

Mid South Educational Research Association
Wynfrey Hotel
Birmingham, AL
March 31-April 1, 2006
Spring Board Meeting Minutes

(Bold Font = Members Present for part or all of the meeting)

Welcome-**Gahan Bailey**
Introductions-Everyone
Review of Minutes-**Linda Kondrick**
President's Comments-**Gahan Bailey**
Past President's Comments-**Jane Nell Luster**
Executive Secretary Report-**John Petry**
Constitution & Bylaws-**Harry Bowman**
Treasurer's Report-**Dennis Zuelke**
Budget Advisory Report-**Jane Nell Luster**
Development Committee-Laurie Leonard
Evaluation Committee-**Randy Parker & Edward Shaw**
Archives & Website-David Morse
Proceedings-**John Petry**
MSERA Mentors-Linda Morse
Graduate Students Advisory-Pam Broadston & Sherry Shaw
Membership-Michael Ross
Publications & Communications-Rob Kennedy
Research in the Schools-**Larry Daniel & Claribel Torres**
Researcher-Lynn Howerton & **Mary Jane Bradley**
MSER Foundation-Rob Kennedy
Ad Hoc – Technology-**Cliff Hofwolt**
Ad Hoc – Exhibits/Vendors-**Julie Holmes**
Nominations -**Jane Nell Luster**
Future Site-**Bill Person**
Local Arrangements 2007-**Linda Kondrick**
Local Arrangements 2006-**Richard Littleton & Gypsy Abbott**
Program Committee 2006-**Donna Herring**
Alabama Representative-**Rebecca Giles**
Arkansas Representative-Sherry Shaw
Kentucky Representative-**Mary O'Phelan**
Louisiana Representative-**Randy Parker**
Mississippi Representative-**Dana Thames**
Tennessee Representative-**Patrick Kariuki**
SDE/LEA-Laura Boudreaux Pitre
At-Large Representative-**Edward Shaw**
At-Large Representative-**Julie Holmes**
At-Large Representative-**Dianne Richardson**
At-Large Representative-Jack Klotz

LERA Liaison-**Randy Parker**
Other Business-Everyone
Closing Remarks-**Gahan Bailey**

Friday, March 31, 2006

Welcome. The meeting was officially called to order at 3:41p.m. on Friday, March 31, 2006 by Gahan Bailey, President of MSERA. Dr. Bailey thanked the Board Members for their presence at the meeting and praised them for extraordinary service during an unusual year.

Introductions. President Bailey asked that all members introduce themselves around the table. This was especially appreciated since we had many new officers and representatives that had been elected via electronic means due to the cancellation of the 2005 Annual Meeting.

Review of the minutes. The minutes of the Fall 2005 Board Meeting were submitted by Linda Kondrick, Secretary of MSERA to the Board of Directors in January, 2006. A copy of the revised minutes were sent to all Board Members in early January. No revisions were submitted. The final copy of the minutes was e-mailed to the Board the week of March 26, 2006 along with a reminder that no hard copies would be issued. These minutes, according to the by laws, are now accepted. However, the archived version of the minutes was amended to reflect two corrections noted by Immediate Past-President, Jane Nell Luster: Patrick Kariuki was present for part of the Fall 2005 Board meeting, whereas Cliff Hofwolt actually was not present as indicated.

President's comments. President Bailey addressed the proposed agenda, copies of which were distributed. She invited everyone present to participate in discussions, but reminded all that only the official Board members (not committee chairs) are eligible to make, or second motions and to vote. She commended Past President, Jane Nell Luster for her exemplary leadership as the Past-President.

Past President's Comments. Jane Nell Luster commented upon her President's report. She lauded the many accomplishments of the organization in 2006 despite the unusual circumstances. She thanked all members for their support during her tenure as MSERA President.

Treasurer's Report. -Dennis Zuelke reported upon activity in three accounts: the MSERA checking account, the MSERA money market account, and a certificate of deposit.

The previous checking account balance on November 10, 2005 was \$37,538.89. Total inflows since then amounted to \$7, 236.17 yielding total funds available of \$44,775.06. Total outflows since the previous balance amounted to \$12,013.47 leaving total funds available less expenses of \$32,761.59 as of March 31, 2006.

The balance on hand on November 10, 2005 in the money market account with Amsouth Bank was \$20, 356.65. An additional \$91.20 in was interest earned through February 21, 2006. A sum of \$20,396.64 was transferred on December 16, 2005 to MSERF to be invested per agreement (refer to minutes of Spring and Fall MSERA Board Meetings in

2005 for details). The remaining \$51.21 was later transferred to MSERF leaving a balance of \$0.00 on March 3, 2006.

