

SOUTHEASTERN BRANCH OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
76th Annual Meeting
DoubleTree Hotel, Little Rock, Arkansas
March 3-6, 2002

Executive Committee Meeting
March 3, 2002

President Gary Lentz called the Executive Committee Meeting to order at 3:12 P.M. Sunday, March 3, 2002, in the Boardroom of the DoubleTree Hotel, Little Rock, Arkansas. President Lentz asked that those present to introduce themselves. He then asked Don Allemann, Certification Board representative, to report on the activities of the Board. Don stated that the Board continued to be a viable entity and that in 2001 the Board had a positive cash flow and provided more than \$30,000 to ESA. In 2001, there was a 7% decline in membership and currently the BCE lists 465 individuals as members. Currently, Mike Merchant (Texas A&M University), is serving as President. There continues to be a major effort to sign up members outside of ESA in the area of applied insect control. This category would be called Associate Certified Entomologist (ACE). One of the hurdles is that of liability to ESA in the event of sloppy work by an ACE member. After consideration by legal counsel this is not an issue. There are currently plans underway to streamline the committees thus making them more functional, increasing participation in BCE awards, looking at computerization of BCE exams, and holding an informal conference at the national meeting. At this meeting, there will be a BCE luncheon. Beverly Sparks asked if there was continued support at the national office. Don replied that support was continuing, in part, due to the positive cash flow to the national office. Ellen Thoms asked what was the reason for the additional category. Don stated that, in part, it was due to the additional revenue generated and also because of the added status of members in this category. ESA President McPherson asked if there was interest in this category. Don reported that there was as evidenced by activity in California and elsewhere. Don stated that members in the ACE category do not need to be members of the ESA.

President Lentz asked Secretary-Treasurer Richard Sprenkel to read the minutes of the last Executive Committee Meeting in Augusta. Richard reported that the minutes were available on the ESA website and he had copies at the meeting for distribution. Don Allemann made a motion to adopt the minutes as published on the web. John Ruberson seconded the motion and it passed on voice vote.

President Lentz asked for a Local Arrangements Committee report. Tim Kring, committee member, indicated that he had no report at this time.

Seth Johnson, Meeting Location and Time Committee for 2003, indicated that the committee had selected the Radisson Hotel in Baton Rouge as the location for the 2003 meeting. The rate will be \$84 per night and the date will be March 9-12. Those on the committee include Hammond, Leaman, Story, Stout and Seth Johnson, Chair. ESA President McPherson asked if the committee had coordinated the date with the ESA

office. Seth indicated that the committee had not. The date selected coincides with the Eastern Branch Meeting. SEB President Lentz indicated that the SEB meeting has fluctuated between the end of February and the middle of March and that the 2003 meeting time was selected to avoid a conflict with Mardi Gras.

Alvin Simmons, reporting for the Meeting Location and Time Committee 2004, indicated that the committee had selected Charleston, South Carolina and the site. Joe Culin, Chair of the committee, will give a full report at the final business meeting. President Lentz indicated that Mississippi was next on the cycle of meeting sites and that they would need to be made aware of the possible conflict with the Eastern Branch meeting.

Catharine Mannion reported for Doug Streett on the activities of the Member Awards Committee. She stated that eight nominations were received and that these were in the areas of IPM, Teaching, Extension, and Urban Entomology. This was the first year that nominations could be made electronically. Some problems were encountered with firewalls preventing downloading of nominations. Tim Kring pointed out that the National Awards Committee has limited the nomination to a maximum of 20 pages and they had to be in a PDF format. This appeared to overcome downloading problems. President Lentz suggested that changes be made in the SEB Guidelines to reflect these recommendations.

John Ruberson, Chair Student Awards Committee, reported that Debra Murray received the Comstock award and Melissa Willrich received the Kirby L. Hays Award. One-half of the submissions were received electronically and one-half by mail. For the student awards there are 5 judges per section and 12 MS oral presentations, 6 MS poster, 8 PhD poster and 9 PhD oral presentations. President Lentz suggested that the committee chair get the recommendations to the President-Elect for changes for next year.

