

**ESA Eastern Branch Executive Committee Meeting**  
**February 27, 2019**  
**Minutes**

Present: Daniel Frank, Nick Larson, Tom Kuhar, Don Weber, Brian Nault, Art Agnello, Anne Nielsen, James Wilson, Brenna Traver, Erin Hitchner, Jim Steffel

**Call to Order: 1:03 pm**

**Executive Committee Reports**

**President** (Tom Kuhar): Registration is outstanding at this point (254 registered as of this week) with more on-site registrations anticipated. Conference hotel has been good to work with and we are getting some added perks for free or at a reduced rate.

**Secretary** (Daniel Frank): Please feel free to provide any committee updates at any time during the year. We do not need to wait until we have a formal meeting to have updates and new information brought to the Executive Committee's attention.

**Treasurer** (Erin Hitchner): Income received as of February 26, 2019 totaled \$36,435.00 and consisted of meeting registration as well as some sponsorship money. Additional expected income includes registration, sponsorships, Linnaean Games Travel Support, Science Communication PEF as well as Branch PEF Support. Expenses paid to date total \$355.52 for plaques and frames. Anticipated upcoming expenses include Annual Meeting hotel and AV costs (~\$45,000), Program Book Production (~\$1,000), Science Communication Funding (~\$500), award checks (~\$2300) and Linnaean Games travel support (\$2,000). A copy of the current financial report is included as an attachment to the minutes.

**Governing Board Representative** (Tracy Leskey): No report.

**Member at Large** (Brenna Traver): No report.

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Program Committee** (Anne Nielsen, Art Agnello): Record number of attendees, as well as symposia and presentations. Thanks was given to Art for putting together the program book. A total of 13 symposia accepted; a few were combined to accommodate more individuals (e.g. Student and Early Career symposia combined and will include a networking aspect). The diversity of symposia is greater than what it has been in the past and includes topics such as aquatic invertebrates, vectors and vector-borne diseases, and molecular and cell biology of mosquitoes. There are 17 student poster submissions, 11 Ph.D oral presentations, and 17 M.S./B.S. oral presentations.

There is a “lunch and learn session” with a science communication aspect, and a free workshop on Tuesday on generating compelling interactions with the public. The workshop requires people to register ahead of time.

Patricia Raun is the presenter of the Tuesday workshop. Because she is donating her expertise and time to the Eastern Branch, Tom has recommended that we consider giving her a gift such as something from the silent auction.

Easels were purchased by Tom and donated to the Branch for future meetings.

**Early Career Professional Committee** (Nick Larson, James Wilson): A symposia and networking event for ECPs was arranged for the meeting. Eleven other ECP members are helping to organize the event. Two new ECP members for 2019 include: Lindsay Iglesias (Cornell) as the ECP member-at-large, and Ryan Gott (IPM specialist at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens) as ECP co-chair.

**Awards Committee** (Don Weber): The Screening for ESA Awards Committee was dissolved into the Eastern Branch Awards Committee. All Eastern Branch awardees, and candidates for the ESA awards will now be decided by this single committee. The committee includes past presidents Don Weber, Cesar Rodriguez-Saona, Tracy Leskey, and Paula Shrewsbury, as well as Nick Larson (Early Career Professional Committee Chair). For the Graduate Student awards (Fitch and Comstock Awards), Aditi Dubey (Chair, Univ. of Maryland) and members of the Graduate Student Committee, served as judges.

The announced deadline for awards was Monday December 17, and the committee stuck with that (no extensions). All applications were through the ESA-managed website. The committee had a good number of applicants overall (23 for 8 awards), and most awards had three or more nominees. The list below shows the eight awards and awardees, and the total number of applicants, some of whom as runners-up, will reapply next year.