The balance on hand in the certificate of deposit on November 10, 2005 was \$17,562.38 to which additional interest of \$179.10 was added yielding a balance on hand on March 31, 2006 of \$17,741.48.

Constitution & Bylaws. Harry Bowman referred to the recent changes to the Constitution and By-Laws that were recommended by the Board of Directors and approved by the membership, officially on the last date to vote, February 26, 2006. Those changes included the creation of a new position, Executive Director, which combined the roles of Executive Secretary and Treasurer (Section 7, Article 2, Parts A-H). An annual professional audit was also mandated to be performed each January to be reported to the MSERA Spring Board Meeting (Article 2, Section 5). These changes to the Constitution and By-Laws were intended to enhance continuity in the operations of the organization and provide a greater measure of fiscal stability. The enacted changes are expected to be posted to the web site in the near future. The committee had no new changes to propose at this time.

Executive Secretary Report. John Petry expressed his appreciation to all the Board and the membership during his tenure as Executive Secretary, especially during this past year. He was given a hand of applause by the Board in recognition of his outstanding service.

Executive Director. President Bailey read the portion of the minutes of the 2006 Fall Board Meeting regarding qualifications of the candidates for position of Executive Director. She informed the Board that the position would officially commence on April 15, 2006. Cliff Hofwolt left the meeting for the ensuing discussion of applicants for the position. She reviewed the only completed application received which was submitted by Cliff Hofwolt. Rebecca Giles made the motion that Cliff Hofwolt be appointed as Executive Director, Patrick Kariuki seconded the motion.

Gahan reminded the Board that the person appointed would be bonded, and that an annual formal audit would be conducted in January and presented to the Board at the Spring Meeting each year. In addition, the Executive Board has also recommended that the MSERA Executive Board do a formal evaluation of the performance of the Executive Secretary on the first day of the Spring MSERA Board meeting during the Executive Board's meeting. Gahan volunteered to draft copies of a self-assessment instrument to be completed by the Executive Secretary, as well as an evaluation form to be completed by each of the four members of the Executive Board. All of these forms should be submitted to the President 30 days prior to that meeting. The President will then forward, 15 days prior to the Spring Meeting, the following reports:

1. Summary of all evaluations to each member of the Executive Board, as well as the Executive Secretary.
2. Copy of Executive Director's Self-Evaluation to each member of the Executive Board.

The implications of these reports would then be discussed at the following Spring Meeting of the Executive Board.

A question arose regarding the job description of the Executive Director. It was pointed out that the description is spelled out in Section 7, Article 2, sections A through H in the newly revised Constitution and By-Laws. These duties will be incorporated into the Operations Manual. It was also clarified that the Executive Director serves as an ex-officio member of the MSERA Board at the pleasure of the Board for an unspecified term.

Several spoke highly of their regard for the candidate and their confidence in his abilities and commitment to the position. The motion passed by unanimous acclamation. John Petry brought the newly elected Executive Director back to the table. On behalf of the membership, he congratulated Dr. Hofwolt upon his appointment.

Budget Advisory Report. Jane Nell Luster discussed the complications of designing a budget following a year in which the Annual Meeting was canceled. She reviewed various sources of anticipated income, and expected expenses for 2006. She deferred discussion of specific budget until tomorrow.

Development Committee. Gahan Bailey delivered the report from Scott Bauer, former Chair and Laurie Leonard, the incoming Chair of the Development Committee. Laurie has revised the membership form which will be posted on the website. He plans to conduct Institutional Membership drives according to the procedures and timetable established by the former chair.

Membership issues evolved into a discussion of the current membership dilemma resulting from the cancellation of the 2005 Annual Meeting. (*The following discussion is also recorded under **The MSERA Researcher** for the sake of continuity in reference.*) Since membership is usually paid with registration for the annual meeting, many members have not renewed. There are currently only about 200 members for 2006. It was decided to send copies of the May issue of *The Researcher* to all current members as well as the former 2005 members and all who were accepted to present at the 2005 Annual Meeting regardless of membership status. It was understood that this may require as many as 800 or more copies of *The Researcher* to be printed and mailed. Mary Jane Bradley informed the Board of plans to include a special membership promotion in this issue. It was agreed that the Executive Board would follow up on the results of this campaign and determine whether or not to continue this extension of membership privileges to include the August and October issues.

