

**Society of Nematologists**  
**53<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**  
**Business Meeting**  
**7 May 2014, Capetown, South Africa**  
**Recorded by Andrea Skantar**

1. **Call to Order:** *President Jon Eisenback* called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm SA time.
2. **Appointment of Parliamentarian:** *Robin Giblin Davis*.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** A motion to approve the agenda was made by *Nick Sekora* and seconded by *Billy Crow* and the motion passed.
4. **Minutes:** *Patty Timper* moved and *Steve Thomas* seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the 52nd Annual Business Meeting in Knoxville in 2013. The motion passed.
5. **Passing of members:** *President Eisenback* informed the Society that the following members had passed away during the past year: Dezhi “David” Sui, John Radewald, John Marshall, and Dewey Raski. The deceased members were honored with a moment of silence by those in attendance.
6. **Executive Board Reports:** Written officer reports will be published on the SON web site.
  - a) **President, Jon Eisenback:** expressed thanks for allowing him to serve the Society.
  - b) **President-elect, Steve Thomas:** nothing to add.
  - c) **Vice President, Byron Adams:** not in attendance.
  - d) **Past President, Brent Sipes:** nothing to add.
  - e) **Secretary, Andrea Skantar:** nothing to add.
  - f) **Treasurer, Senyu Chen:** Society finances are in good standing, with total annual income of \$131,452 K and expenditures of \$143,451. The Journal of Nematology lost ~\$4,000; business office expenses were ~\$26,000; and committees spent ~\$20,000. The Finance Advisory Committee recommended the transfer of \$150,000 from the Society checking account to the Society investment account. The Society currently has ~\$95,000 in checking and ~\$440,000 in total assets (checking and investments). We have no income from the journal but still have a bit of expenses for electronic publishing. Where should the money for this added expense come from? Currently, membership income is \$17,000 but dropping, so there needs to be a plan to increase membership and/or income. A special industry-supported travel fund of \$28,000 was raised by Haddish Melakeberhan and others, and distributed by SON to 23 graduate students and post-doctoral research associates to attend the 6<sup>th</sup> ICN. Saad Hafez proposed 23 free 1-year memberships for students to get them involved in the society. This issue will be added as an agenda item for the 2<sup>nd</sup> EB meeting.
  - g) **Editor-in-Chief, JON: (Jon Eisenback reporting for Nancy Burelle)** *Nancy* got the journal running current in regard to filling and publishing

quarterly issues. The quality and number of publications submitted should increase. *Billy Crow* said manuscripts spend an average of about 28 days in review, but can take as long as 200 days for authors to respond to that review; he wants to cut that to 3 months. (Maybe we need to get a little more strict on reviewers.) *Billy Crow* mentioned that the H factor, which is another measure of journal success, may be more appropriate than Impact Factor when comparing the impact of the Journal of Nematology to that of other nematology journals or related scientific journals. The Society also needs to encourage submission of disease notes, first reports, and reviews to JON. *Saad Hafez* asked about the acceptability of applied research, such as what used to appear in the Supplement to JON. There's no reason these cannot be submitted to JON; prior prohibitions are no longer relevant. As long as papers have more than one year of data, the journal can accept applied research.

- h) **Nematology Newsletter Editor: (Jon Eisenback reporting for Roxana Myers):** NNL is in transition to a web-news feed rather than a standard newsletter. What we need now is more immediate and less restricted access for the web and NNL editor to the website to update the content.
- i) **Web Page Editor: (Jon Eisenback for Roxana Myers):** *Jon* stated that we need a more dynamic web site that has links to other things (similar to the CAST website, which has a news feed). Hopefully future enhancements to the SON web site will come as a result of the RFP for people to offer educational tools that will only be accessible to members.
- j) **Budget Report, Senyu Chen:** deferred to second EB meeting.

## 7. Other Reports

- a) N.A. Cobb Foundation, David Shapiro reported on behalf of treasurer Richard Davis: The Foundation has ~\$182,000 endowed; individual donations have gone down. 14 donations were received in the past FY, 20 the year before. Even if people donated \$10 or \$20 when renewing annual membership, it would help.
- b) Archives: Jon Eisenback is now the archivist.
- c) Biological Control: none.
- d) Ecology: none.
- e) Education: none.
- f) Entomophilic Nematology: none.
- g) Extension: none.
- h) Finance Advisory: none.
- i) Graduate Students: none.
- j) Honors and Awards: none.
- k) Industry: none.
- l) Long Range Planning: none.
- m) Meeting Site Selection: Steve Thomas reported since Local Arrangements Chair Haddish Melakeberhan lost his voice.

- i. Information about the 2015 meeting at Michigan State University will be sent as a general link from the listserv when we get back from 6ICN.
- ii. We should try to double the number of students in attendance compared to the current meeting.
- iii. Dates of the meeting are July 19-24, 2015.
- iv. A contest for students to develop a logo for the Society will be announced soon. The winner will receive paid registration and a prize.
- v. 2016 Montreal: ONTA approved a joint meeting with SON at their membership meeting in Cape Town.
- vi. 2017 is still open for proposals.

- n) Membership: none
- o) Plant Resistance: none
- p) Regulatory: none
- q) Systematic Resources: none

Affiliated Organizations – no reports from:

- 1) AIBS
- 2) CAST
- 3) CoFarm
- 4) IFNS
- 5) NSCA

## 8. Old Business – none

## 9. New Business

- a. **Installation of new officers** – *Jon Eisenback* passed “the pen” (the gavel is not TSA friendly): to incoming President *Steve Thomas*. The new Vice President is *Patty Timper*.

## 10. Awards Program:

- a) **Cobb Foundation awards:** Three awards of \$1,000 each were presented by David Shapiro to: Nathan Redding (N.A. Cobb Endowment); Arsenio Ndeve (Baujard Endowment); Wei Li (N.A. Cobb Endowment)
- b) **Haddish Melakeberhan:** Secured from industry sponsors an additional 23 awards to fund student travel to the 6<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Nematology.
- c) **Service to the Society award:** To *Jon Eisenback*, presented by *Steve Thomas*, in recognition of his service as Vice President, President Elect, and President.
- d) **Fellows of the Society:** Renato Inserra and Andy Nyczepir were awarded the designation of Fellow of the Society. Unfortunately neither could attend in person. The complete write up of their accomplishments was included in the awards program, and will be published in the NNL.

- e) **Thanks were expressed to members of the Honors and Awards committee for their hard work:** *Charles Overstreet*, as Chair, and the others members were thanked for their service.
  - f) **Syngenta Award:** The recipient was Paula Agudelo, with her award presented by *Nick Sekora* of Syngenta.
11. **Other items:** *Benjamin Mimee* and *Mario Tenuta* announced that they will host the SON meeting in 2016, which will be a joint meeting with ONTA during mid-late July 2016, and include a four day meeting with one day for a tour.
12. **Adjourn:** A motion to adjourn the business meeting was made by *Jon Eisenback* and seconded by *Billy Crow*. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm SA time.