

The Entomological Society of America Eastern Branch Final Business Meeting, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Tuesday, 20 March 2007, Meeting Minutes (prepared by R. R. Youngman)

Officers present: Art Agnello, Eric Day, George Hamilton, Bill Lamp, Jim Lashomb, Pete Schultz, and Rod Youngman

Members present: Dick Bean, Alan Cameron, Scott Hutchins, Susan King, Loke Kok, Greg Krawczyk, Faith Kuehn, Richard Levine, Doug Pfeiffer, Paula Shrewsbury, Jim Stimmel, Mark Taylor, Karl Valley, and Paul Weston

Art called the Final Business meeting to order at 7:05 a.m. and asked for a round of introductions. Art expressed his appreciation to all his officers and committee chairs for their hard work and dedication to ensuring that the annual meeting ran as smoothly as it did. He also added his appreciation to all for making his job less painful than he had anticipated. He next asked Scott Hutchins, current President of ESA, if he wished to make a few comments. Scott thanked Art for the opportunity and then remarked he had nothing further to comment on other than to say how much he appreciated our hospitality, and that he looks forward to seeing us in San Diego. Richard Levine joined in by saying he agreed with Scott's sentiments.

Secretary's Report:

Rod handed out copies of his minutes from the 14 March 2006 Final Business meeting.

Rod asked for a motion to accept these minutes.

A motion was made to accept the 14 March 2006 Final Business meeting minutes.

Art asked, "Do we have a second?"

The motion was seconded.

Art asked for any discussion.

There was no discussion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Voting members: Agnello, Day, Hamilton, Lamp, Lashomb, Schultz, and Youngman.

Rod next mentioned the outcome of the special election that was run from 27 October – 10 December 2006 using ESA's listserv and electronic balloting process. Without going into detail, he said that all eight proposed changes to the Eastern Branch Constitution and Bylaws passed by the required two-thirds majority vote. Before asking for the Treasurer's report, Art commented on how smoothly everything went for our elections this year. He credited The Society for allowing branches the use of their electronic balloting process.

Treasurer's Report:

Eric thanked Art and then went over the 31 December 2006 Financial Statement. As of 1 January 2006, the General Fund balance on hand totaled \$58,686.24. This figure is the sum of The Branch's savings (\$419.53) and checking (\$8,031.22) accounts and the reserve (\$50,235.49) funds. He said the combined total of The Branch savings and checking accounts (\$8,450.75) is \$3,242.66 less than that for the previous year. Loke commended Eric for his well prepared accounting statements, and then remarked that The Branch finances did go down by more than \$3,000.00. Eric said we typically take in about \$2,000.00 each year, but then lose about \$3,000.00 at the end of the annual meeting. He added this tends to be more of a problem when our annual meetings are held away from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Alan questioned Eric about the need for such a large amount of money in the checking account. Eric said the reason for the large checking account is mainly historical. Loke said the Suntrust banks in Kroger are open until 7:00 p.m. and pay \$100.00 on \$10,000.00 left for 90 days. Eric said there are Wachovia branches everywhere; he will check with Wachovia on their minimum deposit and interest rate.

Bill asked if there has been any thought given to how much our reserve fund could be used for awards or scholarships. Eric said this topic has been discussed several times. However, we keep coming back to the central issue of having a large enough reserve to cover the costs of a failed meeting. Eric estimates that costs could range as high as \$30,000.00 or more for such an occurrence.

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report.

Art asked, "Do we have a second?"

The motion was seconded.

Art asked for any discussion.

There was no discussion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Voting members: Agnello, Day, Hamilton, Lamp, Lashomb, Schultz, and Youngman.

Past-President's Report:

Pete reiterated one of his main responsibilities as immediate Past President is to find nominees for the L. O. Howard and Herbert T. Streu awards. He reported that David Pimentel and Jim Stimmel were this year's respective recipients for these awards. His committee received several outstanding nominees, which he will turn over to Art for next year.

Governing Board Representative's Report:

George handed out copies of his December report and mentioned that it was on The Branch website. He said that Scott has already covered what is in his report. George reminded everyone to look for the special issue of the ESA Newsletter on restructuring and renewal. Two teleconferences are planned for fielding questions and any concerns members may have. He closed by encouraging everyone to vote.

President-Elect's Report:

Jim said he has little to report at this time other than to say he is starting to recruit folks to fill upcoming vacancies in committees. He said he is looking forward to an active and fun meeting in Syracuse next year.

Member At-Large:

Bill said he received a few complaints about there not being extra copies of programs available for attendees. George suggested we provide a copy with each registration packet. There was general agreement among those in attendance for George's suggestion.

Paul (program co-chair) said it was great working with Paula; everything went smoothly and there were no complaints. He is looking forward to working with Peter Shearer next year. Jim commented that the student competition was really outstanding this year. Paul said if it continues to grow, we may have to split it into two sessions.

Faith (public information committee) said the Whittaker Center is very helpful and easy to work with; they wanted to make sure we come back in 2009. All the exhibitors were very cooperative and enjoyed themselves. She did want to point out that parking is an issue for the exhibitors. Art asked Faith what the attendance was for the public outreach event. Faith remarked that it was around 200. Eric said we received \$20.38 in donations from kids who attended the outreach program.

Greg (local arrangements committee) said the hotel personnel were extremely helpful, which made his job very easy. Art said this hotel has always been good to work with. Doug expressed his thanks to Greg for always being there.

Dick (IDEP committee) said this location is a good venue for the IDEP symposium. He added that Mark Taylor has agreed to serve for three years as chair of IDEP.

Doug (Linnaean games committee) said this year's Linnaean games were successful. Student teams competing were from Penn State, Rhode Island, and Virginia Tech. The Penn State team took the honors. Doug said The Branch currently provides \$500.00 to help defray the cost of sending the winning team members to the annual meeting. He suggested increasing the support to

\$800.00. Art asked Doug to write up a proposal for consideration at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

Alan asked why so few students attend this meeting. He said, "Given all this support we're doing for them they need to give something back. With privileges go responsibility, with membership goes service." A simple announcement at the banquet and a continental breakfast may encourage more students to attend this meeting. Art said the early hour may be a factor. Eric mentioned we might try what Mike Raupp did after his final business meeting, i.e., have a student lunch following the final business meeting. Dick said the students probably do not feel they're welcome. Doug pointed out there are not even enough regular members attending the business meeting to make up a quorum. Alan asked about the current attendance figures. Eric told him they are about 144-147 including spouses.

Scott said that Mark Fischer, Wilma Aponte-Cordero, and Anne Nielsen have stepped up to serve at the National level.

Art said George has done a good job of archiving our emails and would like to encourage everyone to continue providing George your emails.

Art then asked for any new business. There was no further business. He then ceremoniously passed the gavel to Jim Lashomb, the next President of the Eastern Branch. Jim thanked Art and then asked if there was any further business. There was no further business.

Jim adjourned the meeting at 7:58 a.m.