Section on Government Statistics
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Jennifer Parker, Secretary/Treasurer

Meeting held 8/2/2016
7:00 AM to 8:30 AM
Location: NORC at the University of Chicago’s Office. 55 East Monroe, Suite 3000, Chicago Illinois 60603 (go to the 30th floor), Room 3048.

Attending: Sylvia Dohrman (phone), Mike Davern, Gina Walejko, Morgan Earp, Jenny Guarino, Michael Hawes, Amy O’Hara, Jenny Thompson, Marilyn Seastrom.

Welcome, introduction of members, and review of agenda - Michael Davern

Approval of minutes from GSS March meeting – Jennifer Parker
Minutes approved
Update: Jennifer will send minutes to Bill for posting.

Finances –
• Treasurer's Report – Jennifer Parker
  Jennifer Parker summarized the treasurer’s report. This report was distributed to the attendees and is attached below.
• Other expenses were discussed, including upcoming conferences (see below in the agenda: ICES, seasonal adjustment workshop)
• Discussion of membership:
  • We could gather names during events and do focused mailings. Affinity groups within Census.
  • Workshops in the DC area as a lot of government employees don’t get to go to meetings.
  • Could build on the AAPOR/WSS summer conference, which is successful – we could advertise at that event and add on to the member discount.
  • We could do a new JSM orientation for GSS members.
  • Can we look into demographics of our members? (ACTION - we should do this before Dec)
  • Can we provide support morale of government employees? Govt contractors? Other members?
  • Can we reach out to State and Local government statisticians? (not many)
  • Can we reach out to international government statisticians?
  • Co-sponsoring with WSS doesn’t help our identity as membership overlaps
  • Webinars? Try to engage state and local members? Topics related to CIPSEA? Homeland security?
  • Call the business meeting something else. Promote outside the JSM. Amstat news, listserv
  • Can we start small and just gather names and email for people affiliated with government statistics who aren’t members.
  • Bring in and improve morale of younger members. Young federal statisticians?
    o Of the first year joiners, how many lapse after they need to pay?
  • If we just start tacking our names to WSS DCAAPOR it will start some name recognition
    o We could have a table with cookies and swag at WSS and DC AAPOR events
  • Federal summer data conferences. ED has one, NCHS has one periodically. We could have a table at these conferences.
• Provide sponsorship for some of the Morris Harris lecture?
• 34% of ASA members belong to section/interest groups. ASA has a hard time getting students to join.
  o Speed networking. How to get a government job.
  o Barrier – students intimidated to talk to members of the section.
• If we want to push some of these ideas, we may need to meet more often. We would need a core group of people to make this happen.
• Let’s compile this list, identify a couple of the top ideas, and focus these for something for the December meeting. It would be helpful to know what information to get from ASA.
• Member survey? We could ask people at seasonal adjustment workshop.
• We have a lot of support from ASA so we can get their help.
  • Update: Jenny G. provided some input later on the Docent program

JSM 2016 (Morgan Earp)
• We had 3 invited sessions this year, 5 topic contributed, one of these is the Data Challenge. We will have the same number next year, but there may be more invited sessions through the competitive process. Each section is allowed to nominate two invited sessions. Next year there will be 7 topic-contributed sessions.
• Ingegerd Jansson’s roundtable sold out (10 slots, including presenter). We got more registrations onsite. Will submit this roundtable again for next year.

JSM 2017 - Program Chair-Elect update (Michael Hawes)
• The deadline for invited sessions is Sept 6.
• We are looking for invited session proposals and roundtable ideas. Michael is reaching out to a few people. Topics mentioned include: Big Data, Adaptive Design, Confidentiality and synthetic data, Census 2020 related topics, and Differential privacy.
• In anticipation of higher attendance for 2017, we should be strategic about our program. Big names are a draw.

Awards
• Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award
• Herriot Award
• Wray Jackson Smith Award
• Pat Doyle Award
• 2016 Student Paper Competition

2016 Awards will be presented tonight (Mike Davern)
• Pat Doyle (Jill DeMatteis won the award, nominated by Wendy Martinez). Jill was delighted to receive the award but is not at the JSM this year to receive it in person.
• Request from Griffith award to continue GSS $500 sponsorship – yes, we will contribute.

Request for Support for International Conference on Establishment Surveys VI (ICES VI) (Mike Davern)
• Information about the conference was distributed.
• It’s looking like the conference will be in 2020. GSS has sponsored about 10% of conference funds in the past. If the conference loses money then we lose. But it can make money. We have sufficient funds to increase the percent to 15%. We would want a member on the committee for planning, including picking
the location. The conference has never lost any money. Last time the attendance was 330, up from the prior time. This was pretty good given the Switzerland location.

- Trying to reach out to developing countries for this conference.
- We may be willing to give 15% but we won’t set the amount now. The final decisions will be made in December, pending some details.
- The information sheet indicated that we would have a member on the planning committee.
- SMRS is a bigger section and will likely sponsor a larger amount.