President Lentz asked ESA President McPherson to present an update on the national office. President McPherson stated that the financial problems at the national level apparently did not exist 10 years ago. This was due in part to the conscientious work by Executive Director Darryl Hansen who served from 1979 to 1994. Although Executive Director Hansen presented budgets that were obscure (could not follow items from one page to another), the Governing Board remained supportive since the budget was in good shape. Executive Directors since Hansen strayed from the budgetary policies of Hansen in allowing funds to be spent for purposes other than those earmarked. Past President George Kennedy requested a study that revealed that the building that housed the national office was in need of repairs that were near the value of the building. Further upgrading the computers and accompanying training for staff would cost approximately \$200,000. It was determined that for a number of years the Society brought in staff at low cost and, after training, the staff went onto better-paying jobs. To address the building issue, the national office is now attempting to sell the building and relocate. For the past year, the budget was estimated to have a deficit of \$267,000 when in fact a deficit of \$400,000 was recorded.

As a result of meetings in San Diego, the Society has decided to change a number of things including book sales and out sourcing a number of things previously done in the national office. It was decided to prioritize activities and not try to do everything at once. Ellen Thoms asked about the possibility of re-locating the national office. President McPherson stated that no decision had been made at this time. Frank Guillot pointed out that there was some discussion regarding the fate of branches. President McPherson indicated that he was definitely in favor of the branch structure and that, among other things, it provided a good training ground for graduate students. Branch meetings also allow for the interaction of peripheral groups such as PCOs with researchers. Kris Braman asked which publication sales were going to be eliminated. President McPherson said that handbooks would go, as would the calendars. However, the Thomas Say series, which is more independent, would remain. The present annual budget of the society is \$2.7 million.

Wayne Gardner, Governing Board Representative, stated that he accepted the position after the passing of Gary Herzog. He reported that the SEB is one of the strongest branches and should continue to look for ways to become stronger. Organizers of SEB meetings may want to look into joining with conferences (such as the fire ant conference recently associated with the SW Branch meeting) and regional projects.

Kris Braman, Chair Nominating Committee, reported that three positions were up for election on the ballot. They included President-Elect, Member-at-Large and Secretary-Treasurer-Elect. She indicated that she had received the ballots and would present the results at the Final Business Meeting.

Richard Musser, Chair Student Affairs Committee, reported that two symposia were organized by students and that the Linnaean Games would be judged by Jay McPherson, Gary Lentz and Beverly Sparks. With the exception of Clemson, all schools would be represented. Raymond Hix will serve as moderator. Eighteen slides have been submitted for the Photo Salon. On Tuesday, the students are invited to meet with President McPherson and the SEB Executive Committee from 4-5:00 P.M. in Salon A.

Catharine Mannion reported on activities of the Membership Committee for Bob McPherson. Catharine pointed out that for the coming year four people would be coming off of the committee. At the national level the committee questions the wisdom of the \$20 late-renewal fee as it tends to discourage late renewal. Rather, emails and follow-up questionnaires should be investigated. In the SEB, there are currently 1,361 members.

Gus Lorenz, Co-Chair Local Arrangements Committee welcomed everyone to Little Rock. He reported that this meeting gave presenters the option of using PowerPoint presentations. Of those who opted for this format, only one-half got their CDs in before the meeting. This problem will need to be addressed by future Local Arrangements Committees. Ellen Thoms related that industry presenters are faced with a dilemma in that company policy prevents loading company files on non-company computers. Gus reported that pledges for industry support are \$12,000 for this meeting.

Gus acknowledged that the Committee went over budget but that an all out effort went into obtaining industry support to offset the deficit and to accommodate expenses related to the Insect Festival. The Festival is scheduled to have 2,200 school children attend during the 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. period on Wednesday. Secretary-Treasurer Sprenkel asked how much over budget the committee anticipated. Gus stated that the budget would be even if all of the money collected from industry were used. President Lentz stated that he felt that this was a good outreach program. President McPherson asked if the question of liability the SEB was investigated. For example, what would be the liability to the SEB if an adverse reaction occurred to some of the food being served. This issue apparently contributed to the reevaluation of the Insect Expo presented by the ESA at its national meeting. Tim Kring proposed that to overcome this problem, the SEB just budget in liability insurance when similar events are planned in the future. Don Johnson stated that he felt that this event would provide good PR for the SEB.

