

**Society of Nematologists  
53rd Annual Meeting  
First Executive Board Meeting  
May 5, 2014**

**Recorded by Andrea M. Skantar, Secretary**

**In Attendance: Brent Sipes (Past President), Jon Eisenback (President), Steve Thomas (President Elect), Senyu Chen (Treasurer), Andrea Skantar (Secretary), Nancy Burelle (JON EIC), Horacio Lopez Nicora, Paulo Viera, Haddish Melakeberhan, Patty Timper.**

1. **Announcements:** in a very tight election, *President Jon Eisenback* announced that *Patty Timper* won the election for Vice-President of the Society.
2. **Call to Order:** *President Jon Eisenback* called the meeting to order at 5:50 pm SA time.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** *Nancy Burelle* moved and *Brent Sipes* seconded the motion to accept the Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **Approval of Minutes of Electronic Board Meeting:** *Brent Sipes* so moved and *Steve Thomas* seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the 2013/14 electronic board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **2015 Local arrangements report:** *Haddish Melakeberhan*
  - a. For now, *Haddish* has set up a Michigan State University web site that contains maps that show campus, attractions, the hotel, and other links. He wants to make parallel programs for scientists, spouses, and students.
  - b. Proposed dates were announced: 19-24 July 2015; EB arrives July 18<sup>th</sup>, on July 19<sup>th</sup> the EB meets, registration opens, and the reception takes place in the evening; two days of presentations, third day is field day including tours (July 22<sup>nd</sup>).
  - c. *Brent Sipes* stated that early reminders from *Sally Stetina* for the previous meeting were very beneficial. *Haddish* and *Byron Adams* did not want to overshadow this meeting with too many announcements but stated that there will soon be reminders coming out to the membership.
  - d. *Jon Eisenback* referenced a prior proposal for a workshop to be held at a future SON meeting, focusing on county agents and agricultural extension activities in nematology. As for timing, the workshop should probably be after the main meeting. The NE1040 meeting will be at the end of of the SON meeting so it may dovetail such that people can participate in both activities.
  - e. There will be a contest for students to design a logo for SON. The Local Arrangements committee will decide the winner; there will be prizes plus free registration. We want to encourage more student attendance (56 are at the 6<sup>th</sup> ICN meeting, so we want more than that).
  - f. *Horacio Lopez Nicora* stated that the Student Committee will give feedback on what they would like to see as far as the program and will encourage students to attend.

- g. A question was posed whether we should emphasize publicity on Facebook or on the web site? We definitely need to make the public more aware of nematology. The EB concluded that emphasizing the web page would be better at this point. No action needed but feedback to *Haddish* is encouraged.
6. **Officer's reports** (due to time constraints, discussion was limited to those prioritized by *Jon*; because standing committees do not meet when SON participates in International Congresses, no standing committee reports were presented):
- a. **Journal of Nematology:** EIC *Nancy Burelle* stated that the journal is doing well, and timing of quarterly issues is back on track. There's a poster advertising the journal in registration area that shows several of the journal covers. The poster can be added to the web site.
- i. Summary of PeerTrack report: Issues of the journal are published on time; June issue is current; manuscripts are on track; scientific indexing is on PubMed; other indices if needed can be added. The reviewer database is a constant problem; we've had 37 decisions, 2 terminations/withdrawals; data on status of journal is reported; time to decision is 22.4 days. (*How many submissions did we get?*) We no longer have trouble making issues since the minimum needed for binding is no longer a factor. Impact factor takes 2 years to change. We'll keep an eye on that to see how it has moved. A continuing issue is how to encourage reviewers to respond more quickly. Currently the invited reviewers are assigned—if we tweak the system so that they are not assigned until they accept then we could invite several people and then take the first few that accept.
  - ii. A future workshop on publishing in JON was proposed. ***Brent Sipes* moved and *Steve Thomas* seconded, a motion to organize a workshop for the 2015 SON Meeting geared toward students/professionalism in publishing/reviewing.** Discussion: *Nancy Burelle* suggested that we send ideas on what topics to include to her in an email. *Brent* asked if it is our purview to propose a program item like this—the Editorial Board should discuss and decide on content of the workshop. **The motion passed unanimously.**
  - iii. *Horacio* suggested that we could publish a special issue geared towards a special topic. In the past there was a special issue on EPNs, including symposium papers. *Molecular Plant Microbe Interactions* did a special issue on secreted nematode proteins.
  - iv. *Steve Thomas* asked if we've had any first reports submitted; *Nancy Burelle* indicated that we have. The instructions to authors needs to make it clear that the journal now accepts these submissions, and a reminder to the membership would be helpful.
- b. **Treasurer:** *Senyu Chen* submitted a report to the EB. There is now about \$95,000 in the Society's US Bank account; the Wells Fargo investment account contains \$346,000 as of

