MSERA Annual Business Meeting

November 6, 2025

Hilton New Orleans/St. Charles | New Orleans, LA

Stefanie Sorbet called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

Approval of 2024 Minutes (Stefanie)

- Stefanie Sorbet asked everyone to review the 2024 business meeting minutes.
- On a motion by Dustin Whitlock and a second by Mary Giles, the membership unanimously approved the 2024 business meeting minutes.

Nominations (George Noflin)

- George Noflin explained that the ballots will be cast electronically this year using customized QR codes with paper ballot backups.
- The pre-meeting nominations were introduced, who were as follows:
    - Vice President/President-Elect: Tina Allen, Keicia Hawkins
    - Director At-Large: Tony Latiker, Jane Nell Luster, Dustin Whitlock
    - LEA/SEA Director: Kasey Warren
    - University Student Representative: Erika Cheek
- On a motion by Kelly Byrd and a second by Mary Giles, the above nominees were accepted.
    - Nomination from the floor: Mindy Waldrop nominated Mary Giles (Director At-Large); After verification of eligibility, Mary Giles was confirmed for nomination and accepted the nomination.
- On a motion by Adam Elder and a second by Kelly Byrd, nominations from the floor for Vice President/President-Elect were closed.
- On a motion by Tina Allen and a second by Kathy Campbell, nominations from the floor for Director At-Large were closed.
- On a motion by Raglena Salmans and a second by Larry Daniel, nominations from the floor for LEA/SEA Director were closed.
- On a motion by Dustin Whitlock and a second by Mary Giles, nominations from the floor for University Student Representative were closed.
- George gave directions for voting with paper ballots, and the election took place.

Executive Director's Report (Randy Parker)

- Randy Parker welcomed everyone to the business meeting.
- He shared the registration report: 292 total registrations with an 87% show rate.
- He shared the types of registrations, which were as follows:
    - 159 professionals; 93 students; 32 P-12 educators; 8 retirees
- He thanked the members for their continued engagement with the association.
- He summarized the financial report:

    - Beginning Balance 1.1.25: $ 14,704.07
    - Expected/Actual 2025 Income: $ 54,529.36
    - Total Expected Funds Available 2025: $ 69,233.43
    - Total Expected/Actual Expenses 2025: $ 51,481.37
    - Expected Balance 12.31.25: $ 17,752.06
- On motion by Tina Allen and a second by Kathy Campbell, the financial report was accepted.

MSER Foundation Report (Larry Daniel)

- Larry Daniel summarized the role of the Foundation and its work throughout the year, including electing new members to the board and sharing that the Foundation received a generous gift of $5000 from an anonymous donor, which will support the Foundation's continued work.
- Larry encouraged members to use the QR code to donate, if they so choose.

Constitution & Bylaws (Rod Uzat)

- Rod Uzat shared a measure to be voted on by the membership: a proposal to change the name of *The Researcher* to *MSERA Today.*
- On motion by Kelly Byrd and a second by Kathy Campbell, changing the name of *The Researcher* to *MSERA Today* was accepted.

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

- Larry Daniel explained the research-in-progress awards. Kelly and Larry presented the winners with their checks.
- Winners present to accept their awards were:
    - Eduardo Sanchez, Arkansas State University
    - Tiffany Anderson, Middle TN State University
    - Echia Godibarthi, Mississippi State University
    - Stephanie Cheramie, University of Louisiana Monroe
    - Nancy Florida, MS State University
    - Monique Legendre, University of New Orleans
    - Tanya St. Julian, Northwestern State University
    - Sayed Inabullah, MS State Univ
    - Brandy McDonald, Middle TN State Univ
    - Zaria Reed, University of Memphis
- Randy Parker shared the background behind the Cliff Hoffwolt Research-in-Progress Award for STEM-related Inquiry. Randy Parker and Kelly Byrd presented the first annual award to Melissa Johnson, Louisiana State University.

Awards (Kelly Byrd, Stefanie Sorbet)

- Kelly Byrd shared information related to awards given to outstanding paper submissions and presented an award to the following winner:

Final

    - Herbert M. Handley Outstanding Dissertation Award: Yan Dai, Auburn University
- Stefanie Sorbet shared information about two service awards and presented awards to the following winners:
    - Harry L. Bowman Service Award: Franz Reneau, Georgia Institute of Technology
    - Walter M. Mathews Historical Contribution Award: Rebecca Robichaux-Davis, Mississippi State University
        - Rebecca was unable to attend this year's meeting, but was watching on facetime; Kelly Byrd accepted the award on Rebecca's behalf.
- Attendees were encouraged to attend the paper presentation at 9:00 AM on Friday.

President's Report (Stefanie Sorbet)

- Stefanie Sorbet recognized all board members for their hard work and dedication to the organization.
- She also recognized the executive board and thanked them for their service.
- Tina Allen and Dustin Whitlock were invited to share more information about conference evaluation.
    - Dustin invited everyone to complete the survey for feedback and continuous improvement
- George Noflin recognized those that served on the Nominations committee and presented the election winners:
    - Vice President/President-Elect: Keicia Hawkins
    - Directors At-Large: Tony Latiker, Jane Nell Luster, Dustin Whitlock, Mary Giles
    - SEA/LEA Director: Kasey Warren
    - University Student Director: Erika Cheek
- Randy Parker swore in the newly elected officers and affirmed oaths to existing officers.
- Stefanie Sorbet shared some final thoughts on her time as president, and Randy shared a token of appreciation for her service to the association.
- Stefanie Sorbet passed the gavel to Kelly Byrd, who then shared some initial thoughts for the organization in the next year and invited everyone to Huntsville, AL for the next annual meeting.

On a motion by George Noflin and a second by Mary Giles, the meeting was adjourned at 5:29 PM.

Final