

Midwest Sociological Society, Social Action Committee Report
Prepared by LaShaune Johnson (chair)
Annual Conference 2017

2017 Committee Meeting held:

Saturday, April 1, 2017—10:15-11:45 AM Central, Golda Meir room, 5th floor.

If you are unable to make it in person, please feel free to use LaShaune's conference call number and we will put you on speaker. (This is a long distance number.)

Dial: 857-232-0476, and when prompted, dial 305836 for the conference code.

Recording of meeting:

http://rec001.freeconferencecalling.com/mp3/1112624/305836/LA3977_04012017081929079_1052033.mp3

AGENDA

Committee Membership:

- LaShaune Johnson (chair), membership ends 2018—In attendance
- Hal Marchand, membership ends 2018—**Not in attendance**
- Rochelle Rowley, membership ends 2018—In attendance
- Ryan Sheppard, membership ends 2018—In attendance
- Mary Kelly, membership ends 2020—**Not in attendance (but made previous arrangements)**
- Stephen Hagan, membership ends 2020—**Not in attendance (but made previous arrangements)**
- Deniz Yucel, membership ends 2020—In attendance

- I. Introductions, Welcome to New Members (Mary)
- II. Visit by the 2018 Planning Committee about the conference theme, and possible opportunities for the SAC to be involved. (See attached documents.)
- III. Committee Charge, Review of Strategic Plan*, Set and Delegate Action Items, check in with last year's discussions:
 - a. Last year, Hagan, Rowley, Sheppard, and Yucel participated in sessions, how did that go? **Good reports from the 2016 sessions.**
 - b. Last year, we discussed possible collaborations with Sociological Practice and other committees—any updates?
 - i. **The Sociological Practice session did not happen (apologies from LaShaune)**
 - c. Last year, we talked about thinking through an teaching session—is there still some interest in that, perhaps for 2018?
 - d. Last year, we talked about creating a strong social media/newspaper presence, were any members able to do any work they want to highlight?
 - e. Touch base about the best ways to communicate information about the SAC and decisions we need to make. **The group decided to create a Basecamp.com page to hold ideas/elections/drafts of articles/materials.**

IV. Expectations of SAC members

Reminder from the 2016 meetings, we decided that the minimum expected participation in the committee is:

- i. Nominating at least 2 organizations, and timely participation in voting for the organizations.
 1. Stephen Hagan again did a great job at handling these elections. Thanks, Stephen.
 2. Our 2017 winners—La Causa, Inc. and Sojourner Family Peace Center
- ii. Attending the SAC meeting during MSS.
 1. Some of our members were not able to attend for personal/budgetary reasons (and contacted LaShaune beforehand). We did have Deniz, Ryan, Rochelle, and LaShaune at the conference.
- iii. Presenting at/organizing/presiding over a SAC-related (or co-sponsored) session/workshop/roundtable/event for at least one year of the three years they are on the committee.
 1. Rochelle did an awesome workshop on resiliency.
 2. Ryan guided her students through a panel about student alums and organized dinner with local alums.
 3. Deniz had a great session about family and relationships.
- iv. Participating in at least one hour at the SAC Booth in the Commons, or (wo)manning the table at the Social Hour event.
 1. In 2017, we successfully got both of our Awardee groups to the Commons. They tabled and participated in the awards ceremony. Ryan, LaShaune and Rochelle all tabled alongside the folks!
- v. Actively promoting the SAC and its work in their personal/professional networks, in order to help achieve the goals of the MSS Strategic Plan.
 1. Nothing new to report here.

V. Session ideas/commitments for 2018

- a. Based on the feedback from the 2017 awardees, there is some value in going to one of the sites. The group proposed to do a tour with one of the organizations. The group has acknowledged a few things—this may take more work/prep for the chair (LaShaune) to get the group ready to go. It will require some coordination for thinking about travel to the site and those things. We will work with the local coordinator to see the best options. The tour will also allow for some conversations about social justice/applied work. So, perhaps we also reach out the Sociological Practice folks.
- b. We believe that Ryan is going to submit a session, perhaps about the Poverty Action Lab—she's is doing some research.
- c. Rochelle is going to submit something about gender and sexuality
- d. Rochelle is going to submit something about teaching without textbooks
- e. LaShaune is going to submit something about evaluation
- f. LaShaune is going to submit something about CBPR or something
- g. Deniz is going to submit something about work and family
- h. Deniz may also submit perhaps something about gender work and family?
- i. Mary would like to also be involved in a family session.

VI. Suggestions for the Budget. Reminder that LaShaune will ask for:

- a. Money for the SAC awardees
 - b. Money for the Commons Booth and for the ad in the Program
 - c. If we are doing the tour at a site, perhaps ask for a small fund to support light refreshments?
 - d. How are bus rides handled?
- VII. Next Chair? The group has a few ideas. One idea is to ask if LaShaune can continue for one more year. If that is not possible, Rochelle has offered to try to run.
- VIII. Propose potential new committee members -and leaders- for the 2018-19 year. (The board will make committee appointments for 2018-19 at their meeting September 2017.) It sounds like LaShaune, Rochelle, and Ryan are interested in re-upping for another round, if they are allowed. We will submit their names to stay on the committee.
- IX. New ideas for future directions.
- a. Link the to new MSS Strategic Plan, how do you think the SAC can fit?:
<http://www.themss.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/StrategicPlan17-20MSS.pdf>
 - b. Reminder of the goal of the SAC, as listed in the Bylaws: **11. The Social Action Committee** shall take under consideration proposals for social action by the Society submitted either by individual members or other committees of the Society. It shall procure accurate and full information about the issue, and shall evaluate options for action. It shall specifically consider the implications of such action for the Society, with particular concern accorded to potential impact on the Society's status as a non-profit organization, but shall also examine proposed action in terms of the substantive interests and commitments of the Society. The Committee shall then make recommendations to the Board concerning the proposed action. The Social Action Committee is also responsible for soliciting nominations and selecting recipients for the two annual Social Action Awards. The purpose of the awards is to recognize grassroots organizations that promote social justice and social change. The Committee Chair and members shall be appointed according to the *Standard Guidelines and Procedures for Committee Appointments*.