

NEWSLETTER  
SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF MORMON LIFE

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Volume 2, Number 1

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Officers:	Pres. Glenn M. Vernon Vice President: Armand Mauss Secretary Treasurer: Marie Cornwall	<u>Council Members:</u> Joan Menke Arland Thornton
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ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS. Nominations for officers for the Society for next year are complete. Ballot is attached hereto. Please vote and return the ballot to Glenn M. Vernon, University of Utah. Why not get it in the mail right now? Results will be announced at the PSA meeting and in the next newsletter. Every member is encouraged to vote.

WSSA SESSION

A session on the Sociology of Mormonism is scheduled for the meeting of the Western Social Science Association in Albuquerque, New Mexico April 24-26. Program is as follows:

Chair: Wilfred Smith, B.Y.U.

Gary E. Madsen, Utah State University

Mormon Campus Religious Group Participation as a Factor in Stability and Change.

Stan Weed, Director of Evaluation Division, Correlation Dept., LDS Church Influence of Parents on Youth Religiosity.

Mark Weigand, University of Utah

Incidence of Mental Disorders and Self Inflicted Death in Utah and its relation to Religious Definition of the Situation.

Arthur DeHoyos, B.Y.U.

The Dilemma of Pluralism in the Mormon Conversion Process.

PSA SESSIONS. A session on the Sociology of Mormonism is scheduled as a part of the official program of the PSA, at the annual meeting to be held in San Francisco April 9-12. Also the Society will hold its own official meeting Friday, April 11, at 5:30 (room to be announced). The PSA program is as follows:

Chair: Armand Mauss, Washington State University

Donald Lindsey, California State, San Bernardino

True to the Faith or Faithful to the Truth?: Two Models for the Use of Values in the Study of Mormonism.

Charles W. Ainsworth, Washington State University

Race and Religion: Some Comparisons of Southern and Western Mormons

Thomas Kemp, University of Utah

Mormon Ritualists and Death Fears: Limited Correlates.

Discussant: James Richardson, University of Nevada, Reno.

Each of the above presenters is asked to prepare a short abstract of his paper to be published in our next newsletter. The abstract can be sent directly to Glenn Vernon, or given to the person chairing your session. It is important that we get this information to our membership.

ASA Meeting, New York City, August 27-31.

Armand Mauss is developing the program for our annual meeting in conjunction with the ASA. If you have suggestions concerning the meeting, please let him know.

SOCIETY MEETING. Our Society will hold an official meeting, in conjunction with PSA meeting in San Francisco. Time: Friday, April 11, at 5:30 Room to be announced.

BUSINESS: Any necessary business will be taken care of.

DISCUSSION: TOPIC: Diversity with Mormonism. Very little data is available on diversity within Mormonism. It is hoped that our evening can be spent in pooling our individual knowledge, and that from the discussion we may be able to put together a paper of some kind on the subject. Every one is asked to make some contribution, such as --

--bring to the meeting any research information of which you are aware which makes comparisons such as Utah Mormons with non-Utah Mormons, or as the Ainsworth paper does on Southern and Western Mormons.

--Observed differences, from your own experience or from whatever source available.

--Hypotheses about intra-church differences, with related theory, etc.

--Hypotheses or speculation about potential consequences of diversity within the church.

--Indications as to how intra-church differences have been handled in the past.

If you would be willing to make some type of short informal report on some aspect of the subject, this will be included. If you have data which could be sent in before the meeting, which could be duplicated for distribution, please do so. Some material is already on hand. Please send to Glenn Vernon. University of Utah. Salt Lake City, Utah 84112.

An effort will be made to make available to our membership the results of the meeting. This can be done through the newsletter or if the material seems to warrant it, some other publication source can be sought. If material can be sent in before the meeting that would be great. If you prefer, however, bring it with you. If you don't have any particular input, come and help us develop some ideas on the subject. It should be an exciting discussing.