

Committee on Nominations and Elections
Midwest Sociological Society (MSS)
April 2015 Report
By Barbara Keating
2014-2015 Co-Chair and 2015-2016 Chair

2015 Committee Charge: To produce a slate of two candidates each for MSS President and for the State Directors for Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

February-March, 2015: Activities before the Annual Committee Meeting:

Co-chair Barbara Keating encouraged committee members to pre-vet or ask prospective nominees for their permission to list them as nominees before the annual committee meeting. She sent the committee members several documents to provide aided recall regarding members and their participation. These documents included listings of current professional members, 2010-2015 Registration, 2004-2015 membership, 2006-2014 officers and directors, and 2006-2014 committee members.

The MSS By-laws direct the Committee to poll the membership for nominations. On February 26, 2015 Executive Director Lauren Tiffany and Committee Co-Chair Barbara Keating sent an E-blast to members soliciting nominations requesting that nominees for state directors be sent directly to the committee state representatives and nominees for President be sent to Co-Chair Keating. On March 20, 2015 Executive Director Tiffany and Co-Chair Keating sent a request for nominations to the Board Members.

Co-chair Keating sent e-mails to 20 prospective nominees requesting their consent to include them on the list of nominees to be considered by the Nominations Committee for candidacy for the election for MSS President. Five declined indicating they are also not interested in future nominations due to retirement. Seven indicated that they are not interested in a 2015 nomination but may be interested in the future. Four agreed to be considered this year. (Two additional names were added at the committee meeting.)

Committee members also participated in group e-mail discussions about the By-laws change directing the past-president to chair the committee and the procedural change of pre-vetting prospective nominees.

Annual Committee Meeting, 8:30 – 10:00 AM, March 27, 2015, Kansas City:

Present: Co-chairs Stephanie Decker, Linda Lindsey and Barbara Keating; State representatives Patrick Archer (Iowa), Ron Berger (Wisconsin), Stephanie Decker (Kansas), Richard Fritz (Illinois), Jacob Jantzer (South Dakota), Ali Kamali (Missouri), Daphne Pedersen (North Dakota), Harland Prechel (At-Large), Monica Snowden (Nebraska).

The committee discussed past efforts to balance the slates over time by gender, states and affiliation. The committee decided to discontinue efforts to either balance each Presidential slate with one man and one woman or to alternate slates with two male candidates and two women candidates. The committee decided that MSS has passed the need for such deliberate efforts to balance slates by gender, states or affiliation. Instead we should recruit the best candidates.

The committee shared members' various lists of prospective nominees for the Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin State Director positions and for MSS President. State Representatives Monica Snowden (Nebraska), Jacob Jantzer (South Dakota), Daphne Pederson (North Dakota) and Ron Berger (Wisconsin) will recruit two candidates each for their respective State Director position and to send their slates to Co-Chair Barbara Keating by April 15.

The committee ranked six nominees as possible candidates for President.

March-April 2015: Activities after the Annual Committee Meeting:

1) The Committee completed slates of two candidates for each election as follows:

South Dakota Director

Jacob Jantzer, South Dakota State University

Wenqian (Lucy) Dai, University of South Dakota

Nebraska Director

Daniel Hawkins, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Megan Nielsen, Midland University

North Dakota Director

Pamela Emanuelson, North Dakota State University

Jynette Larshus, Minot State University

Wisconsin Director

Akiko Yoshida, University of Wisconsin-- Whitewater

Paige Miller, University of Wisconsin – River Falls

MSS President

Marlynn May, Texas A & M Health Science Center

Julie Pelton, University of Nebraska at Omaha

2) The Committee recommends the following for appointment in fall, 2015 to the Nominations Committee for three-year terms starting April, 2016.

Kansas representative: John Paul, Washburn University (recommended by Stephanie Decker)

Iowa representative: Grant Tietjen, St. Ambrose University (recommended by Pat Archer)