Tim Kring, Chair ad hoc Committee on By-Laws, commented that the SEB needs to be careful with committee names. The Web Site Development, By-Laws and Education Committees are all ad hoc committees and should be listed as such. These need to be re-established each year. He recommended that at least two persons should be on each ad hoc committee to spread the workload and to provide for continuity, if needed.

Secretary-Treasurer Sprenkel passed out the Financial Summary for 2001-2002. He reported that on February 1, 2001, the Branch had a balance of \$41,780.41. During the year, the Branch had an income of \$29,414.89 and expenses of \$28,165.17, leaving a final balance on January 31, 2002, of \$43,030.13. He next distributed the proposed budget for 2002-2003. Changes from the 2001-2002 budget included the following: Income; 1) an increase in the anticipated Program Enhancement Funds from \$2,500 to \$3,080: Expenses; 1) the addition of \$100 awards for the runner ups for the Oral Presentation Awards for both the M.S. and Ph.D. categories. These changes resulted in a projected income for 2002-2003 of \$35,080.00 and anticipated expenses of \$33,650.00. The question was posed as to whether the number of registrants was realistic since the registration for the past several years was in the range of 250-320. Although income attributed to registration may be high, expenses for the past few years have been less than projected because budgets for a number of items remained unspent. As a result, the balance has remained fairly constant. Beverly Sparks made a motion to approve the proposed budget. Wayne Gardner seconded the motion and the motion passed on voice vote.

President Lentz next opened a discussion on the desirability of including in the budget \$1,500 for the ESA President and \$1,500 for the ESA Executive Director to attend the annual meeting of the SEB. After discussion, a motion was made by Frank Guillot to amend the proposed budget of the SEB for 2002-2003 to include \$3,000 for the ESA President and the ESA Executive Director to attend the annual meeting of the SEB. Tim Kring seconded the motion and it passed on voice vote.

A discussion was initiated on the need to increase registration fees at this time. It was the general consensus that the present projected income would accommodate the additional budget item and that registration fees should be unchanged for at least the next year.

Program Co-Chair Jeff Willers reported that the Statistics Workshop was well received and he heard a number of positive comments about its value. He indicated that he would like to continue the workshop for another year. President Lentz asked if the timing (just prior to the meeting on Sunday afternoon) was acceptable to the attendees. Jeff indicated that it appeared to be a good time for most if not all of the attendees. President Lentz asked if it would be possible to set a deadline for getting the CDs containing the presentations to the Program Chair. This would be desirable because lateness puts an extreme burden on the Local Arrangements Committee. Jeff proposed that the next step from the standpoint of the Program Committee was to automate the process of submitting papers and automatically building the program. Jeff discussed this with Mike Caprio and the concept appears to be a possibility. Jeff also indicated that he was going to arrange a meeting with past Program Committee Chairs to develop a list and schedule for symposia and other events that are not presented every year. This information will be included in the Guidelines.

President-Elect Beverly Sparks stated that she had updated the SEB Guidelines and had several copies printed. She noted that since an update had not been carried out for a number of years, some information may have been lost.

President-Elect Sparks reported that some of the committee positions had been filled. These included Joe Culin Meeting Location and Time Committee, Seth Johnson Local Arrangements Committee, Dan Suiter Program Committee, Mickey Eubanks Student Awards Committee and Dorothy Prowell Member Awards Committee. The proposed Nominating Committee was: David Oi, Chair (USDA), Jim Carpenter (USDA), Nancy Hinkle (UGA), Kathy Flanders (Auburn), Chip Anderson (Bayer) and Keith Griffith (Uniroyal). Beverly Sparks made a motion to accept the Nominating Committee. Wayne Gardner seconded the motion and it passed on voice vote.

President Lentz reviewed the schedule for nominations for national ESA offices. He requested that any suggestions for nominees be passed along to him.

President Lentz adjourned the meeting at 6:18 P.M.