More brainstorming on types of conferences for GSS outreach. (All)
- How about the state and local conferences? The health policy statistics conference?
- The first ICES conference was not sponsored by ASA. By the third conference, the ASA became a sponsor.

Council of Sections Report (Jenny Thompson)
- Has already given priorities and invited session numbers.
- Jenny will send the notes from the Council of Sections Report for the minutes. (pasted below)
- Refreshing charter. We did this already. (We approved this on the election)
- Topic sessions are now approved using a complicated process. 98 in even years, 93 in odd years. Program chairs from each section vote on the competition for invited sessions. Topics we (GSS) sponsor are often of interest to SRMS and SSS.
- Outreach continues to be the important topic. How to get people to join sections?

Data Challenge (Wendy Martinez)
- Wendy wants the data challenge be permanent annual challenge with same prize structure (about 1k). It’s a good way to do marketing of GSS.
- Could we do more of this online to expand our reach, for example, post prior submissions on web?
- There was a question about approvals needed given the new charter.
- Let’s plan on moving forward in December.
- Update (winners for 2016)
  - Students
    - First place: Ryan Jarrett and Lucy D’Agostino, Vanderbilt
    - Second place: Aditi Sharma, University of Maryland
    - Third place: Southern Methodist Class
  - The winning entry in the professional category is from Chris Eshleman and Jonathan Auerbach, Port Authority of New York.

Communications Activities (Sylvia Dohrmann)
- Need submissions for October issue. Should we add an article in newsletter about what it’s like to work in a federal agency? Sylvia would reach out to individuals for this. ASA had solicited on this topic in a different forum. WSS does this too. We could reach out to state and local members.
- Do we need a newsletter? The newsletter could be on the agenda for December.
- Other ideas to make the newsletter more interesting are welcome.

New GSS Website/Microsite (Mike Davern)
- Check out the new microsite. Make sure content is accurate. ASA will decommission the old one.
• Who goes to the website? Mike will ask Rick if there is a count of hits.

2016 GSS Election Results

(see pasted below)

Candidates for next election
• Wendy will be collecting nominations for candidates. Wendy will send email to group. Think about how we can expand slate – young, state/local, new

Report on Government ASA Fellows
• Uptick in our applications and successful applications. Mike will attach statistics on this. Good to encourage this activity. If you would like to suggest someone, J. Jack Lee can work with you on nominations.

Attachments

1. Treasurers Report
2. Council of Sections Report
3. 2016 Election Results
4. On the JSM Docent program
### Account balance

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Balance</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 1, 2015</td>
<td>$21,869.08</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 1, 2016</td>
<td>$19,210.97</td>
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<td>June 30, 2016</td>
<td>$20,663.46</td>
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### Revenue

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<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Interest (2015)</td>
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<td>Contributions Sponsorships (2015)</td>
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<td>USDA-ERS, BEA</td>
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<td>Joint Section Revenue Allocation (2015)</td>
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<td>Membership dues (2016, through June 30)</td>
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<td>Interest (2016, through June 30)</td>
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<td>Contributions Sponsorships (2016)</td>
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### Selected Expenses

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<td>JSM 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business and executive meetings</td>
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<td>Travel awards</td>
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<td>Roundtable lunch</td>
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<td>Jeanne Griffith Award (2015)</td>
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<td>Data Challenge 2015</td>
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<td>Herriot Award 2015</td>
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<td>March 2016 executive meeting</td>
<td>$151.93</td>
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<td>Phone, credit card fees through 6/30/16</td>
<td>$10.67</td>
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### Membership

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<th>Date</th>
<th>GSS only</th>
<th>GSS/SSS</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 28, 2016</td>
<td>410 (91 free)</td>
<td>376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2016</td>
<td>418 (91)</td>
<td>369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2015</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2015</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>361</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Section on Government Statistics- Chair-Elect, 2017
Marilyn Seastrom: Marilyn.Seastrom@ed.gov

Section on Government Statistics- Program Chair-Elect, 2017
Gina Walejko: gina.k.walejko@census.gov

Section on Government Statistics- Secretary/Treasurer, 2017-2018
Darcy Miller: darcy.miller@nass.usda.gov

Section on Government Statistics- Publications Officer, 2017-2018
Jenny Guarino: jenny.guarino@dot.gov
I’ve been volunteering as a docent for the past two years, and they (like GSS) are looking at ways to boost membership. The main goal of the docent program is to help first-time attendees navigate the JSM waters. It’s a minimal effort, with the main time commitment being attending the First Timer’s Orientation on Sunday (12 – 2pm). One volunteer also suggested we include the student mixer (Monday night) to our duties as another option to reach out to younger members. As part of growing the volunteer base, the docent chair (Mary Kwasney) is planning on reaching out to Sections to “sponsor” the orientation or mixer. I’m not sure what the sponsorship would entail (whether monetary or simply volunteer support), but I thought it could be an area worth looking into as it would help us advertise GSS to younger/newer members.