

Mid South Educational Research Association
Fall Business Meeting
November 6, 2008
Crowne Plaza—Salon A, B, C
Knoxville, TN

President Randy Parker officially called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm EST. He announced the reception immediately following the business meeting.

President Parker yielded the floor to Pass President Bill Spencer, Chair of the nominations committee. Bill explained the make-up of the nominations committee and thanked those who served on the committee. He introduced the 2009 slate of officers as follows: Vice President—Linda Kondrick, Secretary—Donna Herring, Alabama Director—Nancy Fox, Arkansas Director—Pam Broadston, Kentucky Director—JoAnna Dickey, Louisiana Director—Betty Porter, Mississippi Director—Rose Jones, and Tennessee Director—Barbara Young. Bill explained the ballot colors and policy for voting for state directors. Bill opened the floor for nominations and asked for nominations for each position individually. Beverly Klecker nominated Dr. Ron Skidmore, from Morehead State University for the Kentucky Director's position. Attendees from Kentucky were asked to write in Dr. Skidmore's name to express a vote for him. With no additional nominations, Bill closed the nominations. Gahan Bailey made a motion that others be elected by acclamation. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The Kentucky members voted and ballots were collected.

Cliff Hofwolt gave the Executive Director's report. He reported that MSERA had 326 attendees in Hot Springs and presently have 340 at the Knoxville conference. We ended the year with 493 current members. He explained that everyone attending this conference will have membership for 2009. Those not attending will receive renewal letters. Cliff asked attendees to notify him if any contact information such as mailing address and/or email address changed. Cliff announced that we opened the year with approximately \$40,700 in the bank. We collected prior to the conference about \$26,000 and now have a balance of around \$55,000. After bills are paid for this conference, we should end the year in good shape. MSERA membership and conference rates have not increased over the past 10 years and should remain the same for next year. MSERA has a second account managed by the MSER Foundation which has around \$40,000 in a money market account. MSERA is healthy financially and will continue to offer a great conference. He also stated that our Institutional Memberships have contributed considerably to this organization.

Randy thanked Cliff for his work as Executive Director. He also thanked the institutions who are Institutional Members and thanked Charlie Notar for his work with the Institutional Membership.

Eddie Shaw reported on evaluations and asked attendees to complete the evaluation form and provide comments. He announced that the conference evaluation could be completed by paper or online. He encouraged all attendees to consider helping by volunteering to work on a committee. Eddie thanked presidors, especially those that filled in. He also asked for those interested in evaluating proposals to email him and he expressed a need for members to volunteer work on the program committee.

Rob Kennedy gave a report from the MSER Foundation. The foundation serves as a support mechanism and financial safety net for the conference. Bob Rasmussen is leader in maximizing return on money from the MSERF. Funds go to support *Research in Progress* sessions, Outstanding Paper awards, and the MSERA Website. He commended David Morse for his work on the website. Rob thanked attendees for their contributions and announced that a list of contributors appears in the *Researcher*.

Gahan Bailey announced the formation of a Support Committee. Last year they decided to support the graduate students who were accepted to present their work in the *Research In Progress* sessions. Last year they presented 6 graduate students with checks and this year have 4 who will receive checks from the foundation. She asked for Pam Broadston and Michelle Haj-Broussard, co-chairs of the Graduate Advisory Committee, to come forward to present the checks. Checks in the amount of \$200 were given to Lon Fox, Yuko Iwai, Jan Blake, David Horgan.

Linda Morse gave a report from the Mentors committee. They gave away books at the *Research In Progress*

sessions. She invited those graduate students to join MSERA next year.

Randy thanked our colleagues from the University of Tennessee for their excellence with local arrangements. He recognized Chris Skinner who has been exemplary in putting the conference together. Chris thanked Judith Boser, Gary Skolits, and Tinah Utsman for their hard work and assistance with local arrangements.

Bill Spencer announced a tie vote for the Kentucky Director's position and asked the entire group to vote. White ballots were distributed and all members were asked to write in either JoAnna Dickey or Ron Skidmore. Ballots were collected.

Betty Porter reported that LERA provided the red luggage tags for everyone. She asked all to come to Baton Rouge next year and reminded members that the dates for next year's conference are on the luggage tags.

Cliff presented the Program Chair Award to Linda Kondrick. The Harry L. Bowman Service Award was given to Arkansas State University for handling the *Researcher* for the past 10 years. A plaque was presented to Nola Christenberry, Mary Jane Bradley, and Lynn Howerton along with a plaque for their Dean. The Walter M. Matthews Historical Contributions Award was presented to John Enger. The James E. McLean Distinguished Paper Award was not presented due to lack of submissions that were worthy of the award. The Herbert M. Handley Outstanding Dissertation Award was presented to John F. Edwards (student) and David Morse (professor) along with a check for \$200. State Directors were presented awards as follows: Rebecca Giles—Alabama, Linda Kondrick—Arkansas, JoAnna Dickey—Kentucky, Betty Porter—Louisiana, Dana Thames—Mississippi, and Patrick Kariuki—Tennessee. Donna Herring was presented the Secretary plaque. At-Large Representatives David Bell, Julie Holmes, Eddie Shaw, and Diane Swain received certificates for their committee work. Committee Chairs were awarded certificates as follows: David Morse (Archives and MSERA Web Site), Charles Notar (Development), Eddie Shaw (Evaluation), Julie Holmes (Evaluation and Exhibits and Vendors), Patrick Kariuki (Future Site Selection), JoAnna Dickey (Future Site Selection), Pam Broadson (Graduate Advisory), Michelle Broadston (Graduate Advisory), Chris Skinner (Local Arrangements), Gary Skolits (Local Arrangements) Paige Baggett (Membership), Rebecca Robichaus (Membership), Linda Morse (Mentors), Rob Kennedy (Publications and Communications), Lynn Howerton (The Research), Mary Jane Bradley (The Researcher), Dana Thames (Distinguished Awards), John Petry (ERIC Liaison and Proceedings)

Randy Parker announced the results from the vote for Kentucky Director. JoAnna Dickey was selected as Kentucky Director.

New board members were asked to come forward for installation of new officers. Those included: Vice President—Linda Kondrick, Secretary—Donna Herring, Alabama Director—Nancy Fox, Arkansas Director—Pam Broadston, Kentucky Director—JoAnna Dickey, Louisiana Director—Betty Porter, Mississippi Director—Rose Jones, Tennessee Director—Barbara Young, and Dana Thames (President). Randy Parker conducted the Installation of Officers ceremony.

Door prizes were distributed.

President Randy Parker passed the official gavel to new president Dana Thames. Dana recognized first time attendees. She also asked attendees from our six member states and other states to continue to return to MSERA which is a welcoming and warm organization. She recognized past presidents (~15) and founders (~4) in the audience. Founding members in the audience included Walter Mathews, Bob Rasmussen, John Petry and Bill Spencer.

Dana thanked Randy for his hard work, efforts, leadership, and wisdom and presented him with the President's Plaque with Gavel.

Dana adjourned the meeting at 6:30.