Evaluation Committee. Randy Parker and Edward Shaw reported that had the 2005 Fall Meeting been convened, it would have been tremendous success. In lieu of a more rigorous evaluation, they turned their attention to formatting an online version of the Annual Meeting Evaluation form that will allow data from onsite evaluations to be readily merged with the web versions of the form. The project is ongoing, initial feedback from design trials are encouraging.

Archives & Website. David Morse was not present. No report was available at this time.

Proceedings. John Petry explained the problems encountered and the progress achieved in getting the 2005 proceedings published to the website. He has also agreed to continue to handle the task of getting the proceedings formatted and submitted to the MSERA web master. This is a task that he has performed for many years, but was not a duty of the Executive Secretary, and therefore was not transferred to the Executive Director. The Board thanked him for and wholehearted accepted his generous offer.

MSERA Mentors. Gahan Bailey announced that Linda Morse had accepted the chairmanship of the MSERA Mentors, but could not be present for the meeting. There was no report available at this time.

Graduate Students Advisory. Pam Broadston and Sherry Shaw were not able to be present. Gahan submitted their written report. She also emphasized the important work of this committee which introduces many graduate students to our organization. Since the November meeting, the co-chairs had forwarded the graduate student affiliate chapter request-- discussed at that meeting-- on to Jane Nell Luster for response.

Membership. Michael Ross was not present. No report was available at this time. Gahan said that she would communicate with Dr. Ross the urgent need for a vigorous membership drive at this time. She also agreed to see that John Petry received about 100 copies of the *Invitation to Participate* brochure for him to distribute at the AERA meeting next month.

Publications & Communications. Rob Kennedy was not present. Gahan Bailey presented his written report. One question discussed was, "Would MSERA consider making the membership directory available at its website?" The consensus was that there was no benefit to be served that would outweigh the risks involved. The list is already available through the Secretary for any chair or officer who has a legitimate need, and all members receive the August issue of *The Researcher* which has a complete roster of the current membership.

Saturday, April 1, 2006

Research in the Schools. Larry Daniel, editor, introduced Claribel Torres, new Editorial Assistant and Production Manager for RIS. Dr. Daniels reviewed the statistics in the written report submitted. He commented that the editors would still like to increase the number of quality articles submitted for publication. He also discussed the upcoming special issue, *New Directions in Mixed Methodology*, scheduled for publication this spring. Burke Johnson was enlisted as a guest co-editor because of his expertise in methodology. A draft of the Table of Contents was submitted. It is expected that this issue will be mailed in June 2006. Another highlight in accomplishments was the increase in Editorial Board members to 58 at present. Goals included increasing the number of graduate students on the Student Editorial Board from 5 to 10 or 15. It was hoped that the

members of the MSERA Board would help to identify suitable candidates. The editorial staff, including Co-editor Tony Onwuegbuzie and Copy Editor Gail Weems, would also like to increase the number of library subscriptions from the current twenty. Larry then proposed a new award to recognize the work of editors whose work was outstanding. Randy Parker made the motion that a new award, *MSERA Research in the Schools Reviewers Award* be established. Dennis Zuelke seconded the motion. It was agreed that the award would take the form of a certificate rather than a monetary reward. A suggested name for the award was, *The MSERA Research in the Schools Outstanding Reviewer Award*. It was clarified that the award could be presented to multiple individuals, or to no individual in a given year. After questions and some discussion of the method for establishing guidelines, it was decided to let the RIS editors develop those guidelines in deciding the recipient of the first awards. Those guidelines would be presented at the Fall Board Meeting in 2006. The motion was approved by acclamation.

The MSERA Researcher. Mary Jane Bradley discussed the written report. She announced that the deadline for submitting material for publication in *The Researcher* has been extended to the first week of April, and would shortly be announced by Lynn Howerton who was unable to be present. She also submitted a two-page handout of the revised (Oct 2005) production calendar for *The Researcher*. Attached was a table of the “Contributor Responsibilities and Deadlines for *MSERA Researcher*.”

