The Governing Board met before the national meeting in Cincinnati, OH from Thursday October 24th through Sunday October 26th.

The following items were discussed:

Budget

1. 2003 budget anticipated a surplus of $135,971
2. 2004 budget anticipated a surplus of $31,564
3. Unanticipated expenses in 2003 – Hotel Room Count Penalty
4. Challenges for 2004 – declining regular memberships and rent
5. Opportunities for 2004 – student membership is increasing, increased attendance in Cincinnati

Membership

1. National memberships declined by 229 people to 5,527
2. Eastern Branch membership declined by 42 to 1,108
3. Eastern branch is the 2nd largest branch behind the North Central Branch

Program Enhancement Funds in 2004

1. Baseline funds - $2 for each branch member will be allocated to National Program Chair ($1) and to the Branch ($1)
2. Dividend Funds -$6.76 per 2003 Branch meeting paid attendance (185)
3. Estimated Eastern Branch PEF for 2004 – $2,259

Headquarters

1. The old property has been sold
2. In new space with a short term lease
National Meetings

Cincinnati, OH attendance – 2,215
Salt Lake City, UT in 2004 – No pre-registration fee increase
Ft. Lauderdale, FL in 2005
Indianapolis, IN in 2006 and 2009)
San Diego, CA in 2007 and 2010
Charlotte, SC in 2008 and 2011

The Eastern Branch will be particularly interested in the following items:

1. Branches have been asked to provide comment on a possible by-law change that would allow people to designate which branch they wished to affiliate with instead of being assigned a branch based on their geographic location.

2. President Steffey has charged branches to increase membership. Things that might accomplish this is getting faculty in departments to be members and making sure all new students join.

3. Karen Kester's term as the eastern branch member of the Education and Youth Committee ended this year. She has asked to be on for another term. The Governing Board approved this. I have also been made the GB liaison to this committee.

4. All branch members should be encouraged to use BioOne at [http://www.bioone.org/bioone/?request=index-html](http://www.bioone.org/bioone/?request=index-html) to access ESA journals. It is free and every time someone uses it to access our journals ESA gets a kick-back.

5. If possible, since ESA National cannot afford to join CAST, branches are encouraged to do so. This will allow Entomology to have a presence with this group.

6. The following committee slots will need to be filled this year for EB terms ending at the end of 2004:

   Certification Board - current member is William Wymer
   Finance Committee - current member is Melody Keena
   Student Affairs - current member is Vonny Martin Barlow
   Systematic Resources - Current member is Michael Schauff