

Minutes International Branch Business Meeting, Nov. 7 2017

Megha Parajulee, IB President, brought the meeting to order at 3:37 pm.

- Megha reported that International Branch has 826 current members, up from 815 last year. This represents 12.6% of the ESA membership.
- Megha highlighted the initial planning stages of the IB Virtual symposium as the major achievement of the International Branch this year.
- Award Presentations to:
 - Isobel Ronai (John Henry Comstock Graduate Student Award)
 - Antonio Panizzi (Distinguished Scientist Award)
- Presentation by Antonia Panizzi: “Forty-three years of stink bug research: It’s been fun so far.”
 - Presentation was followed by lively discussion and question session.
- Presentation by Isobel Ronai: “The genetic and mechanistic basis of worker sterility in the honey bee.”
- Megha recognized the newly elected officers:
 - Maya Evenden—IB president
 - Ayyasamy Regupathy—IB Treasurer
- Question from member—what is the proportion of student IB members?
 - Isobel Ronai replied >100 IB members in ECP
 - NB Maya Evenden looked up after the meeting 169 current IB Student members
- Comment from member—important to maintain diversity in membership from different regions.
- Maya introduced the new Vice President Elect:
 - Zeyaur Khan
- Livy Williams presented the Governing Board Report:
 - Highlighted ESA’s position on:
 - Global approach to Entomology
 - Social responsibility to develop all of its members
 - Strategic initiatives including growing volunteer culture and governance; science communication;
 - Noted that matching grants of \$1000 are available from ESA Central for Science Communication initiatives
 - Noted that with decentralization of the Society, branches are encouraged to spearhead initiatives such as
 - Symposia
 - Workshops
 - Teaching/outreach
 - Field/lab tours
 - Video contests
 - Livy encouraged IB members to become engaged in some of these activities and highlighted the possibility of a video contest for the branch.
 - Livy finished by reminding members of the ESA code of conduct.
- Question from member---is it possible for the International Society of Black Entomologists to partner with the International Branch to organize a symposium in Vancouver.
 - Member was encouraged to contact Maya Evenden about the idea.

- Question from Isobel Ronai regarding possibility of waiver for student IB members to attend meetings.
 - Action item for board to discuss.
- Question from member about how to see the list of IB members.
 - Maya responded that this is now possible on the higher logic format through the advanced search to filter membership list. This is a new benefit of membership.
- Question from Maya to David Gammel regarding wording on the IB website:

“Membership in the International Branch shall be restricted to members of the Entomological Society of America who reside outside the following areas: United States, Canada, Mexico, American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Johnston Atoll, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Midway Islands, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and Wake Island.”

 - David suggested that this was outdated wording and that Maya should get in touch with Becky about changing it.
 - Maya action item.
- Megha presented the Treasurer’s report:
 - Cash on hand: \$14588.86
 - Support from ESA: \$2000
- ESA President Susan Weller addressed the branch meeting:
 - She requested that IB members fill in the post-meeting survey and let ESA know their opinions on some of the new changes implemented in Denver.
 - 8+2 minute talks to reduce concurrent sessions, following ICE format
 - Society is doing well. The new journal: “Insect Systematics and Diversity”. Papers in the new journal will be published immediately online and an issue will be formed once enough papers are gathered. The first issue has already been published.
 - The society is going to reassess the renewal process (that is now 10 years old).
 - Effort to be increasingly inclusive
 - Effort to provide more volunteer and leadership roles
 - See letter from incoming President in the next issue of the American Entomologist
 - Vancouver will be an exciting meeting.
- Megha’s closing address
 - He served on the first International Affairs Committee and helped to create the International Branch.
 - He urged members to become more involved in the IB.
 - Megha handed the gavel to Maya.
- Maya thanked Megha for his service and presented him with his service award.
- Maya announced the Virtual symposium.
 - Question from Isobel Ronai: Could there be a non-member student price?
 - Action item for board discussion.
- Maya introduced the Vancouver meeting and emphasized the international flavor of the meeting and encouraged IB members to consider proposing symposia for the Vancouver meeting.
- Meeting adjourned 5:20 pm
- Note: Discussion with Isobel Ronai following the branch meeting about having more interaction between the IB board and IB representatives to ESA committees.

- Action item to discuss with board members on next conference call.