

**Society of Nematologists**  
**54th Annual Meeting**  
**Second Executive Board (EB) Meeting July 24, 2015**  
**Recorded by: Koon-Hui Wang, Secretary**

**In Attendance:** Byron Adams (President), Nancy Kokalis-Burelle (Vice President), Steve Thomas (Past President), Senyu Chen (Treasurer), Andrea Skantar (Editor), Axel Elling, Koon-Hui Wang (Secretary), Horacio Lopez Nicora, Paulo Vieira, Jonathan Eisenback

**AGENDA**

**Call to order:** President Byron Adams called the meeting to order at 8:00 am EDT.

**Approval of Agenda:** Jon Eisenback moved, Steve Thomas seconded a motion to accept the Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS:**

**a. EB Liaison reports from standing committees:**

*Axel Elling reported:*

**Ecology Committee** is proposing to organize a symposium on “Nematode adaptation to Environmental Stress” for the 2016 meeting. The committee requested that committee meetings not be scheduled prior to or on the last day of a meeting to have good attendance by committee members. The current vice chair cannot be reached, so they are in the process of electing a new chair. Uffe Neilson was elected as the new vice chair.

**Education committee**, chaired by Robin Giblin-Davis, currently has no vice chair. The committee is lacking participation of students. They are questioning whether the mission of the committee is to educate students or members of the society, thus the question arose as to whether there are overlapping tasks between the education and membership committees? Should these committees be combined? Robin was willing to run as chair for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time.

**Student committee** raised the issue that students who participated in the poster presentation didn't have time to look at other posters. In addition, there was no food left at the wine and cheese reception after having to stand by their posters for one hour. It was also discussed that posters are to remain in place for the entire duration of the meeting.

**Industry committee** meeting was well attended especially by industry members. Axel Elling was elected as the chair. Many industry representatives are frustrated that their contributions to the society meeting are not being recognized, and their goal to support the society (public awareness) was not achieved. The industry committee was not able to meet with students due to mis-scheduling of the meeting time. General comments were that meeting organizers should put up more industry logos as acknowledgement for each contribution or sponsored event (e.g. lunch or dinner). Roland Perry reminded future organizers that book selling booths should not be placed in a separate room. Membership status of sustaining members need to be listed and be uploaded to the

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website. Byron Adams will send the industry contact list to Axel Elling to compile a new list. Koon-Hui Wang will then contact each company to send their updated logo to be uploaded to SON website. We need to make sure we don't change the logo of a company in any way.

Industry also wanted to provide job and product shows every two years, so future program planners should include these in meeting activities. Ekaterina Riga was elected as vice chair of Industry Committee.

An updated membership list is now available on the SON website so each committee chair can search there for potential new members.

Steve Thomas, as past president, will write letters to thank the industries that supported this year's meeting. We need to get an official list from Haddish Melakeberhan. Primary industry supporters were Bayer, Dow, and Syngenta.

*Horacio Lopez reported:*

**Honors and Awards Committee:** Inga Zasada is the new chair. Poster competition can be reinstated if they can recruit more judges for every meeting. Nancy Kokalis-Burelle and Steve Thomas reminded that EB had talked about having ONTA to judge the poster competition and SON judging the oral presentation for next year's meeting. The committee needs new members or more judges. Based upon the constitution stating "no more than 0.4% of the living membership may be elected in any given year", we are now at a membership level that allows for less than 1 fellow to be selected each year.

**Membership Committee** is considering ways to attract new members. Ed McGawley showed a presentation at the Business Meeting, soliciting the society member for ideas to increase SON membership and visibility. The committee suggested to ask the business office/whomever is in charge to send individual e-mails to remind members to pay dues. They also encouraged any lab with students to ask students to join the society.

**Systematic Resources Committee:** Quing Yu is the chair, Tesfa Mengistu is the vice chair. They planned to have a workshop in Montreal, and invite keynote speakers for a symposium in 2017.

*Paulo Vieira reported:*

**Plant Resistance Committee:** Sally Stetina is the chair. No other members were in attendance.

**Entomophilic Committee:** Harit Bal was elected as the chair, and Shaun Berry the vice chair. The committee proposed "Signaling and chemical ecology" or "Bacteria symbiosis" for the plenary section. Additional topics they proposed include aggregation, EPN-trophic interactions, and EPN-PPN interactions. They want to interact with industry by organizing a discussion session. They discussed on collaboratively writing a review paper on "Global diversity of EPN" for JON. The committee is requesting \$2,000 or more to invite speakers.

**Extension Committee:** Billy Crow is the chair. The committee proposed 1-2 symposia for the Montreal meeting. They suggested to add an extension section in JON. Nancy Kokalis-Burelle said that now JON has been accepting extension or applied papers. Well designed and replicated studies

are the main concern. The old version of Supplement to JON sometimes accepted non replicated studies. Steve Thomas said that new editors can decide whether to accept these type of studies.

**Long Range Planning Committee:** There is concern regarding decreasing membership, and how to bring in more revenue to the society. They provided suggestions: 1) reduce meeting length to 3 days from current 5-day schedule in the future. This will enable pre- and post-meeting tours to be added except during joint meetings; 2) select very attractive places for future meetings to increase registration. The committee really appreciated the effort of all the journal editors. They discussed how to help increase submission of papers to JON.

