



## Society of Nematologists Executive Board

55<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING (2016)

2<sup>ND</sup> EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**MEETING DATE:** 7/22/16  
**LOCATION:** Montreal, Canada  
**ATTENDANCE:** Byron Adams, Patty Timper, Steve Thomas, Senyu Chen, Andrea Skantar, William (Billy) Crow, Koon-Hui Wang, Roxana Myers, Jon Eisenback, Paulo Vieira, Axel Elling.

(Executive Board will be referred to as EB in this minutes).

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION / INFORMATION	ACTION / STRATEGY / RESPONSIBLE PERSON
1. Call to order	President Timper called the meeting to order at 8:05 EST time, so moved by Axel.	
2. Approval of agenda	Andrea Skantar made a motion to approve the agenda, Byron seconded.	Motion passed unanimously.

### 3. EB Liaison reports from standing committees:

#### Paulo Vieira:

- a. Plant Resistance to Nematodes: They plan to conduct a workshop during the meeting in Virginia on “Host plant resistance in crops and cover crops”. A similar workshop was well received at the Michigan meeting. A symposium will also be planned on tolerance and resistance using *Heterodera schachtii* as a model. Most speakers will be from Germany.
- b. Entomopathogenic Nematodes: They will organize a symposium on meta-analysis of EPN, and hopefully generate a review paper from the symposium. Harit Bal is the chair.
- c. Regulatory: Janet Brito is the chair and Russ Bullock is the incoming chair. They plan to organize a symposium on “Seed transmission of plant-parasitic nematodes”.
- d. Extension: Travis Tavaski is the chair, Joe Noling is the chair elect. They want to collaborate with the Industry Committee to chair a session. No topic yet but they want to reach out to the graduate student committee to organize a workshop in 2018 regarding how to conduct applied research, and starting a new job. They want to coordinate with the web editor to create a webpage in SON on extension for people to contact and ask questions about special information.
- e. Long Range Planning: No report.

Byron Adams reported on behalf of Nathan Schroeder (reported for Eric Ragsdale)

- f. Biological Control: Tesfa Mengistu will be the new vice chair. The committee plans to host a student symposium in 2018. They would like to hold a student-organized and student-led symposia for SON 2017. This will be organized partly by Ruhiyyih Dyrdaahl-Young. The specifics will be decided later. They request funding for 1-2 students presenters.
- g. Systematic resources: Tesfa Mengistu will be the new chair. Danny Humphreys-Pereira will be the vice-chair. They plan to host a symposium for SON in 2017, no details decided yet. Another activity planned is to conduct an orphan collection (different from the live culture collection the Regulatory Committee is trying to collect).
- h. Membership Committee: No report.
- i. Honor and Award: No report.

**Axel Elling:**

- j. Ecology: Zhiqiang Cheng is the chair. Need a roster from the committee. The committee is not sure what to do in 2017 yet. May want to host one workshop and a symposium.
- k. Education: Tom Powers is the new chair. Ann MacGuidwin is the new vice chair. The committee likes to recruit new members. Only 3 members so far. They plan to organize a workshop on using photoshop to make a deck of nematology cards and organize a quiz competition by reinstating the Cobb Bowl Competition. Half of the questions will come from the first deck of card sold this year by Jon Eisenback. The cards will be published in upcoming newsletters. They also want to make a list of courses taught in Nematology available for everyone through SON newsletters or website.
- l. Graduate Student: New chair is Christeena Sevy from Idaho. Vice Chair is Itumeleng Moroenyane. Outstanding graduate students in the committee, large group and very active. Not sure what they want to do for 2017 meeting yet. One proposal is to join with Biological Control Committee. They really like the social network, this year organized by ONTA. They want to do it on their own through WhatsApp Tag to coordinate roommates for meetings. They want to get together with faculty. They want to request money to set up a student social for 2017 meeting. Billy Crow, Charley Opperman, Benjamin Mimee, and Roland Perry came to their social this year. They want to have workshop on mock interviews from the academics as well as industry. They feel that they are isolated in the meeting. The PIs talked among themselves, and the students were left alone. Billy suggested that each faculty adopt a student (not of his/her own). Other ideas: Graduate student/faculty "speed dating" at the reception. Patty Timper liked the matching idea.
- m. Industry: Axel Elling is still the chair, Vice Chair is Katerina Riga. All previous members are gone but new members have been recruited. All the companies are very happy with how things are being organized during the meeting in Montreal. They hope to have more industry and money support in Williamsburg, VA. Patty Timper said we can get more money into workshops and symposia. Most of them like the joint symposium with the Extension Committee to present new products. Their challenge is a total turnover of their committee members.
- n. Finance committee: Senyu Chen - Most issues had been reported in the Business Meeting. They discussed about the necessity to increase membership fees and the need of annual meeting profit. Local Arrangement Committee should work with the treasurer. Although some believed that the registration fee should just be expended for the meeting, the board from the last few years had decided that we need to

