MCJA Business Meeting

Meeting Minutes

09.29.23

President Cory Haberman called to order for 46th Annual Meeting 2023

Recognized the current board:

Immediate Past President Dena Carson, President Cory Haberman, 1st Vice President David White, 2nd Vice President Catherine Pape; Secretary Matt Richie, Treasurer A.J. Myer; ACJS Region 3 Trustee Ming-Li Hsieh, JCJ Editor George Burrus; Website Admin Breanne Pleggenkuhle; Matt Matusiak for website, emails, and general business management; and Bowling Green State University (BGSU) team on registration

Projectors:

We needed to replace the ones from last year

Dena Carson sold those and we’re using the profit ($450) to meet cash obligations at this year’s annual meeting

Hotel Selection:

Committee: Dena Carson, Matt Matusiak, Jen Peck, Mike Vecchio

Tasked to find alternative and get new bids

Aloft Chicago Magnificent Mile and Hiton Garden Inn – Chicago (current hotel) are top options

Proposals pending – priority will be given to room for conference growth and competitive room rates

Student Travel Scholarship

Committee: Bill King, Julie Hibdon, Mark Elcock, Lori Brusman Lovins

Tasked in March 2023

For MCJA conference travel

Draft was provided in handout at meeting [see copy in final page of this document]

Open floor for comments (written comments to [mcja@mcja.org](mailto:mcja@mcja.org)) through 8 p.m. EST 12/1/23):

* No discussion

Need to have quorum voting by email to pass it in early 2024 to offer scholarship to students for next fall

New Business:

Dena Carson presents:

1. Voting quorum requirement
   1. According to constitution, it is supposed to be 2/3 of active members voting
   2. What are thoughts on having a constitutional amendment to have it be fewer people?
      1. Discussion:
         1. Should we change to simple majority? We have fallen short of that threshold too.
         2. Can we send text reminders? If people register with their cell numbers, we have them. We could change to asking for cell numbers at registration.
         3. Solutions left open, but goal is to increase participation
2. Minimum election candidate requirements
   1. Current Elections Committee: Dena Carson, Breanne Pleggenkuhle, Natalie Hipple
   2. Challenging to get folks to run for office
   3. Current language is every office needs two people on the ballot; proposed to change to allowing a person to run unopposed.
      1. Discussion:
         1. Maybe allow for “other” option if don’t want to vote for the single option – should we do with a write-in? Or an “abstain” option?
            1. Suggestion to allow both an abstain and write-in options together
         2. Voting is in 30s, used to be in 70s (which would be near/closer to 2/3 threshold of active members)
         3. Issue with email going to junk email with Qualtrics. Dena will work on mail merge to be sure it is getting to folks’ inboxes.

Treasurers Report

Matt Matusiak and A.J. Myer present:

Matt Matusiak:

* 157 members (111 regular; 46 students)
* Memberships run October 1 to September 30, so 76 of above are renewed through next year (57 regular; 16 students)
* Preregistration was up this year; student increase in registrations as well
* 70 institutions/agencies represented

Discussion:

* Quorum for voting – how is it determined based on membership?
  + Matt: it is based on active members as of date of voting

A.J. Myer:

* ~90K in US Bank account
* Up 8.2% from 1 year
* Outlays up 47%, but revenue is also up (26%)
* Need to keep balance around $50K for not-for-profit status
  + Cory: student travel scholarship fund can be “release valve” for funds in main account
* Square is our main source for transactions (209 transactions; up 24% from last year)

Journal Report – Journal of Crime & Justice

George Burruss presents:

* Thanks to Managing Editor (ME) Ariana Watkins and Associate Editors: Matthew Giblin, Jennifer Peck, Joe Schafer
* 170 submissions in last year; 19% acceptance rate. Desk rejects are typically legal papers from foreign authors (not social science)
* Average timelines: 26 days from submission to review assignment (including declining reviewer); 90 days from submission to first post-review decision; 15 days from acceptance to online publication
* IF: 1.2 in 2022; 1.6 5-year; 101K annual downloads/views
* Special issues upcoming:
  + 2024 – Benoit Dupont & Francis Fortin: Cybercrime
  + 2025 – Grant Drawve & Michael Nino: Community Health/Crime
  + TBA – Dena Carson & Breanne Pleggenkuhle: Midwestern Research
  + Best Paper 2022 Award: Peter S. Lehmann, SHSU “Juvenile transfer status and the sentencing of violent offenders: a test of the liberation hypothesis”
    - George created short list, then editorial board could nominate other papers, then worked together to get consensus on award winner.
    - Peter can’t be here; award will be sent.
    - Jen Peck UCF is incoming editor (she was ME for the journal when Mike Leiber was editor)

Jen Peck gave some comments as the new editor:

* Wants feedback from MCJA during her tenure
* Started with new submissions 8/1/23. Old submissions continuing with George’s team.
* Sara Lucak, 1st year PhD at UCF is new ME
* Jen has built a new Editorial Board; half are scholars in the Midwest; diversity in research areas and rank; half women; half scholars of color
* Will be continuing with paper award and special issues
* Wants to implement “future directions” series. The state of the research in a given area. More thematic essays that can increase visibility of the journal and understudied topics. A chance for members to have a sounding board.
* Target solicitations from MCJA and ACJS programs
* Increase social media presence with Taylor Francis (Twitter/X handle).
* Submissions can include folks’ Twitter/X info.
* Will be able to see others’ reviews when you review for the journal
* Would like to encourage students to review with mentoring from their advisor

Cory Haberman awarded George Burruss with plaque and thanked him for his 5 years of service with JC&J

ACJS Announcements

Anthony Peguero (President)

Ming-Li Hsieh (Region 3 Midwest Trustee)

Melissa (Mel) W. Burek (Trustee-at-large)

Anthony Peguero gave some remarks:

* His first MCJA
* Seeing lots of good research and mentoring at this event
* Shout out to Ming-Li and Mel
* Acknowledge program team for ACJS – theme is “Represent: Pursuing Equitable Justice for Families, Schools, Communities and Marginalized Populations & Individuals”
  + Abstracts are open now! Please attend.
  + They’re inviting the Chicago community serving marginalized populations as part of the event.
  + Dates March 19-23, 2024
* Ming-Li Hsieh is liaison between MCJA and ACJS. Her first year. Gave some comments about reporting back to ACJS for us. Cory thanked her for doing MCJA’s report to ACJS.

Annual Awards

Thanks to poster judges: Lisa Growette Bostaph (chair), Eric Cooke, Mike Vecchio, Mackenzie Allred (student rep)

* Graduate Student Poster Award Winner: Michaela Goldsmith, Teresa Kulig, Tara Richards (UNO) “OPD-UNO Collaboration for the Prevention and Intervention of Human Trafficking against Children in Omaha”
* Undergraduate Student Poster Award Winner: Morgan Perkins, Emma Lau, Zachary Lewis (BGSU) “Examining the Effectiveness of Program Policies: A Policy Analysis of ODRC”

Honorable Mention Poster Awards:

* Caralin Branscum (UNO) “Charge or Not to Charge? Does Sexual Assault Kit Evidence Impact Prosecutorial Decisions?”
* Alyssa Conde (ISU) “Transgender Individuals: Targets of a New Genocide”
* Hannah Rider & Dylan Stoltz (IU) “Set Up for Failure: Gender Differences and Trauma Informed Care in Drug Treatment Courts”

2023 Practitioner Award: Rosilyn Temple, Founder & Program Director, Kansas City Mothers in Charge

Rosilyn gave some remarks about her work helping families that have been victimized by homicide:

* 2011 she lost her young adult son to gun violence
* 2013 she founded this organization to help other families affected by homicide in KCMO
* She has worked with over 100 families
* She has “core mothers” who help her do the work in the community
* They use trauma informed practices and have a grief support group (Hope Healing), as well as a non-fatal shooting program

Reminder to submit for awards (e.g., student paper competitions, Tom Castellano award)

2023 Election Results

* Mike Vecchio, 2nd VP
* Eric Cooke, Treasurer
* Audrey Hickert, Secretary

And Transitions:

* President – Dr. David White
* 1st Vice President – Catherine Pape
* Immediate Past President – Dr. Cory Haberman

David White given ceremonial pen as newly minted president!