*Steve Thomas:*

**Regulatory Committee** wants to have a hands-on technique workshop in Montreal. They asked to have support from the APHIS funding associated with SON maintenance of the Widely Prevalent Phytoparasitic Nematode Site to help support their workshop.

**Meeting Site Selection Committee:** Jon Eisenback presented Williamsburg, VA for 2017. It was accepted.

*Senyu Chen report:*

**Finance Committee:** Senyu Chen is the chair. The committee talked about whether we should raise membership dues. They acknowledge that raising dues might back fire on membership. They said that although we have some assets, we should add more income from committee activities. Jon Eisenback suggested that we should keep the current dues amount and try to just raise registration fees to add income. Horacio Lopez said that if we want to raise membership dues, it should have added value. Senyu Chen then pointed out that since we do not charge manuscript fees for members or non-members, this will provide even less incentive for people to join SON membership. He suggested SON charge manuscript fees for non-members. Nancy Kokalis-Burelle said that if we charge a submission fee (instead of a manuscript fee at acceptance), we can weed out lots of poor manuscript submissions. Currently we don't track how many non-members submit manuscripts. Steve Thomas said he is willing to check on last year's submissions to see how many rejected papers are from non-members. Senyu Chen said Nematropica still imposes a manuscript fee at the acceptance stage.

**Biological Control Committee:** Only 3 members attended the meeting. Louise-Marie Dandurand is the chair. Richard Sikora agreed to serve as vice chair. All attendees said they will support and help R. Sikora, and they proposed lots of great ideas.

Eric Ragsdale will be the new liaison person. He was not present.

Horacio Lopez thanked the EB for giving him the opportunity to serve as a liaison.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. **Russ' Vintage posters:** Cobb foundation is willing to hold a silent auction for Russ Ingham's vintage posters.

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- b. **Corporate memory and file transfers for new officers:** EB is reminded that all officers that rotate off the Board should help the new officer in the transition.
- c. **Updates to operations manual:** Andrea Skantar will pass on the first edited version of Ops Manual to Koon-Hui Wang.
- d. **IFNS proposals from the U.S.:** Larry Duncan could not attend, Axel Elling conveyed his message. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> round of international congresses that SON hasn't put in a bid. The ONTA meeting in Cuba was well received and a potential option could be to have Cuba put in a bid under SON for 2020. Axel Elling said he will follow up with Larry Duncan. It is a real difficulty for foreigners to attend meetings in the U.S. due to visa issues. Steve Thomas worried that it is difficult for faculty to get approval to use grant funding in Cuba. Some companies also have problems spending money in Cuba. This could back fire on participation. Byron Adams suggested an alternative location of Washington DC. Senyu Chen suggested Las Vegas, but Byron Adams worried that if there is a conflict with other big events in Las Vegas, hotels might be limited. None-the-less, all agreed that Las Vegas would be very cheap. Nancy Kokalis-Burelle then suggested Orlando. We can go through Social Media to solicit ideas. Andrea Skantar will put a survey monkey to solicit ideas for IFNS locations after Axel Elling contacts Larry Duncan. Steve Thomas will send the expenditure from South Africa meeting as a model for next IFNS local arrangement person.
- e. **NNL:** EB thanks Jon Eisenback and Paulo Vieira for volunteering to be editors of the NNL. They need an update on membership contacts to send the NNL. Paulo suggested that we can get a sponsor to support the NNL. The sponsor will receive free advertisement for their company products in the NNL for the first time. This would provide more incentive for other NNL sponsors.
- f. **Merchandising and branding:** Andrea Skantar will approach Ed McGawley to create T-shirts (Zazzle and Café Press). Steve Thomas said he will check on whether the SON logo is a registered trademark and will ask Roxana Myers to have an official SON logo available on the SON website. Jon Eisenback will make a recommendation on regulation of Merchandising and Branding and the use of the SON logo.
- g. **Emeritus members:** A newsletter item will be added to identify members that will be going into Emeritus status. Steve Thomas will be in charge of identifying emeritus members.

Break at 10:10 am.

Resume meeting at 10:22 am.

### NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Business office:** Byron Adams has access to the Sustaining Member list, but it does not show how much these members contributed. Syngenta and Bayer are active, but the contact person listed are not active.

Currently business office is at the end of a contract. We need a new RFA to open bids for new business office.

The original discussion was to set a timeline to send out the new RFA around November and December, so that new office can be in place in January to March to be ready for next meeting. Due to concern over SON budget might go into deficit, tentatively, SON can operate without a business office if we have a long-term physical address. Steve Thomas volunteered to temporarily run the business office.

