

Southwestern Branch ESA 61st Annual Meeting
1st Executive Committee Meeting
El Tropicano Hotel
San Antonio, TX
2/24/2014

The meeting was called to order by President Jesus Esquivel at 10:00 AM.

General Notes, comments and discussion:

In regard to hotel reservations, we need to keep a close watch on the internet link to the hotel. There is a direct link to their website. If we do extensions of the reservation dates, we need to keep El Tropicano in the loop. Rates should be consistent across the board. For instance we need to check other travel sites before the meeting to make sure they are not undercutting our rate. Report problems to Rosina, who works for El Tropicano.

CONFEX did a great job in the program. To simplify printing costs, the program was printed in a larger format (8 ½ x 11) than we have in the past. In the future, we need to have everything go through CONFEX rather than the program committee. This needs to be clear in the paper submission form.

In regard to the program committee, we are now set up to have a chairman and a “trainee” for the upcoming year to allow for continuity. Similar to the experience the Secretary-Treasurer Elect gets when they come into office.

A suggestion was made by Vice-President Bob Davis that we “thread” the Awards, Committee Reports and Speaker throughout the banquet.

A question was brought up regarding guest speaker honoraria, and it was agreed that this be decided upon year-to-year.

A motion was made by Scott Bundy that we supply fiscal support to the Insect Expo Coordinator. Seconded by Eric Rebek. After discussion, the motion was carried unanimously.

There has been a technical problem accessing packets for awards from ESA National. We need to make sure admissions are timely, and that we strictly follow SOPs which should be on the website. We need to make sure the SOPs on the website are linked to the submissions. We need to move toward electronic submissions of all Branch-specific awards. A motion to do so was put forward by Eric Rebek and seconded by Scott Bundy. After discussion, the motion was tabled until we receive further information for ESA National. It was noted that Charles Allen, Awards and honors Committee Chairman, has been advised of this proposition, and is in agreement. The Ta-Que-Na-Whap Award is excluded.

Vice President Bob Davis presented information on the 2015 Tulsa meeting. Dates are February 22nd through February 25th. Tentative dates for the 2016 meeting are February 21st through February 25th.

Justin Talley was announced and welcomed as the Secretary-Treasurer Elect. We need to solicit candidates for the 2015 Secretary-Treasurer Elect position.

A general discussion ensued regarding updating committee records. We need to confirm who is on the committee, who is leaving, who is new, and rapidly update the committee rosters when changes are made. At the general report to be given at the banquet, it will be brought out as a critical need that committee chairs review their member lists and dates when proscribed duties are to be performed.

The “Friends of the Southwestern Branch Committee” duties needs to be added to the SOP. We need to check the bylaws, but is believed that this is an ad hoc special committee set up by the president and at least for the time being does not need to be voted upon by the membership.

Chris Stelzig noted that the national awards process is changing to the CONFEX platform.

Next, ESA National President Frank Zalom presented various national initiatives, comments, and suggestions:

- Award descriptions and the processes need to be revised
- There needs to be a distinction between ESA Foundation and ESA National awards
- Publications are being looked at for sustainability. The Governing Board is looking for publishing partners. An open-access, online journal is being considered
- Planning for the International Congress of Entomology is underway. The symposia website will open in March
- ESA Public Policy comments
 - o The Governing Board approved the Science Policy Agenda
 - o ESA retained a firm (Lewis-Burk) in Washington, DC, to advise in policy and make contacts
 - o There is a four-member Science Policy Capability Committee
 - o The Governing Board approved appointing Science Policy Fellows consisting of five Fellows serving two-year terms. The Fellows will receive training in policy and advocacy areas
 - o The Entomological Society of Canada is joining in the
 - o For more information the website www.EntomologyChallenges.org is available
- The Theme for the Portland meeting will be “Grand Challenges Beyond Our Horizons”
 - o It will focus on solving problems facing humanity in the entomological arena
 - o The public policy initiative will be woven into the theme
 - o Social – opportunities to participate
 - o Global – increase global partnerships by identifying unifying themes
 - o Influence – setting global agenda for science policy
- President Zalom noted he is very happy with the Portland venue. The meeting dates will be November 16-19, 2014. Early-bird registration begins June 11th, 2014.
- President Zalom noted that our membership numbers are good. We had the highest January numbers in 14 years. He hoped for 7,000 attendees in Portland

Chris Stelzig, ESA National Director of Certification, provided the following comments:

- ESA is busy building up the brand of entomology
- ESA National has \$6.5 million in total assets. \$5.4 million of that amount is invested
- We are very sound financially
- The Austin meeting had a record attendance, and we ended up with a quarter million dollar surplus
- Chris noted that ESA National wants to support the Branches

- He was asked about individual Branches investing their funds and he commented that some ESA Sections are already doing this and that he would check on what the Branches might do
- In regard to the Southwestern Branch, our membership stood at 494 as of December 2012, and 681 as of December 2013, a 38% increase in one year
 - It was noted that now we need to bet these members to the annual meeting
- Chris mentioned a website, www.entomologytoday.org, which provides current news in entomology, notifications of meetings, tweets from ESA, and groups other sources of entomology news into one site.
- Finally he provided information on upcoming ESA National meetings:
 - 2015 Minneapolis
 - 2016 Orlando (ICE) 9/25-30, registration opens 9/1/14, paper deadline is 11/3/14
 - 2017 Denver 11/5-8

Final notes on Southwestern Branch business:

It was commented upon that the Society of Southwestern Entomologists should be asked to contribute more to the Branch meeting, perhaps supporting the student mixer. With the move to publish "The Southwestern Entomologist" through BioOne Online Journals, the society is bringing in a substantial amount of funds that could help out the Southwestern Branch annual meetings.

It was noted that the SSWE is interested in potential uses for their new-found funds and that we should engage them in a discussion.

Finally it was noted by Andrine Shufran that the Insect Expo had over 100 volunteers and that there were 1,184 students in attendance.

With no further business, President Esquivel asked for and received a motion to adjourn (Bundy). This motion was seconded (Davis) and, with no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 PM.