use meeting profits to cover the cost of other SON operations. We should let the industries know that their donations will go to social, symposium or other operations of SON. Timper noted that although the hotel rooms for the meetings are free, the food that we order costs a lot. Axel Elling asked if we need to ask the industry members to sponsor the meeting expenses. Eisenbeck also reminded that the invited speakers can also cost a lot, and this expense comes from the program cost, not from registration. However, the more invited speakers in a meeting, the better the quality of the meeting. Ralf Sommer from Germany (part of the *C. elegans* group) attended the meeting and wants to organize a session in a future SON meeting. The *C. elegans* group said that they want to reach out to the Nematology group. The board is excited about potential collaboration, and recommended that this be on a plenary session. Patty Timper suggested that the Cobb Foundation can organize plenary sessions in the future and invite speakers. This can promote publicity for the Cobb Foundation as well.

Senyu Chen: We need an official letter from President Timper to Kathy Lawrence as new SON treasurer for official business. Currently the SON bank account is still Inga Zasada's name. So Timper's letter to Kathy can help with the transition.

4. **New EB Member:** Guiping Yan (could not be here) will be incoming the EB member to replace Paulo Vieira. Timper reminded that we need to keep looking for new people to be involved in EB.

## 5. Old Business:

*Zazzle Fundraising for Cobb Foundation:* Andrea Skantar – We are in the process of selling SON merchandize online through Zazzle.com. This is an online store similar to Amazon Smile. Cobb Foundation had a discussion and reached an agreement that Cobb Foundation would like to have total control over what images will go online, avoid copy right issues, and only upload images that are more appealing to the society. Andrea or Ed McGawley will send the images to Cobb for approval before uploading. Money raised will go to Cobb Foundation. Andrea needs the EIN from Cobb Foundation. Koon-Hui Wang should send the higher resolution images from previous Cobb T-Shirts to Andrea. Andrea said we can do away with CafePress (another online store) for now, as their quality is not good on certain items.

Andrea reminded that we should get permission to use the images for this merchandise. Especially when using someone's photographs we need to ask permission on the images created before putting it online. Jon Eisenback suggested that every product should have a source of the product. For now our store is called NemaStore, with the SON Logo, so the store is under SON.

## 6. New Business:

*SON 2016-2017 Budget:*

Senyu Chen: SON has a \$150K investment in a CD now, some others in mutual funds. If we are not expecting to expend too much of our saving on activities now, we should put more into long-term CDs. Inga Zasada talked to a financial advisor who thought our current investments are too conservative. If we would take more risk, we could have higher income. Patty Timper said we had discussed this before. It is good to be conservative. We made some profit this year. However, the financial committee can look into investment options. Senyu Chen suggested we should include Inga Zasada in the exploration of financial investment options, and come back to report at the online EB meeting. Since the society is not doing well in generating income, Byron Adams agreed that we should think forward to develop a portfolio with a more aggressive risk fund. Timper said we move forward to include Inga Zasada in the investment exploration.

For the last two years, SON had \$100K in the account. Senyu Chen predicted that this year we might have a \$20-30K loss. Last year we only cut a \$10K check to Hadish Melakeberhan (Local Arrangement Chair). This year we wrote the check one month before the meeting (\$90K). However, there are lots of registration fees paid at the meeting. Senyu Chen said that if the budget for meeting is stable, then we can have better idea for investment. He recommended that SON should keep the money in the checking account until it's more stable next year.

Last year, LAC managed the meeting finances using the university account, this year the LAC managed the money using a personal account, to avoid the overhead charge from the university. Byron Adams asked if we should think about having a SON credit card. Senyu Chen said we do have a credit card and it was offered to the LAC. Patty Timper suggested that we put a statement in ops manual: **Local arrangement chair may access the SON credit card for local arrangement activities by consulting with the SON treasurer.** Senyu Chen added that we are already functioning in this way. Mario Tenuta is aware of the SON credit card but due to the currency exchange charges is avoiding using it. It would be easy for LAC that hosts domestic meetings to use SON credit card in the future. Jon Eisenback said the credit card would be good for paying security deposits.

