

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

Monday, March 22, 2005, Meeting Minutes (prepared by R. R. Youngman)

Officers present: Eric Day, George Hamilton, Bill Lamp, Doug Pfeiffer, Pete Schultz, and Rod Youngman

Doug called the meeting to order at 7:10 a.m. He thanked everyone for coming to the Business Meeting and announced that we did not have a quorum. He commented that the new electronic balloting process will make things easier for doing business. He announced that Art Agnello was our next President-Elect and went on to thank him for his service to the Branch. Doug concluded his remarks by saying we will be updating the Branch Constitution and Bylaws in regard to items discussed during the last Business Meeting. Doug then called for Executive Committee reports beginning with the Past President.

Past President's Report: Mike Raupp (not present)

No report.

President-Elect's Report: Pete Schultz

Pete said the only thing he had to report was that next year's meeting will be held in Charlottesville, and that he hoped to see us all there.

Secretary's Report: Rod Youngman

Rod handed out a copy of his 2004-05 expenses and noted that his expenses for the past year were the lowest of any of his previous years as Secretary. He attributed this to the Branch's decision to move to an all-electronic notification format. This past year he spent \$510.22 on custom framing for six award certificates, two engravings, and one plaque. Rod then commented on the Branch website and said we now have a page recognizing our corporate sponsors. He concluded his remarks by saying he has accepted responsibility for managing the Branch listserv.

Treasurer's Report: Eric Day

Eric began by commenting on the June 30, 2004 Financial Statement for the Branch. He said that as of June 30, 2003, the General Fund balance on hand totaled \$28,183.58, which is the sum total of the Branch's savings (\$15,331.70) and checking (\$12,851.88) accounts. He said the total funds available to the Branch as of June 30, 2004 were \$57,759.86, which is the sum total of the reserve (\$32,576.04), checking (\$9,813.68), and savings (\$15,370.14) accounts.

Rod asked how the Branch finances were in regard to this year's meeting expenditures. Eric responded that the 2005 meeting attendance was about 190 compared to 180 for the 2004 meeting in New Haven. Eric said the hotel in New

Haven was a good one, but at \$15,000 - \$16,000, it was a little more expensive than the \$12,000 - \$13,000 we are spending for our present meeting location. Doug asked Rod if he would write a letter of appreciation to the hotel. Rod responded that he would.

Loke Kok suggested Eric look into investing the Branch's funds in MBC Bank, which is currently offering a nine-month CD with a 3% yield. Eric said he will look into it for the upcoming year. Loke also commented about getting the program on-line earlier if at all possible.

Governing Board Report: George Hamilton

George reported that our numbers were back up to where we were in 2002. He added that he did not know whether the international meeting hurt attendance figures at Salt Lake; however, he thought our registration count of 190 for this year was excellent. He commented on the poor attendance at the Springfield meeting and added that essentially no one came. He reminded us of the high attendance numbers at our joint meeting with the Potomac Division of the American Phytopathological Society.

Bill Gimpel asked why is it that only 17% of our members attend the annual Branch meeting compared to 60% for the Southwestern Branch. He wondered if analyzing attendance numbers between the two branches might show a trend that would help explain this difference. George said that should be relatively easy to do.

Member-at-Large Report: Bill Lamp

Bill said he had nothing to report at this time.

Doug turned the floor to Paula Lettice, Executive Director of ESA. Paula thanked Doug and began by saying that membership at the National level is up by 187 members over the previous year. In addition, student membership also was up in 2004 with 800 new members. She added that the Membership Committee has been very active making personal contacts and working with CEDA. She was pleased with the fact that ESA did not lose money on this year's meeting in Salt Lake. She reminded us that the Society lost \$28,000 in unused hotel rooms at the Cincinnati meeting the year before. She said ESA has reduced expenses by \$500,000.00 over the previous four years, and we now have a positive cash flow. Currently, we are at a bare bones level for what we need to be doing to continue to operate. We are working at rebuilding our cash flow. For example, all proceeds from selling the building have gone into investments. Paula then commented on the Society website. She said it has been completely overhauled. It now has dropdown menus and is password protected. She said the new online meeting registration form handled over 900 transactions last year, and a member update form should be available soon with the option of online payment.

She briefly commented on some of the new changes that took place at the Salt

Lake meeting. Student awards were held earlier in the meeting format, we had a projector in every room, and for the first time presenters were offered the option of having their presentations recorded. About 50% of presenters took advantage of this offer.

Paula concluded her remarks by saying that we had a very good year. The Board is carefully looking for ways to begin adding things back in as funds allow. The bottom line is that we need to keep the Society solvent.

Doug thanked Paula for her comments. He then reminded us that as the incoming Past President for 2005-06, he will be requesting nominees for the Herb Streu and L. O. Howard awards.

Alan Cameron spoke next and said the Sunday night reception was excellent. It was one of the best and well attended he could recall. He went on to say that the symposia were good, but there were too many overlapping ones. He feels there are problems with the Branch meeting. There is never a quorum at the business meeting. There are no faculty members. He says our faculty needs to be more aggressive for marketing our students to this meeting. Our students need to be made aware that attending the Business meeting is worth their time. Alan then addressed Doug and said the record should show that we only have one person on the ballot. Our Constitution and Bylaws says we need to have two nominees on the ballot and would encourage the nominating committee to do a better job. He then went on to say he is very disappointed that we did not have the current ESA President visit our Branch this year.

Doug responded that the ESA President can only be in one place at a time. He then said the Executive Committee is making structural changes in filling committee slots that should help improve the efficiency of conducting Branch business. He said limiting the meeting to two days forces us to overlap symposia.

Susan, asked about the possibility of somehow highlighting the Business Meeting in the Program. Loke responded that Business Meetings have historically been poorly attended.

Doug asked if there was any further business that needed to be addressed at this time. Since no further business was raised, he said his last order of business was to pass the gavel to Pete Schultz, which Pete accepted. He then took a few moments thanking Doug for all his hard work on behalf of the Branch, and for this meeting. He announced that Paula Shrewsbury has accepted the position of program co-chair for 2006. He said he looks forward to working with each of us this coming year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 a.m.