1. L.O. Howard Award (Eastern Branch): Christina Grozinger (Penn State)
2. Herbert T. Streu (Eastern Branch): Daniel Frank (West Virginia University)
3. ESA Distinguished Achievement Award in Teaching: Francis Drummond (Univ. of Maine)(2)
4. ESA Distinguished Achievement Award in Extension: Andrei V. Alyokhin (Univ. of Maine)(3)
5. Entomological Foundation Award for Excellence in IPM: John F. Tooker (Penn State)(3)
6. Early Career Professional Award: Heather Grab (Cornell Univ.)(3)
7. John Henry Comstock Award for PhD student: Ethan Degner (Cornell Univ.)(5)
8. Asa Fitch Award for Masters student: Maxwell Helmberger (Cornell Univ.)(5)

Don expressed thanks to all the judges for their careful and confidential consideration of all the nominees, and also Addie Dubey for her organization of the student judging.

It was suggested that a statement should be drafted for the awards that strongly encourages awardees to participate/attend the meeting. It looks bad when most of the awardees do not bother coming to the meeting to accept their award.

**Insect Detection, Evaluation and Prediction** (Eric Day): No report.

**Student Affairs Committee** (Aditi Dubey): Aditi has helped to grow student involvement in the committee. Katlyn Catron (Virginia Tech) is currently serving as co-chair.

**Nominations Committee** (Don Weber, George Hamilton): Upcoming committee vacancies include Science Policy Capability and Program Committee co-chair. Don expressed interest in participating in the SPC Committee and Doug Pfeiffer may be interested in serving as co-chair for the Program Committee.

## **National ESA Committees**

**Awards and Honors** (Cesar Rodriguez-Saona): Cesar is currently the chair of the ESA Awards Committee and they are working on changing some of the rules at the national level. In the past, the branches have been very inconsistent with the nominations for the national awards. Some branches have allowed nominees at the branch level to be re-nominated for an award, while others do not. The committee is trying to change this by allowing previous nominees to be reconsidered for an award without having to be nominated again at the branch level. This will make it more fair for all branches and will allow nominees from the branches that do not receive the award at the national level to be re-considered for the award. The committee voted on this recently and it was a unanimous “yes”, so Cesar will be submitting a request to the ESA National Board (David Gammel) to solicit this change

**Diversity and Inclusion** (Cesar Rodriguez-Saona): The Diversity and Inclusion Committee has developed recommendations and guidance for the ESA Branch Meetings to increase the overall diversity of speakers. Cesar would like input on the recommendations, which are posted as an attachment to minutes.

**Early Career** (James Wilson): Nick also serves on the national committee. The committee has been working to incorporate policies that include and recognize early career professionals

**Education and Outreach** (John Cambridge): There is no Bug’s World event planned for the upcoming meeting. John was going to organize a project with middle schoolers in Blacksburg, but was not able to commit to it this year. John will likely be more involved in Bug’s World during our 2021 meeting (location and date to be determined).

**Science Policy Capability** (Karen Sime): The Science Policy Committee (SPC) works with the ESA governing board, Director of Strategic Initiatives (Chris Stelzig), and the Society’s government relations firm (Lewis-Burke Associates) to advocate on various matters of public policy relevant to the society.

Among the major tasks of the SPC is the development of position statements and fact sheets intended for the use of members in education and advocacy, and for guiding Lewis-Burke Associates staff in their discussions with lawmakers. In the past year, the SPC completed a position statement on global climate change and a fact sheet on Bt and food safety; a statement

on science communication is in progress. Since 2017, approved position statements have been published in *Annals*.

Currently (through March 1) the SPC is seeking input from ESA members for revising outdated statements on tick-borne diseases and pollinator health, as well as for a new position statement on genetic research (particularly as relates to gene drive technology). To view position statements and locate the forms for submitting comments, please visit <https://www.entsoc.org/sci-pol/statements>. Notices regarding position statements also appear in the ESA newsletter e-mails.