the end of last year; likely contains more now. Total assets number around \$440,000. The Society's Finance Advisory Committee and Treasurer decided to transfer \$150,000 into the investment account. The need for cash flow depends on what the Local Arrangements Committee asks for and can be adjusted accordingly.

- i. There is no longer any income from the journal, with discontinuation of all printed copies and library memberships.
- ii. Any manuscript by a nonmember should pay a \$100 fee. That motion was passed previously but not implemented. The intention was to encourage membership in SON, which is cheaper than paying the fee. *Nancy* has not been checking which submitting authors are or are not a member as of this time, but we need to do that so that this data can be tracked in the future.  
***Brent Sipes* moved and *Nancy Burelle* seconded that we implement the previous motion from 2013, record author status for 2013 and 2014 journal issues and collect information on 2015 membership status. In 2015 we'll reevaluate implementation of the motion of 2013 based on a few years of data.** Discussion: Allen Press charges are reasonable; Sheridan Press charges will eventually go away. **The motion passed unanimously.**
- iii. Business Office expenses: Membership dues will cover publication and business office cost. The question was posed, exactly what are we getting for the business office costs paid? A review of these expenses is warranted. Once we stop mailing out the journal those costs should go down. We need to renegotiate the contract with the business office or find a viable alternative. *Senyu*, and the Finance Advisory Committee (in consultation with former Treasurer *Inga Zasada*, who had substantial interaction with Lisa Miller, the Business Office manager) should meet to discuss what to do about the future of our contract with Rosewood Associates.
- c. The N.A. Cobb Foundation will give its financial report at the business meeting.
- d. Committees should send financial requests for the 2015 SON Annual Meeting to their liaisons or to President Elect *Byron Adams* who is Program Chair; he is responsible for coordinating requests for money needed for symposia, etc.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **RFP for web content:** no motion or other activity related to the prior motion occurred during the electronic board meeting. *Steve* and *Paulo* can work on implementing the motion that called for development of an RFP to fund up to five proposals at \$2,000 each aimed at adding value to the SON website.
2. **Meeting Site Selection:** 2015: Annual Meeting is in Lansing, Michigan: 2016: Annual Meeting will be in Montreal, Canada where SON will meet jointly with ONTA; ONTA membership has to approve the joint meeting at their upcoming business meeting. For 2017 the majority of members prefer meeting with the Soil Ecology Society rather than American

Phytopathological Society. We still have no 2017 meeting site. *Byron* is chair of the Meeting Site Selection Committee. We need to coordinate immediately with the Soil Ecology Society on interest and places to go.

3. International Congress of Plant Pathology will meet next in Beijing, then in Boston in 2018.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Budget 2014-2015: *Senyu* has emailed the EB a budget; discussion of this matter is deferred until the second EB meeting.
2. Nematology News Letter transition and web hosting: currently access is limited and it is very difficult to make changes to the SON website.

***Brent Sipes* made a motion to adjourn the 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by *Nancy Burelle*. The motion passed unanimously.**

**The meeting adjourned at 7:34pm SA time.**