

**Society of Nematologists  
51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting  
First Executive Board Meeting  
16 August 2012, Savannah, GA  
Recorded by Andrea M. Skantar, Secretary**

- 1) **In Attendance:** Jim LaMondia (President), Brent Sipes (President-elect), Jon Eisenback (Vice President), Inga Zasada (Treasurer), Andrea Skantar (Secretary), Nancy Kokalis-Burelle (Journal of Nematology Editor-in-Chief), Byron Adams (Web Editor), Sally Stetina (Nematology Newsletter Editor), Antoon Ploeg, Paula Agudelo, Horatio Lopez-Nicora.
  
- 2) **Call to Order:** Brent Sipes called the meeting to order at 8:05 am.
  
- 3) **Approval of Agenda:** *Jim Lamondia made, and Jon Eisenback seconded, a motion to approve the agenda. The motion passed.*
  
- 4) **Executive Board Reports:** no additions to written reports
  - a) **President**
  - b) **President-elect**
  - c) **Vice-President**
  - d) **Past President**
  - e) **Secretary**
  - f) **Treasurer**
  - g) **Editor in Chief**
  - h) **Nematology Newsletter**
  - i) **Web Page Editor**
  - j) **Public Relations Director:** vacant
  
- 5) **Committee Reports from Executive Board Liaisons:**
  - a) **Biological Control:** Paula Agudelo reported that this committee is revitalized and enthusiastic. She gave an updated list of members to Executive Board member Nathan Schroeder. The committee requests requests \$3000 for inviting speakers to the meeting in Cleveland from either China or Brazil.
  - b) **Ecology:** Horatio Lopez-Nicora: New chair is Koon Hui Huang, co-chair, Cecelia Tomasel. They want to organize symposium for next meeting, tentatively entitled Agro Ecosystem Health; hold a workshop the day before the meeting begins on community analysis. They would like to have a Cobb bowl with trivia questions, judging.
  - c) **Education:** A. Ploeg: the new chair is Axel Elling, vice-chair is Robin Giblin-Davis. Online distance education was discussed. Since Ag Idea got no feedback; proposed to have a teaching hour-info forthcoming; symposium on distance ed-\$2500; Ed McGawley ideas-slide depository from symposium available for teaching; have slideshow during meeting on history of nematology (maybe should be narrated by Morgan Freeman).

- d) Entomopathogenic Nematodes:** A. Ploeg: The new chair is new member Fatma Kaplan. They want to write a review paper on their symposium and publish it. There's not much advertisement of SON in the EPN world, so they suggested to hyperlink member web sites and research areas by interest lists on web page. EPN Communication and Signalling symposium was discussed for the Ohio meeting with a request of \$3000 for speakers.
- e) Extension: Antoon Ploeg** reported that he, Mueller, Overstreet, and Koenig met. Ideas were discussed for symposium for next meeting: current status of nematicides; developing genetically modified crops-what can be used in the field; political and consumer issues (invite industry); use of new technology to extend life of nematicide.
- f) Industry:** A. Ploeg reported that 12 people attended and there was an active discussion. There was discussion if there's any way that industry can be represented on the board. They would like to sponsor a student lunch and have them visit with the companies to get an idea about careers, etc. They talked about inviting a local grower from the Ohio area for next meeting.
- g) Membership:** did not meet.
- h) Plant Resistance:** did not meet.
- i) Regulatory:** did not meet.
- j) Systematics Resources: Paula Agudelo** reported that this committee also had a productive meeting. Committee members concluded that the online Journal of Nematology should attract new submissions. They suggested the Instructions for Authors is dated. Taxonomy editor Zafar Handoo will assist with revision of criteria pertaining to taxonomic submissions. Descriptions must be in line with International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, so there should be a statement in the journal that paper copies are deposited in five major libraries. EB members P. Agudelo and N. Burelle discussed that modifying the Style Guide is big undertaking. N. Burelle will work with the committee to draft the appropriate language for the cover and Table of Contents and updates to the Style Guide. The issue of how and where supplemental journal figures and information should be archived and linked to the journal articles was also addressed. Links to video vouchers or photographs must be made in a permanent repository to ensure future access for years to come. B. Adams pointed out that the Publisher usually maintains supplemental figures. N. Burelle will ask FCLA if they can archive such things and follow up with the Board.
- k) Graduate students:** H. Lopez-Nicora: Students like to meet each other and give talks on the first day of the meeting because it helps them relax and meet people. After competition immediately have the graduate student committee because everyone is already together. There was discussion about wanting more travel awards, but the EB concluded that the percentage of students attending with travel awards is already pretty high. It was suggested to put a tag on the name badges of travel award winners so that people can see who won the travel award; the companies may like that recognition. J. Eisenback suggested that more information should be on name badges, so that students can see immediately who is a fellow or an honorary member. In addition, first time attendees or non-members could be given a different colored badge so that it's easy to tell whom to target for membership.