The SPC has been working to increase its profile at the national meetings as a way to educate ESA members, recruit new SPC representatives, and seek input on policy concerns from the ESA membership at large. At the recent meeting in Vancouver, the SPC hosted, for the first time, an open “lunch and learn” session in which attendees met with committee members and held an informal discussion on priorities for policy advocacy. The discussion centered on the following topics as possible new foci for the SPC:

- Food safety and security
- Entomophagy
- Habitat loss and protection
- Pollinators other than bees
- Non-traditional agriculture

Members also suggested that the SPC give higher priority to the following topics:

- Biodiversity loss
- Public outreach, engagement, and education (particularly K-12)
- Urban pest management (with emphasis on social justice issues including public housing, veterans, and marginalized communities)
- Funding for basic and applied research

The committee has just submitted a symposium proposal for the 2019 annual meeting entitled “Working with the Fourth Estate: Building Bridges between Science and the Media.” The symposium, if approved, will be organized more or less as follows:

- 1) Working with the National Press, 2) Media Case study about gene editing, 3) Why Science communication matters, 4) Media case study about an invasive species, 5) Working with your in-house media team; Panel discussion of common lessons learned, challenges, etc.; break;(second half participatory) Role playing interview exercise; Developing your personalized story for the media (facilitated participant work time) with 30 second report outs time permitting

The SPC recently (February 2019) voted to add a subcommittee specifically tasked with developing programming for the national meetings. (Previously there were two subcommittees, one assigned to composing and editing position statements and other written materials, the other devoted to reviewing applications for the Science Policy Fellows program. Each SPC member serves on at least one subcommittee.)

Karen's three-year term as Eastern Branch representative ends in November 2019. She would be happy to answer any questions about what the duties of the SPC members entail.

### **Ad hoc Committee Reports**

**Student Paper/Poster Competition** (Brenna Traver, David Owens): There are 17 student poster submissions, 11 Ph.D oral presentations, and 17 M.S./B.S. oral presentations. Overall, 11 institutions are represented in the competition. Because of the large number of poster submissions there will be 6 judges to split duties. Last year it was recommended that any one judge should not have to evaluate all posters; we do not want the process to be arduous. If possible, it was discussed that we should split judges into two groups; Ph.D and M.S./B.S.

It seems students are allowed to volunteer as judges during registration. Brenna had to go through the volunteer list and purge those that didn't have a Ph.D in the field. In the future, we should try to link membership category with the ability to volunteer as a judge.

The committee should discuss with Becky Anthony if it can move to online scoring of the student competition. It seems most judges would favor this approach.

**Local Arrangements** (James Wilson): The hotel has been accommodating, and there have been no major problems thus far.

**Linnaean Games** (Doug Pfeiffer): Daniel will send out an email to entomology departments at land-grant universities to see if they have a team planning to participate in the Linnaean Games. Doug would like a list of teams before end of day on March 4.

**Corporate Support Coordinator** (Jim Steffel, Erin Hitchner): We currently have sponsorship commitments from 11 companies (20 were solicited). The goal was to get at least \$5K in sponsorship, and it looks like we will be able to do that. The consolidation of companies in the plant protection industry has made it difficult to reach sponsorship levels of the past. Collectively, we should brainstorm how we might reach out beyond the plant protection industry to enhance sponsorship, and consider what kind of program content would appeal to both our academic and industry members. It was discussed that other companies we may want to target include those in urban/structural pest control and the turf industry. Informational sessions for PCOs may be one way to get their support and it would be an outreach opportunity to draw more individuals to the meeting.

For the 2020 meeting we need to discuss how we will deal with sponsors and the funds they contribute. Specifically, the benefits we offer like the meeting registration and how we will handle sponsors we have in common with the SE Branch.

**Meeting Site Selection** (Tom Kuhar): The 2020 Combined EB and SEB Meeting will be March 28 – April 2, 2020 at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel. 2021 meeting site will be discussed at the final business meeting. Anne Nielsen will be President in 2021 and is considering Philadelphia. A list

of previous EB meeting sites since 2001 are presented as an attachment. Several states have not hosted an EB meeting in over 20 yrs.

