

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 , MS State University (need last name)
 - 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:

- 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; 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

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