the four SSML writing prizes. She thanked the judges and emphasized the August 1, 2019 deadline for submission of papers presented at the conference for consideration for this year's prizes. Marilyn said that anyone interested in serving as a judge should contact her.

Marilyn advised anyone wishing to be considered for the prizes to clean up their SSML presentations and get them to her. She indicated that submissions for the prizes are going electronic. She asked all to send their submissions to her and to see the information in this year's SSML conference program.

Marilyn reported that the MLA and M/MLA sessions are going well. She invited all interested in presenting papers in these venues to contact her.

Sara Kosiba is the SSML liaison for the ALA and the Midwestern History Association. She reported that the ALA session is now set but that she is still working on the Midwestern History Association panel.

It was announced that Marc Van Wormer, a long-time SSML stalwart, passed away this past fall.

Sara Kosiba talked about the upcoming fiftieth SSML conference in Chicago in 2020. The conference will be held at the Newberry Library. She reported working with two hotels, the Talbott, 1 – 2 blocks from the Newberry Library, and the Raffaello, 5 – 6 blocks away, the latter with limited rooms available at a significant discount. Sara is working on a special session on the Newberry collections. The Newberry has a website and Sara invited SSML members to look at it and send Andy Oler information on specific things they would like to see. He will attempt to get those items included in the session. The call for papers will go out early this fall.

Sara is also looking for items for the SSML member newsletter. Send material, including your recent and upcoming publications and presentations to Sara for inclusion there.

SSML members should contact Laura Julier to propose a panel for Chicago. The paper proposal submission deadline is January 1, 2020. That is a firm deadline.

Andy Oler announced that he will have a new book out in a few weeks. Flyers on it, with discount coupons, are available in the book sales room.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Phil Greasley, Recording Secretary