

## 2021 North Central Branch of the Entomological Society of America Annual Committee Report

**Committee Name: NCB ESA Nominations Committee**

**Committee Members: Deane Jorgenson, Marlin Rice, Louis Hesler (need to replace Deane Jorgenson-Marlin Rice will be new Chair)**

**Tasks and activities conducted in 2020/2021:**

### NCB Elections 2020:

1. The Nominating Committee (the Committee) searched for potential candidates to run for two national roles: NCB President-Elect and Executive Committee Member at Large to the ESA Governing Board.
  - a. The Committee contacted four highly qualified entomology leaders for a potential nomination to the President-Elect role. They felt honored by the approach but declined the offer due to other commitments.
  - b. A nomination to the P-Elect role from the NCB was submitted (**Jeff Bradshaw, UNL**)
  - c. The Committee nominated **Dr. Justin McMechan (UNL) and Rob Morrison (USDA-ARS)**, for Member at Large.
  - d. The Committee sent emails to all approached leaders who carefully considered a potential nomination and to Jeff, Rob, and Justin thanking them for volunteering to run and serve our Society at a Branch level.

### NCB Summer Elections 2021:

1. The Committee met via email to review open positions and deadlines, brainstorm and discuss a list of potential candidates and plan our approaching strategy.
  - a. The Committee searched for nominations for three elected roles within the ESA: Vice-President-Elect.
  - b. Ten connections were made to solicit candidates and/or to ask Department Chairs to discuss openings among staff.
  - c. The Committee consulted with ESA and current NCBESA leaders for additional input on potential nominees.
  - d. The Committee approached potential candidates via email and phone.
  - e. Six potential candidates approached based on their impressive credentials in all areas of leadership, research, service, cooperative extension, and ESA engagement. The following candidate accepted our nominations:
    - Nominee to Vice-President-Elect  
✓ **Dr. Tom Sappington (submitted)**
  - f. The Committee sent emails to all nominees prior to the election acknowledging their commitment.

**Considerations for the Executive Committee:**

1. Dr. Deane Jorgenson, current Nominating Committee Chair, completed her third year of service with the Committee. She would like to thank the NCB previous and current leaders, ESA Program and Meeting Manager Becky Anthony and committee team members (Dr. Marlin Rice and Dr. Louis Hesler) for all the support.
2. Dr. Marlin Rice and Louis Hesler did a tremendous amount of work on this committee and Deane Jorgenson thanks them.
3. A new committee member needs to be appointed by President Boetel, or President Elect Mary Gardiner.

**What went well?**

1. Excellent communication from ESA (Becky Anthony) and from NCB leaders (President Boetel).
2. Nominations committee members Rice and Hesler worked hard to find nominees.

**Challenges encountered:**

1. Voting rate among active NCB members continues to be low.
2. The rotation among the three members of the Committee is disrupted and a new person is needed.
3. Low acceptance rate for nominations to serve in Branch and National roles despite the numerous people contacted.
4. Need for early career professionals and additional members to be engaged in NCB.

**Recommendations for improvements:**

1. The Committee would like to suggest the NCB leadership to explore new ideas to encourage members to serve (perhaps creating a reach-out committee, a social media committee, an "Awareness" committee, etc.)