(The following discussion occurred during Development committee Report, but is recorded under Researcher for the sake of continuity in reference.) *Membership issues evolved into a discussion of the current membership dilemma resulting from the cancellation of the 2005 Annual Meeting since membership is usually paid with registration for the annual meeting, many members have not renewed. There are currently only about 200 members for 2006. It was decided to send copies of the May issue of The Researcher to all current members as well as the former 2005 members and all who were accepted to present at the 2005 Annual Meeting regardless of membership status. It was understood that this may require as many as 800 or more copies of The Researcher to be printed and mailed. Mary Jane Bradley informed the Board of plans to include a special membership promotion in this issue. It was agreed that the Executive Board would follow up on the results of this campaign and determine whether or not to continue this extension of membership privileges to include the August and October issues.*

MSER Foundation. Rob Kennedy was not able to be present. John Petry discussed his written report and the minutes of the 2005 MSERF Meeting at the Fall 2005 Board Meeting. John also reported on the funds controlled by MSERF. The balance in the checking account (with Memphis Area Teacher’s Credit Union) is \$10,295.82. Deposits to this account totaled \$350.00. Debits against the account were \$271.50. The final balance on hand as of March 31, 2006 was \$10,374.32. The MSERA certificate of Deposit invested by MSERF with Bank Tennessee at 4.35% interest has a current value of \$20,396.64. It matures on June 29, 2006. The discussion then turned to ways in which MSERF could assist the research of members in the organization. The MSERA Support Subcommittee has made some recommendations. This support would replace the \$1,000

that has been donated to MSERA by MSERF to support graduate student and new member activities. MSERF will continue to support the MSERA Outstanding Paper Award at the current level of \$250, and the MSERA website up to \$250. It was suggested that ideas from other members be forwarded to Rob Kennedy for consideration. It was agreed that contributors to MSERF will be recognized in a single category in *The Researcher*. It was noted that Cliff Hofwolt, as Executive Director, will become the new Secretary/Treasurer for MSERF. He has also volunteered to conduct an annual internal audit beginning with the books for 2005.

Ad Hoc – Technology. Cliff Hofwolt reminded members that the organization now owns the domain name <msera.net >. He reviewed security concerns and asked who, besides himself as list moderator, should have direct access to the listserv. It was suggested that the Executive Board members, Executive Director, and Program Chair should have direct access. This was agreed upon. It was also acknowledged that a dedicated list for the use of the Graduate Students was needed. Cliff explained how he could designate access to each committee chair to their respective constituency. The discussion then turned to matters concerning online submissions for the Fall Meeting. It was agreed that a complimentary membership would be given to Tom Wallace for the work he performed in setting up the online submissions for 2006. Cliff also suggested that we consider paying to maintain the system in the future. Cliff Hofwolt was charged with researching the best, most affordable program for MSERA to procure for use by all future Program Chairs so that we are not in the position of having to design a system each year.

Ad Hoc – Exhibits/Vendors. Julie Holmes submitted a written report, noting that the two level system of Exhibitor/Sponsor participation had been reduced to the one \$400 level. She discussed the need for a secure location for the use of these vendors. Julie outlined plans to engage the membership in identifying possible vendors. At present three vendors have expressed interest. It was suggested that one source of contacts would be the list of exhibitors at the AERA convention which will be held in April. It was also suggested that some of the revenues generated could be used to supply break refreshments where a placard would recognize the support of those exhibitors. It was generally agreed that the vendors would be invited to set up for a one-day period. This arrangement is more convenient for MSERA and preferred by most vendors. Richard Littleton informed the committee that a room is already reserved for that purpose at the Wynfrey. It was agreed that Julie would co-ordinate with Donna Richardson and the Local Arrangements Committee to determine what changes in accommodation might be needed as the number of exhibitors grows.

Nominations. Jane Nell Luster informed the Board that the call for nominations was published in the February issue of *The Researcher*. However, no nominations have been received for any of the offices that are up for election: President-elect, all State Representatives, and Secretary. There is no prohibition against self-nomination. All nominations are due on July 1, 2006.

Future Site. Bill Person recommended that the MSERA Fall Meeting be held in Baton Rouge, LA in 2008. The venue suggested for 2009 was either Lexington, KY or

Louisville, KY. It was confirmed that even years are dedicated to a particular state among the six member states. Odd years are open. The Chamber of Commerce in Knoxville, TN was also contacted by John Petry, but no proposals have been forthcoming. Tennessee had given up their right of rotation in 2006 to resolve a conflict with competing proposals between Alabama and Arkansas. It was agreed at that time (2004) that the 2008 annual meeting site would be given to Tennessee, if desired. However, at this time no viable proposals are on the table from any of the sites under consideration. It was decided to continue to solicit formal proposals to be presented at the Board at the Fall Meeting in November. Patrick Kariuki agreed to be the point person for Tennessee. He agreed to communicate with Bill Persons regarding Tennessee's intention by June. Jane Nell Luster agreed to be the point person for Baton Rouge in the case that Tennessee does not submit a proposal. Bill Persons also agreed to identify a point (contact) person for Kentucky to formalize a proposal for 2009. Cliff Hofwolt addressed the need to develop proposal guidelines to be posted to the website so that sales managers of prospective venues would have an outline of MSERA's needs and requirements to put together viable proposals.

