

MINUTES



MNRS Annual Business Meeting March 01, 2024 | 3:35 PM – 4:35 PM CDT

I. Call to Order

MNRS President Dr. Sharon Tucker called the 48th Annual Business Meeting to order at 3:36 PM CDT on Friday, March 01, 2024.

After a brief welcome to all members in attendance and noting the location of the agenda, S. Tucker introduced and thanked the MNRS Board of Directors, Founding Members, Past Presidents, MNRS Executive Office staff, and all committee chairs and volunteers. Information on the Research & Implementation Interests Groups and how MNRS members can join was provided. S. Tucker expressed sincere gratitude to the 2024 MNRS Program Planning Committee for their invaluable contributions in planning this meeting.

II. Program Planning Committee Report

Dr. Barbara St. Marie shared a report from the Program Planning Committee including how the member feedback is used and the process of choosing the theme, objectives, and keynote speakers. The volunteers for the Program Planning Committee represent 13 states. There is an open call to MNRS members to fill any openings with their state positions. Selection is based on geographic location, and commitment to quality educational programs. The details of the Chair position and its 3-year progression were shared. This year's PPC Roster was updated on the MNRS website to reflect career levels of PPC members. The PPC is responsible for reviewing the list of abstract reviewers. The abstract reviewer process was shared. This year we had 529 abstracts submitted from 61 Universities and Colleges.

III. President's Report

S. Tucker presented the 2023-2024 President's Report highlighting the year's accomplishments, including:

- MNRS membership has realigned with pre-COVID patterns, indicating a steady trajectory of engagement and commitment. Leadership continues to focus on exploring and providing benefits, programming, and career development opportunities for members. This year 59% are regular members, 37% are students, and 5% represent retired and international members.
- There were eight institutional memberships, six gold, and two silver.
- Priority has been placed on increasing inclusivity and expanding the participation of the many groups that make up MNRS.
- The MNRS Strategic Planning Task Force developed the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan for the society. The Task Force revised the MNRS Vision and Mission to be in line with today's healthcare environment and the desired path for MNRS.
- MNRS developed and launched the new Excellence in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Honorific Award.
- An External Partnership Infographic and Webpage was developed to Advance the Implementation of Nursing.

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- Leadership and the PPC aligned the 2024 Conference objectives to address scientific diversity and diversity of populations where members are performing nursing research to improve health disparities.
- The Emerging Scholars Network provided a breakfast Info Session at the conference to promote ESN and recruit liaisons and members.
- A supplement to the WJNR was launched to publish conference abstracts.
- An Author's Nook was launched with 12 authors for the inaugural year and a sponsor was secured.
- An in-person pre-conference workshop was held with thirty plus participants, focusing on the Equity-By-Design Process.
- 8 RIIGs were brought back to the conference to host in-person meetings.
- Committees were restructured to include a new External Relations/Dissemination Committee and Membership Committee.
- A DEI statement was developed from MNRS to debut at the 2024 Business Meeting.
- A relaunch of the MNRS Mentoring Program is in the works and coming soon.

IV. Leadership Academy

Dr. Kathleen Buckwalter, MNRS Board Past President and Nominating Committee Chair, announced the continuation of the MNRS Leadership Academy for its third consecutive year in 2023-2024, featuring a distinguished cohort of five scholars. K. Buckwalter introduced the esteemed members of the 2023-2024 Leadership Academy: Anna Forster, Christiana Oyewusi, Jeana Holt, and Carolyn Smith. Applications for the Leadership Academy will open in March 2024, with the fourth cohort set to be selected and announced in June 2024. We encourage all members to submit their applications or extend the invitation to colleagues who may find value in this enriching program.

V. 2023-2024 Election Results

K. Buckwalter shared a ballot was emailed to all members in accordance with Article IV, Section 3 of the MNRS bylaws. 302 ballots were received, indicating a 21% response rate, representing a quorum as per our bylaws, a 10% requirement.

The 2024-2026 Board Members and Nominating Committee Members elected are:

Robert Topp, President-Elect
 Sheria Robinson-Lane, Vice President
 Eileen Hacker, Secretary
 Florence Johnson, Director-at-Large
 Lauri Sells, Nominating Committee Member
 Megan Wenzell, Nominating Committee Member

VI. Secretary Report

Dr. Eileen Hacker shared the feedback the Board of Directors received from the membership asking for an opportunity to publish their conference abstracts. A supplement of the WJNR was created to give members this opportunity. This year's cost was \$25 per submitter to cover the cost of the supplement. This was a zero-profit line item on the MNRS budget. The WJNR continues to flourish, and we are thrilled to announce the 2024 Conference Proceedings Supplement featured a total of 137 published abstracts, with the majority submitted by MNRS members. Of particular

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note is the robust representation of student contributions with an impressive 59 published abstracts. This underscores the dedication and caliber of research among our student members.

VII. Treasurer Report

Dr. Diane Von Ah gave an update on the 2023 society financials. Our fiscal year 2023 audit, conducted by an independent certified public accountant, was clean, affirming that our books, accounts, and financial procedures are in good order. The MNRS Board of Directors steadfastly uphold its fiduciary responsibilities to MNRS. The Finance Committee is actively ensuring MNRS's financial longevity by reinvesting net income, repaying investment accounts, and establishing a one-year operating reserve. MNRS is better equipped than five years ago to weather financial challenges, focusing on enhancing the member experience.