### **New Business**

Out of 1,463 eligible voters only 100 people cast votes in the election. This may have been due to single candidate ballots. However, we should try to encourage greater turnout in the future.

### **Old Business**

Don contacted the North Central Branch about student travel grants. Essentially, they ask for an abstract and background information from applicants. The North Central Branch provides some support for all applicants, but home states are off limits for travel grants. It was discussed that we may want to look at student travel grants for the 2020 joint meeting, but this is not something we would be able to support financially on a continuing basis. We already provide a large subsidy for student registration.

**Adjourn: 2:46 pm**

**SOCIETY OF AMERICA  
TREASURER REPORT  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT,  
February 26, 2019**

**Income** received as of February 26, 2019 totaled **\$36,435.00** and consisted of meeting registration as well as sponsorships. Additional expected income includes registration, sponsorships, Linnaean Games Travel Support, Science Communication PEF as well as Branch PEF Support.

**Expenses** paid to date total **\$355.52** for plaques and frames. Anticipated upcoming expenses include Annual Meeting hotel and AV costs (~\$45,000), Program Book Production (~\$1,000), Science Communication Funding (~\$500), award checks (~\$2300) and Linnaean Games travel support (\$2,000).

<b>EBESA Account Balances as of February 26, 2019</b>	
<i>Checking - Wells Fargo</i>	\$30,787.79
<i>Savings - Wells Fargo</i>	\$111.61
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$30,899.40</b>

<b>Income Received</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Total EBESA Income Deposited January 1, 2019 - February 26, 2019</b>	<b>\$36,435.00</b>
Student Transition, ECP and Regular Member	\$17,745
Emeritus Member	\$350
Student Member	\$6,350
Guest	\$240
Non-Member	\$5,950
One Day	\$2,000
Sponsors	\$3,800.00
<b>Expenses Paid</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Total EBESA Expenses Paid January 1, 2019 - February 26, 2019</b>	<b>\$355.52</b>
Plaques and Frames	\$355.52

*Erin Hitchner, ESA-EB Treasurer.*

## **Goals of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee:**

Focus Area #1 Goal: Increase overall diversity of speakers

Focus Area #1-A: Providing Program Guidance to ESA Annual and Branch Meeting Program Committees

## **Recommendations and Guidance for the ESA Branch Meetings**

### **Before the Branch Meeting**

1. Integrate D&I language and goals into communications about the meeting. Use explicitly inclusive language that welcomes the full diversity of ESA's membership (e.g., we are proud of our diverse membership and hope to see the diversity of our membership reflected in speakers, events, and scientific talks, and ESA strives to provide a welcoming environment to all, inclusivity is a top priority so the following accommodations (see #9) are being made available to meeting attendees).
2. Continue to provide symposia organizers with reminders to consider diverse speakers (e.g., early career professionals, non-male, non-Caucasian) and use the guidelines for symposia, symposia submission form, and solicitation for program and member symposia to encourage all members to engage in presentations.
  - a. During submission of symposia:
    - i. Include questions to encourage reflection about unintended bias in speaker selection (e.g., Does your symposium represent the diversity of work being done on a topic by speakers of diverse backgrounds? Are there individuals from typically underrepresented groups you could reach out to and include (e.g., early career professionals, non-male, non-Caucasian) who may be overlooked?" Please see the D&I document "Questions to ask yourself" for more on this.
    - ii. Include a place for organizers to indicate how they have sought to make their symposium more diverse and inclusive
    - iii. Include the "Questions to ask yourself" document for symposium organizers on the symposium submission website
  - b. During the selection of symposia:
    - i. As part of the selection criteria for program symposia, the program committee could promote a diverse representation of ESA membership in symposia by giving priority to program symposia with speakers from diverse backgrounds. The program committee could consider and perhaps develop a system for this.
3. Invite diverse keynote speakers. These speakers in particular can be seen as a highly visible metric of how diverse and inclusive ESA is, so it is especially important that there be representation from diverse backgrounds in the keynote speakers.
4. Make members aware of EntomologyToday articles and ESA webinars that discuss how to organize a symposium to increase diversity of organizers that feel capable and willing to organize symposia. \*These materials are in the process of being made by the D&I committee\*
5. Look into the feasibility and costs for allowing all meeting attendees to share their preferred pronouns and print these pronouns on meeting badges (much like asking people what name they prefer on their badge).

