

**Society of Nematologists**  
**54<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting**  
**23 July 2015, East Lansing, MI**

**AGENDA**

1. **Call to Order:** *President Steve Thomas* called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm EDT.
2. **Appointment of Parliamentarian:** *Jon Eisenback*.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** A motion to approve the agenda was made by *Patty Timper* and seconded by *John Webster* and the motion passed.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion to approve minutes from the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting held in Cape Town, South Africa was made by *Rollo Perry* and seconded by *Sally Stetina*. The motion passed.
5. **Passing of members:** *President Thomas* acknowledged the passing of several members in the past year. In addition, he acknowledged those mentioned in Cape Town that many SON members may have missed. A moment of silence was observed for Harold Jensen, James Smolik (SDSU), Antonio Bello Perez (Madrid, Spain), P. Sivapalan (Sri Lanka), and from the previous year: Dewey J. Raski (UC Davis), John Marshall (New Zealand), John Radewald, and David Sui.
6. **Executive Board Reports:** Written reports will be published on the SON website.
  - a) **President – Steve Thomas:** He appointed Axel Elling to the Executive Board and stated that the APHIS Widely Prevalent Phytoparasitic Nematode list will be published on the website <http://www.prevalentnematodes.org/>.
  - b) **President-Elect – Byron Adams:** Informed members about the hacking of the SON web site in late January 2015.
  - c) **Vice-President – Patricia Timper:** nothing to add.
  - d) **Past-President – Jon Eisenback:** nothing to add.
  - e) **Secretary – Andrea Skantar:** nothing to add
  - f) **Treasurer – Senyu Chen:** Last year income was \$35,000; amount spent was \$52,000, giving a \$17,000 loss. Reinvestment of our fund has yielded \$22,000 gain. The Journal cost \$18,000. We are currently not charging for submissions to JON, only for abstracts of presentations at the annual meeting. The business office expenses were \$17,000; membership dues offsets that somewhat.
  - g) **Editor-in-Chief – Nancy Kokalis-Burelle:** the Journal is now on time. Incoming EIC *Andrea Skantar* implored members to update their PeerTrack profiles and fill in areas of expertise and keywords; and to please respond to requests to review.
7. **Web Page Editor – Roxana Myers:** Also reviewed impact of the hack on the website and expressed a desire to save the current website versus designing a totally new one.
8. **Other Reports:**
  - a) **N. A. Cobb Foundation – Terry Niblack, President:** Her written report has been submitted. She announced four travel awards this year and the election of Axel Elling as new treasurer and Janete Brito as new secretary. Fundraising continues to be successful to support students.
  - b) **Archivist – Jon Eisenback:** all data has been archived and will continue to be so.

- c) **American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) – *Pete Masler***: The written report will be posted. The AIBS website lists opportunities for collaboration, so check it out. Links will be provided in the report.
- d) **International Federation of Nematology Societies (IFNS) – *Larry Duncan***: not present.
- e) **National Scientific Collections Alliance**: not present.

## 9. Standing Committee Reports

- a) Biological Control of Nematodes – Senyu Chen asked members to consider joining, the committee is looking for new members.
- b) Ecology – Cecilia Tomasel not present.
- c) Education – Robin Giblin-Davis nothing to add.
- d) Entomophilic Nematology – Jared Ali not present.
- e) Extension – William Crow no report
- f) Finance Advisory – Senyu Chen: budget had a \$17,000 loss. The EB will be exploring a new model for the business office now that activities related to the Journal of Nematology are no longer necessary. Discussed a possible increase in dues, which have not been raised in several years, but members expressed concerns about losing current members that offsets any short-term gain. The issue of journal costs and how to handle them were discussed, including whether to charge fees for submission. These issues will be discussed further in the second Executive Board meeting.
- g) Graduate Student – Kurt Showmaker: not present.
- h) Honors and Awards – Tesfa Mengistu: nothing to report; Steve: Thanks to the committee its contribution in recognizing members and for their hard work in judging the student oral paper competition.
- i) Industry – Palle Pedersen: none.
- j) Long Range Planning – Jonathan D. Eisenback-strength of money making is in the annual report.
- k) Meeting Site Selection – Patricia Timper announced that a bid was accepted from Jon Eisenback to host the 2017 Annual Meeting in Williamsburg VA. A video presentation on Williamsburg was shown; the meeting would be held at the Woodland Conference Center. A video for the 2016 meeting site in Montreal was shown by Guy Belair.
- l) Membership – Ed McGawley: defer to new business.
- m) Plant Resistance – Tom Welacky not present
- n) Regulatory – none.
- o) Systematic Resources – Weiman Ye: nothing to add.

## 10. Old Business

- a) 55<sup>th</sup> Annual SON and ONTA Joint Meeting – July 15-24, 2016, Marriott Montréal Château Champlain, Montréal, Canada – Mario Tenuta/Guy Belair: see meeting site selection above.

