

**Southern Rural Sociological Association (SRSA)  
General Meeting, Feb. 4, 2013  
Orlando Florida**

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

- Meeting was called to order by the President (Dr. Andrew Zekeri) at 4:15pm.
- 19 members were in attendance.

**Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting (2012 Birmingham Alabama)**

- The Secretary (James Bukenya) presented a summary of the minutes for the previous (2012) general meeting conducted in Birmingham Alabama.
- The minutes were amended to correct a typo raised by Dr. Baharanyi.
- Dr. Marion Simon (Kentucky State) moved the motion to accept the minutes as amended and Dr. Zabawa seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report (James O. Bukenya)**

- The treasurer presented the status of the association's finances which reflected the following:

**Account Balance (January 31, 2013)**

<b>Cost and Revenue Items</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Account Balance</b>
Carry Over Balance (Feb. 4, 2012)	\$11,247.93		
2012 Annual Meeting Expenses			
Presidential Reception		\$225.92	
Award Plaques		\$90.00	
Award Banquet & Conference Breaks		\$3,267.77	
Program printing cost		\$352.10	
Copy editor's fees		\$2,200.00	
SAAS Registration Fees		\$2,095.00	
Student Award		\$200.00	
2012 Mid-Year Exec. Meeting		\$785.60	
2012 Annual Meeting registration	\$6,215.00		
Membership dues	\$60.00		
Journal Submission fees	\$510.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,032.93</b>	<b>\$9,216.39</b>	<b>\$8,816.54</b>

- Dr. Glenn Israel asked why the association had such high expenses. Dr. Gene Theodori (Co-Editor of JRSS) explained that apart from the conference expenses, the other major expense is payment for JRSS copy editor.
- Dr. Zabawa suggested that the association might need to consider increasing the submission fee to offset the copy editor's cost.
- Dr. Zabawa also noted that the food cost can be minimized if SRSA members could let the program chair know in advance their intention to attend the conference (even if they have not yet paid registration for accurate head count).

- A suggestion was also made for the program chair to use on-line system to track participants to know who will or will not attend the conference.

Dr. Zabawa moved the motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented and Dr. Robinson seconded the motion to approve the treasurer's report.

### **Webmaster's Report (Doug Smith)**

- Updating of the website is still ongoing.
- New webmaster was introduced.

Dr. Glenn D. Israel moved a motion to accept the web master's report and was seconded by Jonas. The web master's report was accepted.

### **Journal Editors' Report (Douglas H. Constance and Gene L. Theodori)**

Three issues were published in 2012: special Volume 26:3 on Rural Veterans Health Issues; Volume 27.1 (open submission); and special Volume 27.2 Community-Based Research: Analysis of Outcomes for Learning and Social Change).

One special issue is in process (see below). We need to encourage more special issues.

We are receiving an increasing number of international submissions. Many are rejected by the editors as inappropriate for JRSS, but an increasing number are being sent for review. Based on SRSA Council decision, we do not collect submission fees for international submissions.

We are still working with the National Agricultural Library regarding indexing in Agricola. We are in discussions regarding the type/style of meta data they prefer. All of SRS has been indexed; JRSS has not but will be once the meta data issue is resolved.

SRSA should have a discussion regarding our intentions to be approached by a major publishing firm to be part of their suite of publications.

Copy Editor Brooklynn A. Wynveen continues to improve the quality of JRSS articles.

Book Review Editor Dr. Ed Reeves continues to perform this function admirably.

Dr. Gene Theodori is stepping down as Co-Editor. Thanks to Gene for his excellent service.

Dr. Jin Young Choi has agreed to a three-year term as the new Co-Editor.

Dr. Douglas Constance shall assume the new title of "Editor in Chief" for a three-year term

The Sociology Department at Sam Houston University has agreed to subsidize JRSS with significant travel support for the co-editors, as well a travel support for Ms. Wynveen and a subsidy of \$1,000 per year for copy editing services.

### **Submission Status:**

2009 – 17 submitted: (9 – accept); (8 – reject)

2010 – 20 submitted: (6 – accept); (16 – reject)

2011 – 21 submitted: (9 – accept); (12 – reject)

2012 – 17 submitted: (7 – reject); (2 – accept); (5 – revise and resubmit); (2 – under review); (1 – withdraw) (the submissions for the special issues are not included in the totals reported)

Based on 2009 – 2012 submissions/completions to date, the acceptance rate is 33% (trending down).

- **One special volume in process:**

Rural Health (edited by Dr. Jin Young Choi, SHSU); 5 papers and 1 research report to be Vol 27:3; to be finalized in February.

- Financial support for Copy Editor: Ms. Brooklynn A. Wynveen copy edited 24 articles and 1 commentary that were published in 2012. She is paid \$100 per article/research note and \$50 per commentary for her services, for a total of \$2450. As noted above, SHSU Sociology will pay \$1,000 to

Ms. Wynveen for this service. We request that SRSA Council approve the payment of \$1450 to her for duties performed as copy editor for JRSS. Ms. Wynveen's duties as copy editor are essential to maintain the quality of JRSS.

- Dr. Ed Reeves (Book Review Editor) called on SRSA members to submit book reviews and promised to work with anyone interested to guide them through the process.

Dr. Robert Zabawa moved the motion to accept the editors' report as presented, seconded by Dr. Baharanyi. The report was accepted.

#### **Program Chair Report (Dr. Zabawa)**

- 10 sessions
- The total number of registered participants was 39 professional and 11 students (Low graduate students)
- For the award banquet luncheon he budgeted for 70 participants and 50 registered.
- The program chair made the usual request for members to consider pre-registration, even if the check is not mailed with the registration form, to help with the count and preparations.

Dr. Israel moved the motion to accept the Program Chair's report as presented, seconded by Dr. Theodori. The report was accepted.

#### **Awards Committee Report**

- The chair of the award committee was not present but sent a representative (Ms. Alicia Fisher) who presented the names of the SRSA 2013 award recipients.
  1. Excellence in Research -- Douglas H. Constance
  2. Excellence in Service -- Cheryl Hudec
  3. Excellence in Teaching -- Gene L. Theodori
- Dr. Robinson raised a question on how we can increase student participation.
- Dr. Glenn Israel suggested that we allow faculty to co-author student competition papers but have the student as the lead author and have the student present the paper at the conference. After an extended discussion Dr. Israel made a motion that we change the student paper to student abstract. In this case, students will submit paper abstracts instead of a full paper. The award committee would select award recipient based on the abstracts and a power point presentation at the conference. The motion was seconded by Dr. Theodori.
- The motion passed and the Program Chair and the Awards committee were given the task of developing an implementation strategy. It was also suggested that the program chair should include a Student Session in the program for the Student Award Power point presentations.
- Dr. Zekeri proposed that we should have two student awards: Graduate and Undergraduate levels.

Dr. Theodori moved the motion to accept the report as presented, seconded by Dr. Zabawa.

#### **Program Chair Elect**

- Dr. Doug Smith was nominated by Dr. Theodori and seconded by Dr. Terrance Thomas. He was selected as program chair elect.

Dr. Zabawa moved a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Dr. Terrance Thomas.  
Meeting was adjourned at 4:52.