**Jon Eisenback moved, Andrea Skantar seconded a motion to run SON through volunteer business office operation by Steve Thomas until new business office is in place.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

- b. **Website:** We can either create a new website or keep the current website, but need someone with the time and skills to perform non-routine modifications. Byron Adams will work with Roxana Myers to contact Pablo Navia Gine who volunteered to help. We should ask him for his previous web managing work for a reference, give him admin access to the webpage and then decide whether we should create a new website or fix the old one. Axel Elling suggested adding webinars on line for members to access under the “Education” page. For example we can first upload George Bird’s video presentation and ask Robin Giblin-Davis to upload his power point for the “Smartphone Camera Workshop” as a video. This could add value to SON membership and increase membership.
- c. **Journal:** Nancy Kokalis-Burelle reported that we have expanded the scope of the journal not be restricted to plant-parasitic nematodes. She has invited aquatic nematode researchers to submit papers to JON. Currently, we are not restricted to how many papers per issue, but prefer to have more than 7 per issue. Nancy Kokalis-Burelle suggested to include submission fees to weed out poor-quality submissions and to defer some of the journal costs. Byron Adams suggested that we can add articles in a mini-review section by approaching organizers of symposia to have presenters develop “white papers” or review papers; the journal could also solicit technical notes, first reports, and create a category for New Methods.

Axel Elling said that now *Plant Disease* has higher impact factors than *Phytopathology* because of the “First Report”. We should create a format for SON’s first reports. Steve Thomas said that the format for research notes is already available in the first issue each year of older issues of JON that included Instructions to Contributors. Thomas suggested to look through the Abstract book to solicit method papers.

Byron Adams suggested to add these new ideas for paper submissions on our webpage at the front lines of the journal webpage.

Jon Eisenback asked if JON accept survey papers. Nancy Kokalis-Burelle said those had been accepted in the past, and has relied on reviewers to decide suitability for publication.

Horacio Lopez Nicora suggested to use the *Plant Health Management* format as another journal category. Nancy Kokalis-Burelle said we can add that heading into the new journal. Steve

Thomas is in favor of accepting survey papers providing nematodes are identified to genus or species levels.

Axel Elling suggested that maybe NNL can highlight some new papers from current issues of the Journal. Paulo Vieira seconded, because this is especially good for review papers and would attract more citations of JON papers. Axel Elling suggested we obtain a 'doi' or preview of papers from the publisher. We need to work with Allen Press to generate approved papers online quicker. Rollo Perry from *Nematology* said that they received so many manuscripts that they cannot keep up with the printing, thus doi helps. *Nematropica* has a method to make a .pdf available before printing but the quality is not good.

**Steve Thomas moved, Koon-Hui Wang seconded to charge an \$80 manuscript submission fee for non-members (minimum of one SON author per manuscript).** Senyu Chen opposed as this will affect submission rate and thus the JON impact factor. Many universities do not subscribe to JON. Senyu Chen suggested that we contact different universities to add JON to their library database. **In favor (8), oppose (1).**

Discussion: Senyu Chen suggested that instead of a charging submission fee, we can charge the publication fee. Steve Thomas and Nancy Kokalis-Burelle said that charging a submission fee could also encourage people to sign up as members, and Paulo Vieira added that if they asked the student co-author to sign up as a member it would be cheaper. This approach would also reemphasize the benefits of SON membership. Adams added we certainly don't want to discourage submissions, and we should waive the submission fee for invited papers.

Paulo Vieira suggested to increase images on the SON website. Byron Adams said that the new journal issues always have the journal cover on the website. The Web Editor already uploaded the new issue on the cover page online whenever it is first published.

**d. McGawley's and Perry's recommendation:**

i) **Elections** – Ed McGawley suggested in the business meeting to have candidates campaign at a designated forum at the annual meeting.

Nancy Kokalis-Burelle and Axel Elling opposed to having candidates campaign, as it will discourage candidates to run. Andrea Skantar said that you can add your goals if elected to your bio without running a campaign.

ii) **Committee structure** – We are not clear about the comment by McGawley and Perry about SON having too many committees. Axel Elling said many committees in the society provide good opportunities for the students to be involved, and Steve Thomas agreed. Steve Thomas suggested to post the committee reports online 2-week before annual meeting for everyone to read. The SON webpage already has the structure in place, so each committee can add their information to the page. Web editor, Roxana Myers, can update the committee structure and roles once the new operation manual is ready, and update the chair, and vice chair of each committee. Koon-Hui Wang will compile a list of committee members from all the liaisons and send it to Roxana Myers for update.

**e. Other business:**

Senyu Chen suggested that we should make sure future meeting income go to help with journal publication costs, thus the EB (treasurer) should be involved in planning and deciding the registration fee. The Operations Manual already mentioned this, but we don't always comply in a timely manner.

There is a need for standardized mechanisms on how to 1) get industry/cooperators involved, 2) get their logos for the meeting, and 3) acknowledge them.

Mario Tenuta suggested that besides the chemical companies, we should also get the big farms or crop consultant to sponsor (like potato growers that Haddish Melakeberhan invited).

Montreal meeting committee would like SON to run all the registration for ONTA and SON members. Money should come in as U.S. \$ that will give lots of leverage to run the meeting. Not clear on how the profit will be distributed. This is contractual, and the Local Arrangements Committee will have to work this out with SON and ONTA.

**Adjourn:**

**Axel Elling moved, Andrea Skantar seconded to a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am EDT.**