6. Encourage broad thematic mixers/meetings that cut across subdisciplines and ESA Sections to attract and retain a diverse group of members at meetings, and increase the value of the Branch Meeting for everyone.
7. Strive to provide facilities and support for a diverse group of meeting attendees, and therefore speakers. Publicize these accommodations so that those who need them are reached and become aware of the effort you have made to make the conference welcoming to them. Common considerations include but are not limited to:
  - a. Private Mother's room in convenient locations
  - b. Gender neutral bathrooms in convenient locations
  - c. Americans with Disabilities (ADA) accommodations
  - d. Dietary restrictions (e.g., Kosher, Halal, vegan, vegetarian, food allergies, etc...)
  - e. Childcare and eldercare grants
8. If it is not already there, place wording in the venue contract that allows you to leave contract if the state enacts diversity limiting legislation (e.g. such as North Carolina and the bathroom bill). See the annual meeting contracts for help with this.
9. Consider including the D&I Branch Rep into the decision-making and/or organizing process for deciding on or soliciting symposia from the membership.

#### **During the Branch Meeting**

1. Display ESA's Code of Conduct & D&I Statement in the program book and on site *prominently* for attendees so that they come across this when entering the hotel/exhibit hall/convention center.
2. Consider developing a metric so that symposia that supports ESA's priority of having diverse representation among speakers could be highlighted in the program book (e.g, a symbol next to the symposium title when the symposium application has shown exceptional consideration for diversity of speakers).

#### **After the Branch Meeting**

1. Incorporate D&I measures into evaluations and surveys after the meeting to start tracking D&I relevant information. If we don't measure it, we can't improve it. Some potential measures include:
  - a. Perception of how inclusive the meeting was to attendees
  - b. Were symposia organizers sensitive to concerns of members from diverse backgrounds? If not, how could they improve?
  - c. What barriers/challenges for underrepresented individuals to present, organize symposia, and attend meetings do attendees see
  - d. How diverse was this year's meeting compared to previous meetings you have attended?
2. Forward D&I-relevant information from evaluations and surveys to the D&I Committee for review and to consider in future work and priorities.

## Eastern Branch ESA Meeting Site Selection Committee Report

February 27, 2019

Thomas P. Kuhar

- The 2020 Combined EB and SEB Meeting will be March 28 – April 2, 2020 at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel.
- 2021 meeting site will be discussed at the final business meeting. Anne Nielsen will be President in 2021 and is considering Philadelphia.
- A list of previous EB meeting sites since 2001 are presented below. Several states have not hosted an EB meeting in over 20 yrs.

2020 Atlanta, GA  
2019 Blacksburg, VA  
2018 Annapolis, MD  
2017 Newport, RI  
2016 Philadelphia, PA  
2015 Rehoboth, DE  
2014 Williamsburg, VA  
2013 Lancaster, PA  
2012 Hartford, CT  
2011 Harrisburg, PA  
2010 Annapolis MD  
2009 Harrisburg, PA  
2008 Liverpool, NY  
2007 Harrisburg, PA  
2006 Charlottesville, VA  
2005 Harrisburg, PA  
2004 New Haven, CT  
2003 Harrisburg, PA  
2002 Ocean City, MD  
2001 Harrisburg, PA