Meeting Adjourned

**2023 Midwestern Criminal Justice Association**

Student Travel Scholarship

Preliminary Proposal

## Overview:

The Midwestern Criminal Justice Association (MCJA) has discussed creating a student travel scholarship (STS) for several years. During the 2022-2023 membership year, the executive board pursued this idea. A committee was appointed to draft a proposal for how the STS would operate. The executive board reviewed the proposal from the committee, and deemed it adequate for review by the membership. The current STS proposal is provided verbatim below. During the 2023 Business Meeting, the executive board will open the floor for comments/feedback on the proposal. Written comments will be accepted via email ([mcja@mcja.org](mailto:mcja@mcja.org)) until 8:00 PM on December 1, 2023. Next, the executive board will draft a properly formatted Constitutional amendement taking into consideration all membership comments in December 2023 and open voting on the amendment following process in Constitution in early 2024.

## Proposal:

**Ensure sufficient funds are held by MCJA. Recommend awards to Board.** At the March MCJA Executive Board business meeting, the Treasurer shall report to the board the amount of total monies available in the MCJA Student Travel Scholarship fund, and shall recommend, to the Board, 1) the amount of money, 2) the number of awards, and 3) the maximum amount for each award, to be offered for that fall’s annual meeting. The Treasurer’s recommendation may be presented as information for the Board, or may be presented as a motion.

The Board shall consider and discuss the Treasurer’s information or motion concerning 1) the amount of money, 2) the number of awards, and 3) the maximum amount for each award, to be offered for that fall’s annual meeting). The Board shall vote on the motion to encumber the funds. The Board may, at its discretion, decide to not offer STS for the upcoming fall’s meeting. At the March MCJA business meeting, the Board shall also set the due-date for applications, and a date by which applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application.

**Announce the availability of Student Travel Scholarships to MCJA members.** If the Board votes to allocate funds for STS for that fall’s meeting, that Board shall announce that STS are available for the fall, and shall publicize the application process. The announcement and a description of the application process shall be conveyed via an email to all currently-registered members of MCJA. The Board may also communicate availability and the process via other mediums (such as posting on the MCJA webpage, social media, and/or email to past or not-current members of MCJA). Reasonably sufficient time shall be allowed for members and students to apply for an STS.

**Eligibility criteria.** Student must submit an application to attend the fall’s annual meeting and present a paper or a poster. To be eligible for a STS, an applicant must meet the criteria for “student” as defined by the MCJA Constitution (Article III, Section 3): an undergraduate or graduate student, “…enrolled in an accredited institution of higher education.” Student must provide confirmation of their enrollment in at least 1 credit hour at an accredited institution of higher education during the fall semester in which they will attend (and present at) the MCJA annual conference. A letter or an email from a faculty member at that institution which states the student is enrolled in at least 1 credit hour will be sufficient to establish eligibility.

**Review committee.** The Executive Board will review the applications, unless the Board decides to create an ad hoc STS review committee. Applications shall be reviewed, and applicants notified, by the date designated by the Board at the March Executive meeting.

**Timeliness of review and notice.** The Board should endeavor to notify applicants of their outcome with sufficient time to give applicants time to book or adjust their travel plans for the fall conference.

**Timing of award, and forfeit of award by student.** Awardees awarded a STS shall attend the fall conference and present satisfactorily their paper or poster before they shall receive their money. Money shall be awarded by the Board at the Business meeting at the fall conference. Awardees are encouraged to attend the MCJA business meeting, but they do not have to attend the MCJA business meeting to receive their travel award.