

**MINUTES OF THE 59TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOUTHWESTERN BRANCH
OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
March 7-10, 2011.**

The 59th Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Branch of the Entomological Society of America (SWB-ESA) was held on March --10 at the Ambassador Hotel in Amarillo, Texas. A total of 143 people, including 62 students, 64 regular members, 11 non-members, and 6 guests registered for the meeting.

OPENING SESSION – March 8, 2011.

Tom Royer, President of the Southwestern Branch, called the Opening Session to order at 8:00 a.m. and welcomed attendees to the 59th Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Branch of the Entomological Society of America and the 35th Annual Meeting of the Society of Southwestern Entomologists. Debra McCart, mayor of Amarillo, and John Sweeten, Texas AgriLife Research Resident Director, and Don Topliff, Dean of West Texas A&M University, welcomed the membership to Amarillo. Del Delfosse, President of ESA, gave the ESA President's Address, and David Gammel, ESA Executive Director, gave an update on ESA finances. Brad Vinson, President of the Entomological Foundation, reported on Foundation activities. Jim Reinert, chair of the In Memoriam Committee, recognized those members who had passed away during the past year. Bart Drees, representing Board Certified Entomologists (BCE), reported on BCE activities.

FINAL BUSINESS MEETING – March 10, 2011

President Royer called the final business meeting of the Southwestern Branch of the Entomological Society of America to order at on Thursday March 10th at 8 am at the Ambassador Hotel in Amarillo. About 26 members were present. President Royer opened the meeting with a call to report of the Minutes of the 2010 Business meeting which were read and approved by unanimous vote. President Royer then asked Bart Drees to share information on the summer governing board meeting in Reno, NV in June. This would be a good opportunity for membership to voice issues with ESA headquarters.

Treasurer's Report.

Attendance at the Amarillo meeting consisted of 64 regular members (1 registration waived), 62 students, 6 guests, 11 non-members (4 registration waived), 5 honorary/emeritus/invited speakers. A total of 143 registered for meeting (138 total paid); 5 of these had registration fees waived (3 invited non-member speakers, 1 ESA President, 1 ESA Executive Director).

President Royer then called on reports from those Committee Chairs present. Final written Committee reports were provided to the Secretary following the meeting and are present as a separate file.

New Business. Allen Knutson made the following motions: 1) to change the method of voting for President-elect from the annual business meeting to prior to the annual business meeting. 2) to require that the Nominating Committee put forward two candidates for President-elect. The motions were seconded and passed without opposition.

National ESA Headquarters offered to assist the branch with electronic voting at no cost to the branch. Benefits include that the entire membership could vote, including those unable to attend. ESA would tally votes. The executive committee previously discussed and approved this proposal. Dr. Royer asked for a discussion from the membership. Membership expressed support because the measure increases opportunities for a greater proportion of the membership to vote. The rationale for the current system, voting by members attending the final business meeting to encourage attendance of the final business meeting, was discussed; it was concluded that this method doesn't draw additional attendance. Adoption of electronic voting would require a change in the constitution, which would need to be proposed at least 6 weeks before the next branch meeting. An alternative would be to send out a vote to membership in advance through ESA central. A motion was made to send out a vote on the proposed change to the constitutional by-laws for consideration. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition. An electronic ballot to change the Constitution will be sent to the membership as soon as possible and if the changes are approved, the new election procedure will be implemented in 2011.

Discussion took place on the absence of an active Public Affairs Committee. Edmond Bonjour stepped down two years ago. It was suggested that each year the President should contact the chair of each branch committee to see if they are willing to continue in that capacity. Scott Bundy reported on a proposed plan to hold the 2013 branch meeting in Las Cruces, NM. A motion was made to endorse the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition. Bonnie Pendleton next read the report of the Nominations Committee submitted by Carlos Blanco (absent). Following a review and ranking of prospective candidates, the committee selected Robert Davis as Secretary/Treasurer-Elect for the Southwestern Branch for 2011. In-coming President Allen Knutson then thanked President Royer for his service to the Southwestern Branch. President Knutson reported that the 60th meeting will be held along with the Southeastern Branch in Little Rock, AR. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Bundy
Secretary/Treasurer
Southwestern Branch, ESA 2011