

## Meeting Minutes:

10/17/2008

The meeting started a few minutes before I (Ryan Cragun) arrived as I was arranging the pizza and drinks. Once the pizza arrived, we all ate our pizza and chatted.

The first item of discussion was the website. We talked about the hits it receives and it was noted that if anyone has comments or suggestions they should send them to Ryan Cragun. As regards the website, Perry Cunningham noted that our website may be influencing the LDS Church to release more data in order to be involved in the discussions that are taking place. Perry mentioned that he took the latest ask an expert (on retention and missionary numbers) to his higher ups to illustrate this point.

Following the discussion on the website we went around the room and introduced ourselves, primarily for the new attendees. I tried to make note of the new attendees, though I probably butchered their names:

- Gayle Lasater – University of Florida in Gainesville (has been in touch before and come to meetings)
- Sherry Baker – from BYU; public relations ethics; Mormon media history
- Robert Carlisle – Indiana State University; psychology of religion
- Jordan Haug – Utah Valley University; Native American Mormons; Allred Group AUB
- Bosco Bae – University of Utah; Korean Mormonism
- Sarah Busse Spencer – College of New Jersey; organization sociology; economic sociology; Russia; Mormons in Russia

Following the introductions, Perry Cunningham noted they will have numerous openings at Church Headquarters in the near future. He passed out a flier on this which I will post on the website shortly.

Rick brought up the next MHA session, which will be in Springfield, IL. We discussed whether MSSA will have a presence there. Cardell Jacobson has already set up a couple of sessions on the FLDS book and will make sure there is an MSSA presence at the MHA meetings.

Another meeting was brought up – The CESNUR conference in SLC in June. We discussed a possible MSSA session. Various members said they were going to attend.

Another meeting was brought up. David Knowlton mentioned a psychology of anthropology conference where he is organizing some papers on Mormonism.

Jordan Haug mentioned he is interning with Dialogue and has free copies of the Dialogue DVD (back issues) for students.

Ryan Cragun read Michael McBride's financial report. The consensus was to put the money into an interest bearing account, though everyone agreed that Michael could manage the money how he best saw fit, maximizing our interest income (CD, savings account, money market account, etc.).

We next discussed the next Glenn Vernon lecturer. Douglas Davies and Fenella Cannel were mentioned as possible candidates. The issue with both is that they are foreigners and it will cost a fair amount to get them here.

It was also brought up that there is only one review at present on the new O'Dea volume on Amazon. It was requested that someone write a positive review who is not an author. Jordan Haug said he would.

It was brought up that it is time to elect the next President and Board for MSSA. No specific nominations were made for president. Sarah said she would be interested in serving on the board. An email will go out about this shortly.

Finally, we discussed MSSA dinner plans. We agreed to meet in the lobby between 6:45 and 7:00. Rick Phillips was assigned to choose the restaurant and make reservations.