D. Von Ah highlighted a few of the society's financial achievements. The One-Year Operating Reserves was established. In July 2023, MNRS reached its operational cash goal to have one year's worth of expenses, approximately \$600,000, available in the operating funds between checking and money market accounts. By December 2023, MNRS successfully repaid \$64,200 borrowed from the MNRS investment account in 2015 and 2018 to cover operational expenses. This was paid into a newly opened UBS money market account to preserve liquidity of MNRS's finances. MNRS set up a new banking institution and money market account in December 2023 for reserve accounts, securing a higher interest rate to maximize interest income.

MNRS has implemented pricing changes to accommodate Alumni (Retirees) and students, ensuring their continued involvement and engagement. Our new Alumni Membership rate is now reduced to \$50 per year. Additionally, we have introduced a Student Two Year Bundle rate, offering the first year at \$116 and the second year at \$58, half price. A QR code was provided for a comprehensive overview of our membership levels and associated benefits.

VIII. WJNR Report

Dr. Todd Ruppap, the editor of the official journal of MNRS, Western Journal of Nursing Research. T. Ruppap shared that the Western Journal of Nursing Research is thriving. 604 new manuscripts were submitted in 2023, with an average time to first decision of 30 days. Accepted papers are published online less than a month after acceptance. It was also reported that MNRS leadership in WJNR is clear that the aim is to have editorial board members from every MNRS state. All authors who have published in the Journal were asked to stand and be recognized. The journal has added three associate editors, Dr. Sarah Newton, Dr. Kelly Wierenga, and Dr. Scott Moore. Additionally, T. Ruppap recognized the PhD student intern, Linda O'Kelley. All members of the WJNR editorial board were asked to stand to be recognized.

T. Ruppap announced the 2024 Best Paper contest is now open. You can find more information about the contest by contacting Bob Topp. Manuscripts of any research presented at the MNRS conferences may be submitted for the Best Paper Award. Winners will receive a prioritized review and publication process, as well as a cash award from Sage Publishing.

IX. MNRS Foundation Report

Dr. Helen Lach, Foundation President, thanked the entire MNRS Board of Directors for working so collaboratively with the Foundation to foster the mutual goal in support of nursing research in the Midwest region.

H. Lach introduced the members of the MNRS Foundation Board of Trustees for 2023-2024.

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Officers:

- Mary Anthony, Past President
- Marilyn Frenn, Secretary/Treasurer
- Diane Von Ah, Board Liaison

Trustees:

- Keela Herr
- Marcia Shade
- AkkeNeel Talsma
- Vida Vizgirda
- Said Abusalem
- Lauren Pageau

H. Lach shared that the Foundation Board of Trustees is thrilled to offer its annual Toast to Success Reception this evening to MNRS members, benefiting the MNRS Foundation and its mission of advancing nursing research through grant funding. One of the cornerstone achievements of the MNRS Foundation has been establishing an endowment fund with the sole purpose of providing perpetual support for our research funding objectives. H. Lach recognized and thanked all who donated this year and corporate partnerships and asked them to stand. It was noted that the raffle winners would be announced at the end of the business meeting and the winning institution that brought in the most raffle tickets for their donated item tomorrow. Other ways to contribute to the foundation were highlighted including the Legacy Circle, Named Grant, Honor a Researcher, In Memoriam, and the Walk-a-thon.

X. DEI Task Force Report & Announcement

Dr. Pallav Deka and Dr. Jill Peltzer, Co-Chairs of the DEI Task Force, provided an update on the work of the Task Force. They announced the publishing of the DEIB official statement on behalf of the society.

P. Deka shared the Task Force has also been working on a RIIG that is dedicated to health equity to advance research, knowledge, and practice in the pursuit of health equity for minoritized and marginalized communities. It was noted that merging with an existing RIIG, Health of Diverse Populations, is being considered. More information will be released as the plans are finalized.

XI. Service Award Resolutions

S. Tucker presented the 2024 MNRS service awards to Kathleen Buckwalter and Amy Hoffman for their countless hours contributed to the Society and expressed the Board's appreciation for their leadership.

XII. 2024-2025 Membership Rates

S. Tucker reported that the society's membership rates remain stable compared to the 2023 fiscal year, with the exception of adjusting pricing for students and alumni/retiree members. Effective July 1, 2024, the membership rates will continue at their current rate. It was noted renewal opportunities for the coming membership year will be available beginning May 2024.

XIII. 2024 Annual Conference Hosts

S. Tucker extended the society's heartfelt gratitude to the 2024 Annual Conference Hosts: Minnesota State University, Winona State University, Mayo Clinic, University of Minnesota School

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Sof Nursing, and the Susan S. Morrison School of Nursing at the University of St. Thomas. On behalf of the Board of Directors, S. Tucker presented the 2024 Conference Hosts with the Midwest Nursing Research Society Service Award for their commitment and dedication.

XIV. 2025 Annual Conference Hosts Save the Date

S. Tucker announced the dates for the 2025 49th Annual Research Conference in Indianapolis, IN and asked attendees to mark their calendars for March 26- 29, 2025.

XV. Adjournment

S. Tucker adjourned the meeting at 4:45 PM CDT.

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