

ESA Eastern Branch Final Business Meeting
March 12, 2019
Minutes

Present: Daniel Frank, Brian Nault, Tracy Leskey, Becky Anthony, Tom Kuhar, Brenna Traver, Erin Hitchner, Art Agnello, David Owens, Anne Nielsen, Lindsay Iglesias, Aditi Dubey, David Gammel, Doug Pfeiffer, Don Weber

Call to Order: 12:13 pm

Committee Reports

President (Tom Kuhar): The meeting in Blacksburg, VA was well attended (295 people registered, 288 attended). Registration for the meeting increased \$15 from the previous year. There were many symposia with a diversity of topics. Having it on a college campus drew in people who usually don't attend the Branch meetings.

For future meetings, it would be a good idea to incorporate the poster session into a mixer, or before the Linnaean games to get more participation.

Because the ED talks during the lunch banquet were a success, it would be nice to include the event at future meetings, or maybe incorporate into the student competition. There may be opportunities to record selected talks and post them online.

Old Business:

Elections have been somewhat insular and it would be good to get more people involved. It may be a good idea to email the Branch with opportunities as they arise, and include a description of the position, time commitment, and names of current serving members. Language to include early career professionals should be encouraged. Additional information about opportunities at the national level should also be sent to Branch members.

New Business:

There has been a continuing problem with students accidentally registering their talks into the wrong section and then later trying to change it into the student competition. Becky has provided two links (student and non-student) for registering a talk, but there is still a problem with students not registering for the right one. We may need to have the non-student registration link in red text with a note that states a deadline for if any changes need to be made if submitted into the wrong section. We may also want to consider a separate deadline for students.

For the 2020 meeting, Brain will do some research to see how the Southeastern Branch runs their student awards competition. We may want to have something like the national meeting with sections for student sessions. During presentation of student awards, it would be nice to include a PowerPoint slide with the name and institution of the award winners. A poster display of other award winners would also be nice to have at future meetings. There was a motion to lower

student presentation awards to \$200 and \$100 for first and second place, respectively. This was done so that the Eastern Branch is more in line with what other ESA Branches offer and to help reduce overall meeting costs. The cash award amounts need to be updated on the complimentary policy.

Student travel grants for the 2020 meeting were discussed. It was undecided if grants should cover registration or be provided as a free dollar amount. If grants are offered, they should target students from smaller schools, or 1890 Land-grant Institutions. An explanation of why funds are needed should also be included in an application.

Anne is thinking of holding the 2021 meeting in Philadelphia, PA.

The Weed Science Society contacted the Eastern Branch about holding another joint meeting for 2022. It was decided that we will decline their invitation because the previous 2016 joint meeting did not fully represent Eastern Branch ESA. In 2022, we should look into a more northern location for our meeting.

It was discovered on the Secretary's display plaque that there was no annual meeting of the Eastern Branch and no president listed for 1992. We will need to contact George to find out the details of what happened that year.

Adjourn: 1:26 pm