

**Society of Nematologists**  
**Minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Business Meeting**  
Savannah, GA  
15 August 2012

Recorded by Richard F. Davis, Secretary

1. **Call to Order:** President Jim LaMondia called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm.
2. **Appointment of Parliamentarian:** Jim LaMondia appointed Ernie Bernard to serve as Parliamentarian during the business meeting.
3. **Agenda Approval:** *A motion to approve the agenda was made by Terry Niblack and seconded by Dick Hussey and the motion passed.*
4. **Approval of Minutes of 50th Annual Business Meeting:** *A motion to accept the minutes was made by Brent Sipes and seconded by Terry Niblack and the motion passed.*
5. **Recognition of Deceased Members:** Jim LaMondia informed the Society that the following members had passed away during the last year: Walid I. Abu-Gharbieh, István Andrásy William Gazaway, Gerald Griffin, Oliver Holzmann, Brian Kerry, Peggy King, John O'Bannon, Daniel Orion, Jan van Bezooijen, Harry Wallace, and Gregor Yeates. The deceased members were honored by those at the meeting with a moment of silence.
6. **Officer Reports:**
  - a) **President:** Jim LaMondia – JON was transitioned to an online format with online submission of manuscripts.
  - b) **President-elect:** Brent Sipes – nothing to add to written report.
  - c) **Vice President:** Jon Eisenback – Jon represented SON at the USDA listening session regarding science funding. Most presenters at the listening session said that there should more support for single investigators and smaller projects instead of big multidisciplinary proposals.
  - d) **Secretary:** Richard Davis – Language was drafted for two proposed Constitutional changes to be put forward at this business meeting for consideration by the SON membership. One amendment would change the term lengths for the appointed Executive Board members, and the other amendment would move the names of the standing subject-matter committees from the Constitution to the Manual of Operations.
  - e) **Treasurer:** Inga Zasada – SON is in good financial standing. The SON Annual Meeting made about 28,000 in 2011. Inga was involved in studying the financial aspects of transitioning JON to an electronic format and that information was crucial in making decisions regarding the journal. Membership is declining and JON subscriptions are declining, and that translates into reduced income for the Society.
  - f) **Past president:** Parwinder Grewal – no oral report.
  - g) **Editor-in-Chief, JON:** Nancy Kokalis-Burelle – no oral report.
  - h) **Nematology Newsletter Editor:** Sally Stetina – no oral report.
  - i) **Public Relations Director: Vacant:** no report.

j) **Web Page Editor:** Byron Adams – no oral report.

**7. N.A. Cobb Nematology Foundation Report:** Patricia Timper, Cobb Foundation Chair and Local Arrangements Chair for the 2012 SON meeting. As Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee, Patricia reported that the 2012 SON annual meeting has 185 registered attendees, including 46 students. As Chair of the Cobb Foundation, Patricia recognized the service of outgoing Cobb Foundation officers, Steve Koenning as Treasurer and Paula Agudelo as Secretary. They were given plaques in appreciation for their service. The newly elected Cobb Foundation officers are Susan Meyer as Secretary and Richard Davis as Treasurer. The Foundation gave six travel awards, including one to the Evolution of Nematodes conference. The Foundation gave five travel awards to the 2012 SON meeting. The Cobb Foundation received a \$10,000 gift with the stipulation that the funds not be invested but be used during the next several years to fund student travel awards. The donor wishes to remain anonymous. Excluding the gift, donations to the Foundation are down from previous years. There are preliminary plans to hold another silent auction in Ohio in conjunction with the 2013 SON meeting.

**8. Standing Committee Reports:** Jim LaMondia asked whether any of the standing committees wanted to add to the written reports that they had submitted prior to the meeting.

- a) **Biological Control:**
- b) **Ecology:**
- c) **Education:** Development of an Ag Idea online course is progressing.
- d) **Entomophilic Nematology:**
- e) **Extension:**
- f) **Finance Advisory:**
- g) **Honors and Awards:**
- h) **Industry:** Discussing hosting a lunch for graduate students at the meeting next year.
- i) **Long Range Planning:**
- j) **Meeting Site Selection:**
- k) **Membership:** This committee currently has no members and is defunct, but SON is addressing this and hoping to make it an active committee again.
- l) **Plant Resistance:**
- m) **Regulatory:**
- n) **Systematic Resources:**
- o) **Student Committee:**

**9. Affiliated Organization Representative Reports:**

- a) **International Federation of Nematology Societies (IFNS):** no report.
- b) **Council on Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST):** no report.
- c) **American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) representative:** no report.

**10. Old Business**

- a) **Proposed Constitutional changes to change the Executive Board liaison termsto three years and stagger their appointments, and to remove the names of the committees from the Constitution and put them in the Manual of Operations:** Richard Davis briefly summarized the proposed changes to the Constitution and

explained the Constitutionally mandated process for changing the Constitution. An advisory vote at the Annual Business Meeting is needed to continue the process of making the changes. Jim Kotcon made a motion to proceed with Constitutional changes, and Patricia Timper seconded the motion. The motion to proceed was approved by the membership.

- b) **Journal of Nematology:** JON has successfully transitioned to online format. Publication of the journal is back on schedule and it is being indexed appropriately. Since October 2011 when she began accepting manuscripts, Nancy Kokalis-Burelle (JON Editor-in-Chief) had 27 submissions through email and 15 using the new online submission process. During that time, the journal's rejection rate is about 25%. Andrea Skantar has agreed to be the Senior Editor and will become the Editor-in-Chief when Nancy's term ends at the end of 2014.
- c) **SON future meeting sites:** The 2013 meeting will be in Cleveland, Ohio in July. A video was shown highlighting Cleveland as a conference destination. The 2014 meeting will be the International Congress of Nematology in Cape Town, South Africa. The registration fee is now expected to be approximately \$650, which is down from the original estimate of \$1,100 to \$1,200. The 2015 meeting will be on the Campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. SON is soliciting bids for the 2016 meeting. SON may hold a joint meeting with the American Phytopathological Society (APS) in 2017. SON may submit a bid for the International Congress of Nematology in 2020 for New Orleans, Louisiana. Mario Tenuta offered Montreal, Quebec as a meeting site for July 2016 and presented a slide show highlighting Montreal as a conference destination. Haddish Melakeberhan gave a presentation inviting SON members to attend the 2015 SON meeting in Michigan in 2015 the week of July 17th. The 2015 SON meeting will be held at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing, Michigan.
- d) **Other old business:** none.

## 11. New Business

- a) none.

**12. Recognition of Service:** On behalf of SON, Jim LaMondia thanked several individuals for their service to the Society during the past year. He thanked the Executive Board liaisons for their service. Billy Crow rotated off the Executive Board last year, but was thanked this year. Paula Agudelo and David Shapiro-Ilan were recognized and given plaques for their service.

**13. Installation of New Officers:** Current President Jim LaMondia installed the new officers for the upcoming year. The new officers were Brent Sipes as President, Jon Eisenback as President-elect, Steve Thomas as Vice President, and Andrea Skantar as Secretary. Inga Zasada will continue as Treasurer for one more year.

Jim LaMondia thanked the local arrangements committee as his final act as President. Patricia Timper thanked all the people who helped put on the meeting including the local arrangements committee and the University of Georgia conference coordinators. She also thanked Brent Sipes for his work on the meeting program and Billy Crow for his work on the awards banquet program.

Brent Sipes assumed control of the meeting as the new President.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.