Jennifer Thomas opened the meeting by thanking Florida State University and Frank Gunderson, the local arrangements chair, for their hospitality.

**AMS Council Representative’s Report:** Valerie Goertzen reported on the meeting of the AMS Council: the treasury is flush and the planning of the 2009 anniversary meeting in Philadelphia is progressing apace. The Council has been working on guidelines for fair use and discussing an ostensible bias to selecting members from Ph.D. granting institutions.

**Student Representative’s Report:**
Tina Huettenrauch reported that the Student Representatives’ Meeting discussed the issue of making the national AMS more accessible to students and of extending the seven-year time limit of student membership (since many students already join as undergraduates and thus use up their student status before they graduate). President Atkinson suggested that a letter from a student’s advisor to Robert Judd might be used to extend the time limit for the student membership rate. Finally, Andrew Dell’Antonio encouraged student representatives to reevaluate their role as ambassadors of their chapters. Especially junior members were encouraged to step forward and create new programs that would aid in representing the needs of students, including the release of emails welcoming new students to the chapter and the creation of a Facebook group as a message board.

**2007 Minutes:** Linda Cummins moved to accept the 2007 minutes; Andreas Giger seconded the motion; the minutes were approved.

**Bylaws:** Jennifer Thomas thanked Scott Warfield, Greg Harwood, and Bryan Proksch for their work on the bylaws. She suggested that we discuss the bylaws but postpone a vote until the business meeting in 2009.

Alice Clark felt that, in section III.D., an “Emeritus member” might still be active in various capacities and that defining an “Emeritus member” by the phrase “has retired permanently from active employment” is problematic because emeritus faculty might still teach an occasional course. Jennifer Thomas suggested that the phrase “permanently from active employment” might simply be omitted. It was decided to emend the definition of “Emeritus member” as follows: “An Emeritus member is defined as any individual who holds emeritus faculty status or has otherwise retired.”

Alice Clark furthermore felt that, in section IV.F., it is not clear whether “Chapter Representation” refers to the Chapter President or the Council Representative. It was decided to change “Chapter representation” to “Council representation.”

Alice Clark also raised the question of term limits for the program committee; after discussion, it was decided that the by-laws should specify an upper limit of three years.

Melissa Goldsmith asked whether we know exactly what geographical areas belong to the chapter and whether someone from outside this geographical area could join the chapter. Scott Warfield answered both questions in the affirmative: footnote 1 demarcates the exact
geographical area, and section III.E. allows any person from outside the chapter to join and participate.

Scott Warfield asked whether the chapter would vote on the document as a whole or by article. It was decided first to vote on the entire document and then, if a majority vote cannot be obtained, the document will be discussed article by article in order to determine where the disagreement lies.

The membership gave Scott Warfield a round of applause for his efforts. A revised version of the bylaws will be posted on the AMS-S Web site.

Jennifer Thomas asked whether it would be all right to follow the bylaws this year, even though they have not yet been approved. No objections were raised.

**Election of the Abstracts Editor:** The Society thanked Margaret Butler for her excellent work as Abstracts Editor with a round of applause. The Abstracts Editor has been receiving all the abstracts and has distributed them anonymously to the Program Committee. In addition, she has coordinated the submission and distribution of the papers submitted for the Student Paper Award.

Andreas Giger nominated William Horne for the position of Abstracts Editor. No other nominations were made, and William Horne was elected unanimously.

**Election of the Student Representative:** Stephen Thursby has completed his two-year term as Student Representative; Tina Huettenrauch will continue as Student Representative for another year. Jennifer Thomas nominated Phillip Klepacki for the second position of Student Representative; he was elected unanimously.

**Web master:** Amy Dunning has graciously agreed to continue her service as the chapter’s Web master.

**2009 and 2010 Meetings of the AMS-S:** Ed Hafer and Chris Goertzen have offered the University of Southern Mississippi as a venue for the 2008 meeting but will not be able to determine the actual date until April 2008 (trying to do their best to avoid scheduling conflicts with meetings of other regional societies). Ed Hafer will serve as local arrangements chair.

Melissa Goldsmith offered Nicholls State University as the venue for the 2010 chapter meeting and suggested the following dates: 29–30 January, 12–13 February, and 19–20 February. Alice Clark suggested checking these dates against those of Mardi Gras to avoid conflict. Melissa Goldsmith offered to arrange transportation from New Orleans Airport to Nicholls (a 45 mile drive).

**2008 Student Paper Prize:** The Award was presented to Tina Huettenrauch (Louisiana State University). Jennifer Thomas praised the high quality of this year’s student papers, including those that were not submitted for consideration. She once again suggested that faculty advisors strongly encourage their students to compete for the award.

Margaret Butler suggested that, beginning with this year, papers to be considered for the student paper award should be submitted by email. Silvio Dos Santos asked to consider that some documents might be too large for email transmission and that it should be possible to submit those documents by regular mail. Alice Clark suggested submission on CD, while William Horne suggested to encourage email submission but also accept paper submission. Jason
Hobratschk suggested to specify in the call for submissions the date of the postmark, not the date by which the papers should be in the hands of the Abstracts Editor. It was decided to have a year of transition, during which papers can be submitted either electronically or in hard copy.

**New Committees:** Jennifer Thomas appointed Margaret Butler chair of the program committee, with Ed Hafer and Charles Brewer as additional committee members. Margaret Butler will provide continuity, since she had already served as abstracts editor. Jennifer Thomas also appointed Douglass Seaton chair of the Nominating Committee, with Alice Clark as additional committee member.

**Presidential Farewell:** Jennifer Thomas said she is glad to be able to hand over the Presidency with the chapter being in splendid shape, largely due to all the contributions of the membership. She expressed her delight about the quality of the papers at the meeting so far and said she was particularly grateful for the scholarly contributions of senior members, the many friends she had made, and the progress on the bylaws.

    Incoming President Linda Cummins thanked Jennifer Thomas, especially praising her sensitivity and attention to the needs of the chapter. Linda Cummins invited all to attend the meeting in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and asked to consult the Web site for deadlines (which might be somewhat earlier this year).

Respectfully submitted,
Andreas Giger, Secretary-Treasurer