

MSERA Annual Business Meeting

November 4, 2024

Doubletree Chattanooga Downtown | Chattanooga, TN

George Noflin called the meeting to order at 3:59 p.m.

Approval of 2023 Minutes (George Noflin)

George asked everyone to review the 2023 business meeting minutes (scanned via QR code).

On a motion by Donald Snead and a second by Charles Notar, the membership unanimously approved the 2023 business meeting minutes.

Nominations (Sherry Shaw)

Sherry began by distributing ballots for state director to attendees for each individual state.

Sherry explained the election process and introduced the pre-meeting nominations, who were as follows:

- Vice President/President-Elect: Kelly Byrd, University of South Alabama
- Secretary: Ashley Wicker, Southeastern Louisiana University
- University Student Representative: Erika Cheek, University of South Alabama

On a motion by Larry Daniel and a second by Jane Nell Luster nominations from the floor for Vice President/President-Elect were closed.

On a motion by Rebecca Robichaux-Davis and a second by Dustin Whitlock nominations from the floor for Secretary were closed.

On a motion by Kelly Byrd and a second by Rebecca Robichaux-Davis nominations from the floor for University Student Representative were closed.

A motion to accept these nominations by acclimation was made by Rebecca Robichaux-Davis , and seconded by Larry Daniel. Motion passed.

- State Directors:
 - Alabama: Celeste Wheat, University of West Alabama.
 - Arkansas: Nancy Hamilton, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Charlotte Parham, University of Central Arkansas
 - Florida: Earlisha Whitfield, University of Central Florida
 - Kentucky: Raglena Salmans, Eastern Kentucky University
 - Louisiana: Lisette Manuel, Southeaster Louisiana University
 - Mississippi: Sarah Salisbury, Mississippi State University
 - Tennessee: Jim Rost, Middle Tennessee State University

There were no nominations from the floor.

On a motion by Charlie Notar and a second by Kelly Byrd nominations from the floor for Alabama representative were closed.

On a motion by Michael Mills and a second by Deanna Rice nominations from the floor for Arkansas representative were closed.

On a motion by Sherry Shaw and a second by Earlisha Whitfield nominations from the floor for Florida representative were closed.

On a motion by Mindy Waldrop and a second by Raglena Salmons nominations from the floor for Kentucky representative were closed.

On a motion by Dustin Whitlock and a second by Christy Hornsby nominations from the floor for Louisiana representative were closed.

On a motion by Rebecca Robichaux-Davis and a second by Natash Cummins nominations from the floor for Mississippi representative were closed.

On a motion by Donald Snead and a second by Kim Godwin nominations from the floor for Tennessee representative were closed.

- Rebecca and Dustin Whitlock – close state director nominations
- Charlie and Kelly – close Alabama
- Michael Mills and Deanna Rice – close Arkansas
- Sherry and Earlisha – close Florida
- Mindy and Raglena – close Kentucky
- Dustin Whitlock and Christy Hornsby – close Louisiana
- Rebecca Ro and Natash Cummins – close Mississippi
- Donald Snead and Kim Godwin – close Tennessee

On a motion by Rebecca Robichaux-Davis and a second by Dustin Whitlock nominations for state director were closed.

Motion was made by Donald Snead and a second by Rebecca Robichaux-Davis to accept nominations for all but Arkansas by acclamation. Motion passed.

Sherry gave directions for voting, and the election took place.

- Charlotte Parham, University of Central Arkansas, was elected as Arkansas Director.

Executive Director's Report (Randy Parker)

George introduced Randy.

Randy welcomed everyone to the business meeting and conveyed his pleasure to serve as Executive Director.

Randy reported there are 207 current registrations (76 students, 99 professionals, 17 PK, 6 retirees, and 9 paid as part of institutional membership).

Alabama – 49

Arkansas – 16

Florida – 4

Kentucky – 4

Louisiana – 50

Mississippi – 39

Tennessee – 34

Other - 9

He explained items on the financial report. There was \$36,818.05 income to date plus \$1690.00 additional expected by end of year, \$31,940.05 in expenditures to date plus an additional \$750.00 expected by end of year. The expected end-of-year balance is \$16, 807.66.

On motion by Donald Snead and a second by Rebecca Robichaux-Davis, the financial report was accepted.

MSER Foundation Report (Larry Daniel)

Larry summarized the role of the Foundation and its work throughout the year, including the election of five new officers.

Rebecca Robichaux-Davis shared that the balance of the checking account was \$9,956.74, and there was \$24,849.11 in trust in a money market account.

Constitution & Bylaws (Rod Uzat)

Rod shared the following changes that have been proposed by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and these changes have been approved by the board.

Within Bylaws: Article 1, add the following:

- Section 1.a. At the Spring Board Meeting of the Association, a Board member may move that a state be added as a constituent member. When presenting such a motion, the nominating member should provide the Board with a written rationale which indicates the number of the potential constituent state's members who have registered at each of the previous three Annual Meetings of the Association, and the likelihood that the Association would be interested in having an Annual Meeting hosted within the potential constituent state. If the motion is approved by a majority vote of the Board, a vote of the Association membership shall take place at the Annual Business Meeting of the Association. A majority of the votes cast for the state considered for constituent membership shall be required for the state to be designated as a constituent member.

This comes from a committee and does not require a second. Motion passed unanimously.

- Section 1.b. After the admission of a new constituent state by majority vote of the membership present at the annual business meeting, the process for the election of a Director representing the new constituent state shall follow the procedures as set out in Article VI of the Association Constitution.

This comes from a committee and does not require a second. Motion passed unanimously.

Add Constitution, Article IV Section 1.c:

- Association members' state of affiliation shall be determined by the location of the institution or organization where employed or the IHE in which they are enrolled. In the event of members who are not currently employed or enrolled in an IHE or those who are self-employed, state of affiliation will be the state of legal residence until such time as those members may become employed by an institution or organization or enroll in classes at an IHE.

This comes from a committee and does not require a second. Motion passed unanimously.

Research-in-Progress Awards (Larry Daniel and Kelly Byrd)

Kelly congratulated all RIP presenters. Kelly announced the winners and Larry presented the winners with their checks.

- Winners present to accept their awards were:
- Stephen Abu, University of Alabama
- Lea Keith, Middle Tennessee State University
- Craig Leager, Northwestern State University of Louisiana
- Jacqueline Nicholas, University of Alabama-Birmingham
- Jieun Park, Middle Tennessee State University
- Empress Searight, University of Alabama
- Michael Vermillion, East Tennessee State University

Awards (George Noflin & Stefanie Sorbet)

Stefanie announced the winners of the outstanding paper awards, who were as follows:

- Herbert M. Handley Outstanding Dissertation Award: Caitlyn Lowery,
- James E. McClean Distinguished Research Paper Award: (Donna Wake accepted the award for the team)

George announced the winners of the outstanding paper awards, who were as follows:

- Harry L. Bowman Service Award: Charles Notar, Jackson State University
- Walter M. Mathews Historical Contribution Award: Adam Elder, LSU (Mindy accepted the award)

Attendees were encouraged to attend the paper presentation at 9:00 on Friday.

President's Report (George Noflin)

- George recognized members of the board and the executive board.

- George reminded everyone to complete the conference evaluation.
- Randy swore in the newly elected officers.
- Randy presented a token of appreciation to George.
- George passed the gavel to Stefanie, who then shared some initial thoughts for the organization in the next year.

On a motion by Rebecca Robichaux-Davis and a second by Dustin Whitlock, the meeting was adjourned.

DRAFT