**Action: Byron Adams will ask for the sponsor list and write thank you letters to the sponsors.**

Senyu Chen asked if we should make it official for the treasurer to be involved in local arrangement planning. Patty Timper said previously she asked University of Georgia for advice on the budget for the Savannah Meeting. She agreed to have a continuity of financial guidance for local arrangement.

Billy Crow moved that the Local Arrangement Committee should work with the treasurer in making local arrangement plans. Byron Adams seconded. No vote was called. No motion put forward. Patty Timper, as president, made it so. Bottom line: Be mindful of keeping the cost low while ensuring we make money from the annual meetings. However, this is stated in the Ops manual (in the budget category). This year LAC received \$500 X 15 from sponsors.

Senyu Chen suggested that we should try a one year of journal subscription fee for non-members. APS is operating this way. Billy Crow agreed that this would showcase the benefits of being a member. Patty Timper said we should discuss this more during the online EB meeting to have more EB members involved. We can make a list of bullet points on what are the benefits of membership on the webpage. Bryan Adams reminded that some of the benefits of joining SON is to participate in the social media. We also want to see Ed McGawley's Membership Committee report. Patty said we will start the online EB meeting in a few months.

*SCN conference:*

Senyu Chen reported: Greg Tylka brought to the attention of EB the opportunity for SON to participate in the upcoming Soybean Cyst Nematode (SCN) Conference organized by American Phytopathology Society (APS) to be held at Coral Gables, FL on Dec 13-15, 2016. This conference is initiated and put together by APS. Should SON be a sponsor this meeting? APS will not provide any financial support as this is not part of the Annual meeting of APS. Last SCN conference took place in 2008.

Break 9:40 to 9:51 am

*Should EB have control over the webpage:* Byron Adams will e-mail newly appointed web editor, Ed McGawley, about the need for a professional image of SON on our webpage. Patty Timper said that if the education committee wants to have a subpage or folder (with humor images) that would be alright. EB reached a common agreement that we will have Roxana Myers (current Web editor) make guidelines on how to maintain the SON website.

*(Continue discussion on SCN Conference)*

Senyu Chen: Can we asked the Industry Committee or the Extension Committee to support SCN Conference organized by APS in December 2016. Greg Tylka is involved and asked if SON can publish the abstracts from this SCN Conference. Patty Timper said we should ask an abstract fee (\$50/abstract). If SON sponsors the conference, then SON will provide \$2000-\$3000 and we will post the SON logo. There is a registration fee for the conference. Axel Elling asked that we should get more information from SCN conference organizers, and ask them to contact Extension or Industry Committees of SON as well.

Patty Timper asked that we make a motion about whether we want to accept the publication of abstracts from SCN Conference in JON. **Billy Crow moved to accept the publication of abstracts from SCN Conference in JON for \$50 per abstract. Byron Adams seconded.** Discussion on whether they want a long abstract in proceeding style much like the 2008 SCN Conference’s proceeding style or the short abstract format. If it is a long version, we can publish it in a special issue, with each abstract 3-4 pages long for invited speakers. Alternatively, we charge \$50 for short abstract, but higher cost for the special issue. **It is then suggested that we put this off until the EB online meeting. The Editorial Board will decide how much to charge, or let the SCN conference organizers negotiate with SON Editorial Board. All in favor, motion moved.**

*Discussion on “How much does SON want to sponsor the SCN Conference.”* Senyu Chen said the organizer of SCN Conference will invite the speakers. We need the SCN Conference organizer to send a formal proposal to SON President (Patty Timper) with more detailed information. The EB will then decide online. **Billy Crow will update Andrea Skantar on this issue.** It is not SON’s responsibility to request sponsorship from the industries for SCN Conference as this conference is initiated by Monsanto and Syngenta.

Newsletter: Jon Eisenback and Paulo Vieira will rotate to attend EB meeting.

<b>Adjournment</b>	<b>Jon Eisenback moved, Axel Elling seconded, to a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 10:21 am EST.</b>	<b>Motion passed unanimously.</b>
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Respectfully submitted by Koon Hui Wang.

Approved of minutes by EB on Date with 4 votes in favor of approval and 0 against.