Local Arrangements 2007. Linda Kondrick reported that she met recently withCarolynn Neff, the new Sales Manager at the Austin Hotel, in Hot Springs, Arkansas, site of the 2007 MSERA Annual Meeting. She also visited with Karen McKim, the person in charge of catering and audio-visual arrangement. The meeting is scheduled for November 7-9, 2007. The rooms have been contracted at \$62.00. The meeting rooms are complimentary with the guaranteed rooms. All meeting rooms on the second floor mezzanine, as well as a complimentary three-room suite with conference room on the 14th floor have been reserved for MSERA. She reported that the hotel provides handicapped access to all room in the hotel. There are also six rooms with special wheelchair accommodations. The Austin is planning to add a business center that should be available in 2007. In addition, Dr. Kondrick met with the sales staff at the Hot Springs Visitor and Convention Center Bureau. The center will provide the following complimentary services upon request: a welcome on the scrolling marquee of the Hot Springs Convention Center, a dignitary such as the Mayor of Hot Springs to welcome our group, printing of name badges, personnel to assist at the registration table, promotional literature, bags for welcome packets, and personnel to stuff them.

Local Arrangements 2006. Richard Littleton recounted the positive experience of working with the staff of the Wynfrey while planning the 2006 Annual meeting over the past two years. The Secretary inquired about what she needed to provide the Local Arrangements Committee in order that they could print badges, insert receipts in welcome packets, etc. Gypsy, Richard and Linda agreed to meet after the meeting to consider these logistics. Gypsy inquired whether, and how, members would like to offer a pre-arranged tour of the Civil Rights Museum. One suggestion was that perhaps discounted tickets could be provided to any who wanted to make the trip on their own. It was agreed that Gahan and Gypsy would work on publicity for the Civil Rights Museum to put in *The Researcher*. Mary Jane Bradley also explained her need for photos and other information regarding Birmingham and the Wynfrey to put in *The Researcher* to promote the Annual Meeting.

Program Committee 2006. Donna Herring went over a draft of the 2006 MSERA Conference Schedule as well as a Program Agenda. She discussed the arrangements for online training sessions. These wireless labs are scheduled for the Yorkshire. It was suggested that these training sessions focus upon professional applications of technology, rather than just training in use of the software itself. In other words, the focus should be upon the effective use of these software tools to meet course objectives. Several such presentations were discussed. The 2005 Distinguished Paper Awards have been rescheduled for after the Wednesday Luncheon and Keynote Address. Julie Holmes asked that the Vendors Room be moved to an area with more traffic. Donna agreed to look at this issue and work out an acceptable arrangement. Donna agreed to work with the Secretary on ordering presenter ribbons. She offered to compile a presenter directory. This was accepted. The number of presenter handouts required will remain at 26 copies. A business center is available on site to print extra handouts. The problem of cancellations and no-shows was briefly discussed. There is currently no formal policy regarding these problems other than keeping track of how many, and who they are. Donna was encouraged to produce a "2006 MSERA Conference Planner" that would include a Presenter directory. The cost is estimated at 13 cents per folded copy. Other items on the Program Agenda were deferred to a conference between Gahan and Donna.

Alabama Representative. Rebecca Giles reported that she has made contact with faculty in a department of Speech and Pathology with a large number of graduate students who have not previously been involved in MSERA. She also plans to promote MSERA at an upcoming meeting of the Southeast International Reading Association in Mobile, AL.

Arkansas Representative. Sherry Shaw could not be present. Gahan Bailey presented her written report in which she identified four strategies for encouraging members to become more active, and to recruit new members, both individual and institutional. She plans to organize an activity for the Arkansas delegation at the Annual Meeting.

Kentucky Representative. Mary O'Phelan presented a written report outlining her strategies for encouraging support among members and prospective members in Kentucky. She spoke to her concern for getting graduate students involved in doing and presenting research. She also expressed special interest in identifying a point person to put together a formal proposal from Kentucky for the 2009 Annual Meeting.

Louisiana Representative. Randy Parker spoke to his continuing efforts to promote MSERA within his state at every opportunity. Randy is also the LERA Liaison, which gives him unique opportunities for contact.

