

Nominating Committee Report
North Central Branch- Entomological Society of America (NCBESA)
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Committee members:

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Tasks and activities conducted:

- a. The Nominating Committee (the Committee) procured nominations to fill out two critical roles within the NCBESA: President-Elect and Member-at-Large.
- b. The Committee sent out email communications to entomology Department Chairs (including consolidated Departments) within the Branch. Fifteen letters were emailed in September 2017 to solicit candidates in or out of their department and to ask Department Chairs to discuss openings among staff.
- c. The Committee also consulted with some ESA and NCBESA past presidents and leaders for additional input on potential nominees. Past leaders listed suggestions for prospective candidates based on credentials and history of involvement at Branch and National level.
- d. The Committee approached potential candidates via email, phone or in-person during national ESA meeting. Candidates who kindly declined the offer also voiced the possibility to accept a nomination in the near future, but felt the time was not right now due to multiple ongoing commitments.
- e. The committee visited with nine potential candidates from academia, government and private sector. All of them had impressive credentials in all areas of leadership, research, service, extension and ESA engagement. The following candidates accepted our nominations:

Nominees to role of Member-at-Large to the NCB Executive Committee:

- Dr. Rob Morrison, USDA-ARS, Kansas
- Dr. Raul Villanueva, University of Kentucky
- Dr. Clint Pilcher, Corteva Agriscience

Nominees to President-Elect

- Dr. Deane Jorgenson, Syngenta Crop Protection:
- Dr. Andy Michel, Ohio State University

- f. The Committee sent the list of nominees to NCBESA President Ruberson, President-Elect Ravlin and Secretary-Treasurer Hodgson on Dec 13th, 2017, keeping them informed before elections opened (January 5th-February 4th, 2018). The elections yielded the following results:
 - **President Elect:** Dr. Andy Michel, Ohio State University
 - **Member-at-Large:** Dr. Clint Pilcher, Corteva Agriscience
- g. The Committee sent emails to all nominees prior to the election period to acknowledge their commitment to serve by volunteering as nominees. After the election period and before public

result announcement, the Committee along with NCBESA President Ruberson sent emails to all nominees to acknowledge their effort, to encourage their continued commitment and to congratulate new elected leaders.

- h. The Committee updates and maintains a dynamic list of promising talent and Branch leaders as a source of potential nominees for future openings within NCBESA.
- i. With assistance of Secretary-Treasurer Hodgson, the Committee also maintains a list of previous office holders from recent years. This list is valuable in screening who in the Branch has already served in various capacities and may be willing to serve in new committees.

Considerations for the Executive Committee:

1. What went well:

- a. Excellent communication and prompt answers from ESA HQ (kudos to Becky Anthony) and from NCBESA current leadership (kudos to President Ruberson and Secretary-Treasurer Hodgson).
- b. Acceptance rate for nominations improved from a previous year, but there is still plenty of room for improvement.
- c. ESA HQ notified the Committee of election results prior to the broad public announcement. This allowed the Committee to send "Thank-You" e-mails to nominees, following personalized emails also from President Ruberson. This small effort pays dividends in the long-run and is a strong statement of great appreciation from NCBESA to all nominees for their willingness to devote their effort to continue serving our Society.

2. Challenges encountered:

- a. There still is plenty of room to get a higher acceptance ratio for nominations. Acceptance rate remains low particularly for positions with more responsibilities, such as President-Elect (six potential nominees approached, two accepted). Acceptance rate much better for Member-at-Large (three approached, three accepted).
- b. The Committee sent 15 emails (+15 follow-up emails) to Department Chairs. This effort resulted in one Member-at-Large nominee (from USDA-ARS). However, the large majority of Departments did not provide leads for potential nominees within their departments.

3. Recommendations for improvements:

- a. The Committee would like to suggest the leadership at NCBESA and ESA HQ to leverage efforts with Department Chairs and encourage their faculty to serve. These roles offer a unique blend of opportunities to get critical exposure to volunteering, leadership and networking. Being elected by peers to these leadership roles could be a positive factor in promotion dossiers.
- b. The current rotation of members within the Nominating Committee is out-of-synch. There is no clear guidance from current the NCBESA Bylaws and Guidelines. We have been operating under a rotation, in which Nominating Committee member takes the role of Chair during the final year of service. Boris A. Castro is current Chair, but serving only his second year in the Committee.
- c. The voting rate during the last NCBESA elections was low (11.6% of Branch active members voted). The Executive Committee may want to explore options to increase voter turnout in upcoming elections.