**6) Standing Committee Reports:**

- a) **Finance Advisory:** no report
- b) **Honors and Awards:** no report
- c) **Long Range Planning:** J. Lamondia, R. Ingham, and B. Sipes were present. An overview of current issues included what new issues will arise now that JON is online; the declining numbers of nematologists; is CAST a good use of Society dollars.

The question was raised whether the Society should develop a white paper on the loss of resources and nematology positions. A loss of funding has caused problems to arise (for example the emergence of *Ditylenchus* in garlic). The loss of capacity is having an impact in agriculture; the use of such examples in white papers would give us a concrete basis for promoting the need for nematology. When ideas are submitted to CAST, they must be of national concern and scope. They are currently working on a paper for justifying support of agricultural research. The question was raised whether we should depend so much on CAST to talk for us, or should we talk to our own representatives. Deans or university presidents could be tapped to advocate for us. Not filling vacant nematology positions has an effect. CAST meets in the fall, so efforts will have to coincide with their timing.

The possibility of partnering with larger NGOs like Gates Foundation or other capacity building organizations was raised. For example, they could sponsor a nematologist from Bangladesh or whatever to come to the US. It was noted that Prem Warrior now works with Gates. S. Thomas mentioned the Coalition for a Sustainable Agricultural Workforce (CSAW), a coalition of industry and university people. There is some frustration is that CAST doesn't lobby so much as provide information. CSAW may do more direct lobbying. Contact people from SON include S. Thomas and G. Abawi. Membership is \$3000, or maybe smaller \$500 membership. Current member organizations include 35 professional societies and corporate interests. This group realizes critical loss of infrastructure; the goal is for a unified lobbying voice. Their approach is different than CAST, providing commercials on TV and other grassroots efforts; a different angle to complement regular lobbying.

P. Agudelo brought up the previous SON white paper on national needs and priorities in nematology and suggested that that document is a good place to start. It could be updated it and put out again. She will provide an electronic copy, after which the Board can solicit ideas for updating it.

- d) **Meeting Site Selection:** J. LaMondia reported that upcoming sites will be: 2013, Cleveland; 2014, FICN; Bids for 2015 were put in by H. Melakaberhan for Lansing, Michigan; Mario Tenuta bid 2016 for Montreal, Canada. For 2017, a joint meeting with APS was proposed, possibly meeting on the west coast. A bid for FICN in 2020 may come from E. McGawley for New Orleans. In order to compete with the dates for APS, we need a framework agenda EARLY to give people information to choose when and where they will spend their travel dollars. We need to be proactive about letting people know through the website and newsletter. The exact dates for IFNS should be out by end of month.

It was suggested that we do more to advertise our meeting at other meetings by putting the meeting announcements in the newsletters of other societies (APS, Entomology, ESN, etc.) *This should be put in the Operations Manual (J. Eisenback).*

- e) **N.A. Cobb Foundation:** no report
- f) **Archives:** No report

## 7) **Affiliated Organizations**

- a) **AIBS:** no report.
- b) **CAST:** This cost of it is one of our biggest expenses, \$2500 (dues plus travel). The President needs to give Inga direction whether to pay or not pay these dues. This can be delayed pending discussion and approval of the Board. If the bill is higher than \$1500. The Board needs to weigh the cost-benefit of CAST vs CSAW or other lobbying groups to SON.
- c) **CoFarm:** no report.
- d) **IFNS:** no report.
- e) **NSCA:** no report.

## 8) **Old Business**

- a) **Budget 2013:** Inga Zasada: Changes to budget include support for Editor-in-Chief. The program budget is \$80K; we'd make it \$100K. How much do we want Jon to spend on program for the next meeting: program costs should be built into the budget. Should we combine program and arrangement costs? (Parwinder has to be informed that the meeting needs to make money.) Corvallis cost \$18K for program; \$10-12K for speakers is the target for normal years. Open bars are expensive. It was discussed whether we should have more product show booths such Olympus microscopes or other companies. CABI or Elsevier come, but do we charge them? Communication for the next meeting will be an issue.
- b) **Business Office:** We need to reduce amount of hours for business activities. Inga will have candid conversation with the business office (Lisa) to make it more efficient. In June, she's started doing things on her own without being asked. The Board needs to define what is Byron's and what is her duty (to keep costs down); who should field particular questions through the web site. Currently, Byron does content; general contact queries go to Byron and Lisa both. There's a difference in how the Schmitts handled the Business Office and how it is now, so we need to adjust. Byron: just wants to be cc'd on her responses so he knows how and when things are handled. Regarding the journal, Nancy is not currently being cc'd. Inga: the responsibilities of the Business Office need to be clearer; now is a good time since we have transitioned to the electronic journal. Inga will update the part of OPS manual that deals with business operations. Byron noted that we are billed for all emails that are read by the office. Members can update their own info on the web site, so that should be emphasized to the membership on the web site and/or in the Newsletter.
- c) **Changes to web site:** Byron bids this out beforehand so he knows what it will cost. Will inform Inga. Byron: it is smart to have students be involved in social media aspect of