Mississippi Representative. Dana Thames could not be present. No report was available at this time.

Tennessee Representative. Patrick Kariuki reported that he has identified 25 institutions in his state that have not traditionally been involved in MSERA. He has created a data base that he is using to communicate with and advertise among these prospective members.

SDE/LEA. Laura Boudreaux Pitre could not be present. She is newly elected. No report was available at this time.

At-Large Representative. Edward Shaw wanted Becky Giles and Gahan Bailey to work with him to contact some traditionally black universities in order to increase diversity in the organization.

At-Large Representative. Julie Holmes, newly elected at large representative, spoke to the need to get members in Louisiana involved in MSERA in the aftermath of the recent devastations in that state. She also offered her services on the 2007 Local Arrangement Committee.

At-Large Representative. Dianne Richardson spoke to the need to tap into the community of students enrolled in online programs. She is making efforts to communicate with these students.

At-Large Representative. Jack Klotz was not present. No report was available at this time. He is newly elected.

Graduate Student Board Member. A graduate student was to be elected to the Board for the first time this year. Katrina Roper was elected to that position. She had inadvertently not been informed of the meeting. Gahan Bailey pledged to contact her immediately.

LERA Liaison. Randy Parker reported that he continues to be active in promoting MSERA among LERA members. LERA was founded in 1956. He presented mementos from their 50th year anniversary to Gahan Bailey and Harry Bowman in appreciation for their support of LERA over the years.

Other Business. President Bailey opened the discussion to other and new business. Four items emerged.

Adding new member states. Gahan introduced the question of adding member states to the institution. Georgia and Florida are the two states under current consideration. Larry s presented the viewpoint of a member currently working and living in the state of Florida. Michael Ross was not present to put forth Georgia's case. However, some attested to the consistent representation from that state. Gahan suggested that Larry take charge of putting together a formal proposal to recognize these member states to be presented at the Fall Board Meeting. He agreed that this was a good time to explore the level of interest among members of the Florida group at their meeting which will be a week apart from MSERA this fall. It was decided to appoint a sub-committee to look at all of the issues, pro and con, involved in expanding the organization. Larry s agreed to chair that sub-committee. He recommended that all of the At-Large Representatives be members of that

committee. The Sub-committee will report their analysis to the Board at the 2006 Fall Meeting.

Travel support for board members. Jane Nell Luster presented the following proposal regarding support to be given to Board members who travel to attend Board Meetings.

Recommend the MSERA Board offer to assist Board members and Committee chairpersons with travel expenses incurred to attend regularly scheduled Spring and Fall meetings of the Board.

The amount of assistance would be a flat rate of \$50.00 for attendance equivalent to the stated length of the Board meeting not to exceed 1 ½ days.

Board members and Committee chairpersons resident of the city in which the meeting is held are not eligible for travel assistance for that meeting.

The Executive Director would be authorized to contact each Board member and Committee chairperson in attendance at the meeting, within two weeks of the meeting, to determine whether s/he is making a claim for travel assistance for that meeting. A written record of correspondence, electronic or otherwise, is to be kept.

A report of the number of Board members and Committee chairpersons claiming assistance and the total amount expended becomes part of the Treasury report at each meeting.

She made the motion that, per recommendation of the Budget Advisory Committee, the MSERA Board accept the proposal above as read. Dennis Zuelke seconded that motion. Dr. Luster reviewed the pertinent points, and clarified questions concerning the implementation of this policy according to the proposed guidelines. The motion passed with one nay and one abstention.

Silent auction. Julie Holmes and Sherry Shaw have offered to organize and conduct a silent auction at the 2006 Fall Meeting. Gahan Bailey asked members to consider possible beneficiaries of the funds to be raised. It was also agreed that State Representatives would each provide a door prize to be given away at the Annual Business meeting this fall.

John Petry recognition of service. Gahan Bailey introduced some ideas to recognize John Petry on the occasion of his retirement as Executive Secretary. She proposed the idea of recognizing John's service by awarding him a lifetime membership in MSERA as well as a tangible award, such as a plaque. Randy Parker made the motion to grant lifetime MSERA membership to John Petry in recognition of his distinguished service from 1972 to present. Julie Holmes seconded the motion. The motion passed by thunderous acclamation.

Closing Remarks. Gahan Bailey thanked all present for their attendance, commitment and hard work. She spoke with enthusiasm regarding the upcoming 2006 Fall Meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m. on Saturday April 1, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kondrick
Secretary, MSERA
April 1, 2006
No joke☺