## 11. New Business

- a) **Reinstatement of *Nematology Newsletter***: in .pdf format – Co-Editors: Jon Eisenback and Paulo Vieira were announced.
- b) **Open forum on SON membership and future direction**: Ed McGawley, moderator.
- Ed McGawley stated that, like the nematodes we study, we need to adapt to a changing environment: major issues include membership, the website, newsletter, dues, and officer candidates.
  - Membership has declined from 917 to 279 in 2013 to 182 paid members currently. People are on the rolls who are not active or not paying their dues. Students pursuing graduate degrees in nematology should be members.
  - SON needs to be visible; opportunities to increase this visibility are or can be made available as: business cards, jewelry, tee shirts, etc. Ed McGawley has lots of SON designs that could be put on sites such as Custom Ink, Zazzle, Café Press. Social media tools link to the web site and provide another means of communication with members.
  - Web page: The list of officers on the web site should have photographs. Committee lists need to be current, indicate committee chairs, add pictures, and email addresses. A lot of webpage space is dedicated to the corporate sponsors; this is not necessarily information that should be repeated on every part of the webpage. We currently are paying \$9.95 a month in hosting fees to maintain the site; we can afford to spend some of our budget on improving the website. Our options are to find a new programmer to fix the current site or start from scratch and develop a new site. Member Pablo Navia Gine offered his services to help with changes to the website going forward. Former treasurer Inga Zasada pointed out that SON paid \$20,000 for the website and supported trying to save it.
  - Membership: If we roll dues into registration then membership would increase automatically. If it is not a line item specified as membership then that should alleviate accounting concerns related to using grant funds etc. to attend the annual meeting.
  - Candidates for office should in writing or at business meeting express what their vision is, what plans they have for the Society.
  - Rollo Perry's open letter to the Executive Board was presented: "Simplify committee structure. Feature lab profiles on the website. Remove insularity of focusing on plant-parasitic nematodes and embrace other types of nematology research."
  - Member feedback: Rollo Perry proposed more joint meetings to encourage interaction with parasitology and more zoologically oriented societies. Ed McGawley said that he goes to the parasitology meetings often, and that this group downloads the Introduction to Nematodes presentation from the SON website a lot of times. John Webster pointed out that the standing committees need to be lit up once a year if not more often, they need to be proactive, the Executive Board needs to prod them if necessary. A silent auction can be effective for fundraising but needs work ahead of time. The website, newsletter, and journal are back on track. Lisa Kohl suggested we could increase events outside of the meeting such as sponsoring online seminar

series (as does weed science). Discussions could be held every so often on nematology that are free for members, but others could pay.

- Guy Belair: another society sponsors a contest where students have to provide a video presentation of their research that turns into a visual resume of their work. They are considering holding such a contest for the Montreal meeting.
- Terry Wheeler: Fewer students are going into nematology. She suggested there be teaching materials on the website with distance learning options. Ed McGawley responded that many of those resources already exist on the SON website.

**12. Recognition of support for 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting:**

- a) Bayer CropScience – student travel awards
- b) Dow AgroScience – student travel awards
- c) Syngenta AG – Syngenta award
- d) MSU Vice President for Research & Graduate Studies
- e) MSU College of Agriculture & Natural Resources
- f) MSU AgBioResearch
- g) MSU Extension
- h) MSU Department of Horticulture
- i) Michigan Potato Industry Commission
- j) Michigan State Horticultural Society
- k) Michigan Cherry Industry
- l) Michigan Wheat Program

**13. Recognition of Service to SON:**

- a) Secretary – Andrea Skantar 2012/13 – 2014/15
- b) Nancy Kokalis-Burelle – *JON* Editor-in-Chief 1/2012 – 7/2015
- c) Sally Stetina – *Nematology Newsletter Editor* 2010/11 – 2012/13
- d) Byron Adams – Web Editor – 2010/11 – 2012/13
- e) Haddish Melakeberhan – Local Arrangements Committee Chair
- f) Byron Adams – Program Committee Chair
- g) *Journal of Nematology* Editors whose 3-year terms ended 31 December 2014
  - Andreas Westphal
  - Zafar Handoo
  - James LaMondia
  - David Shapiro-Ilan
  - Inga Zasada

**14. Installation of New Officers**

- a) Editor-in-Chief: Andrea Skantar
- b) Secretary: Koon-Hui Wang
- c) Vice-President: Nancy Kokalis-Burelle
- d) President-Elect: Patricia Timper
- e) President: Byron Adams thanked Past-President Steve Thomas for his service to the society.

- 15. Motion to Adjourn Byron Adams:** A motion to adjourn the business meeting was made by *Jon Eisenback* and seconded by *Billy Crow*. The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 pm EDT.