publicizing the society since they are heavy users. Byron will be rotating off as Web Editor; Brent suggests we need to prepare for that.

- d) **Journal of Nematology:** Nancy is currently doing technical editing herself, but maybe Allen Press could provide somebody. Inga has budgeted \$10K for it, but this may not be necessary. It was suggested to decrease EIC budget to \$500, to keep the line item in the budget so we don't lose the assumption it may be needed in the future, then we either spend it or not.
- e) **Constitutional Amendments**
  - i) *Term length of Appointed Executive Board members*
  - ii) *Subject matter committees to Operations Manual*

We got the necessary advisory vote. These need to be published in newsletter in September; the membership is given the opportunity to respond, then we have an electronic vote.

- f) **Honors And Awards:** The current workload for committee members is too high. J. Eisenback: committee chair Billy Crow is working to repopulate the committee with additional members so the workload will decrease.

## 9) New Business

- a) **Advertising in SON media:** The question of having advertising in SON publications or newsletters came up again. We cannot accept advertisements for money because we would lose our non-profit status. If someone finds a product they like, they could write a letter to the newsletter saying they found a helpful product or website, and then indicate contact information that way.
- b) **EB member travel expense reimbursement:** It is a hassle to get reimbursed for many people, especially those in government. If we book a block of rooms for a day longer and extend the official meeting dates, then it isn't so much of a hassle to justify coming early or staying later.
- c) **Communicating and bringing value to members:** The committees page of the web site needs to be updated. We need to get the right content from the right people and send it to Byron and he'll update it.
- d) **Keeping track of the committees:** get list of current members. Now responsibility of the Vice President. The chair of committees should send information to the Vice President and to Byron.
- e) **Ask the experts:** that needs to be updated, along with current updates to editorial board; archive of newsletters needs to be in folders.
- f) **Website and NNL:** there needs to be more integration between the two. An Executive Board member should be moderator of the Facebook and Twitter sites. Students could be involved in the social media, but with EB moderation and oversight. Announcements could be made on both sites such as when the journal comes out or when a newsletter comes out. Social media is an untapped resource for potential international members. Dec 2010 newsletter has the link. The newsletter could contain more html. Brent wants to do a video, but we would have to watch the resolution, as some employer and government web sites monitor bandwidth use or even prevent Facebook, YouTube, etc. Byron: we don't currently have a Wikipedia

- g) Dues increase:** Inga Zasada: we need to be thinking about it for next year. The need for it should be justified to the members at next year's meeting. We should present a 10 year plan for incremental increases and potentially have a tiered system of membership that includes a postdoc category for meeting registration. We need to demonstrate to the members that they are getting something for the extra money.
- h) Use of financial reserves:** Brent Sipes: We have digitized old journals; there is value in that that they are now electronic. Archiving other things electronically has long term value.
- i) Archives:** Currently the journal high resolution cd's of Journal of Nematology content are being sent to Nancy. Non-paper items may also be interesting to get on the web page. Nancy and future EIC's will send the set of 4 cd's to the archivist (Pat Donald) who will then have them archived. Check with Pat Donald: she needs to be asked what is involved in the archives at Iowa State. It needs to be a physical place. Has this changed? Currently at Iowa State University Library. The digital images for the biological control slide set is not available. The SON slide set is no longer available on web site. Jon has a copy of those cd's. Kathy Lawrence loaded some of those. Some stuff from the old web site did not get transferred over, so the information needs to be obtained again and reloaded.
- j) AgIdea online nematology course:** It is a double edged sword; if SON supports a course in nematology, then maybe universities won't hire more nematologists. Places that don't teach nematology would be interested in paying for a distance learning course. Hopefully it won't limit schools from hiring, but that seems to be the way it is going. Some universities have impending retirements (such as Abawi at Cornell); there needs to be planning ahead so that capacity is not lost.

10) **Adjourn:** A motion to adjourn was made by Jim Lamondia and seconded by Jon Eisenback. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.