



BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES - 2009

February 2, 2009

Westin Peachtree Plaza, Atlanta, GA

President Kenny Seebold called the meeting to order
at 3:30 p.m.

Remarks from Jim Moyer, APS President: Jim congratulated the graduate students for their presentations. He then introduced Robin Huettel, the president of the Society of Nematology, who was in attendance. He reported that division membership is growing, in part because division dues are added automatically to APS dues, and that there has been a resurgence in attendance at division meetings. The divisions have been charged with including topics of regional/national interest, such as the rust symposium held at this year's Southern Division meeting. He stated that APS is generally in very good shape and that there has been increased emphasis on managing the finances and stewardship of the society and cutting costs where possible. He reiterated the APS vision and stated that the goals and priorities of APS can be found in the APS Strategic Plan. He noted that 35% of APS members are now from outside the United States and that there are now more than 5,200 members, which is the first time that membership has exceeded 5,000. He presented updates on the Ad Hoc committees with special reference to APS Governance in that many feel that APS Council has gotten too large. With respect to the Plant Management Network, he stated that it is now part of the AGORA (Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture) program, and has 12 searchable partner journals. He stated that completion of the upgrade to the APS website is anticipated sometime in the fall of 2009 and will include many new web pages. He reminded us that the 2009 national meeting will be held August 1-5 in Portland, OR and this year's theme will be "Expanding the Boundaries". Lastly, he complimented the APS staff on their competence and efficiency.

Minutes of 2008. The minutes of the 2008 Business Meeting (Dallas, TX) were distributed and unanimously approved (J. Woodward, motion; K. Seebold, 2nd).

Financial Report. The 2008 report was presented by Thomas Isakeit, Secretary-Treasurer. The beginning balance for January 1, 2008 was \$24,155.02. The income of \$7,505.97 was offset by expenses of \$9,557.46, leaving a deficit of \$2,051.49. The ending balance as of January 21, 2009 from APS HQ was \$14,755.61 (which included payments made for the 2009 meeting) and from my own accounting was \$21,274.10 (which did not include payments made for the 2009 meeting). The financial activities were from the Dallas meeting, the new expense of the APS election fee, and a donation to APS for the Centennial Meeting.

Membership Report. As of January 21, 2009, there were 625 members of the Southern Division, a decrease of 18.

Necrology Report. There were three reported deaths of SD-APS members since the last meeting: Christopher C. Litton (KY), Robert W. Toler (TX) and Natale Zummo (MS). The secretary-treasurer's report was accepted (C. Clark, motion; K. Seebold, 2nd).

APS Councilor's Report. John Rupe reported that the mid-year council meeting was approaching and they would be involved in strategic planning. He stated that APS was working as an advocate for plant pathology and promoted the Plant Management Network.

Graduate Student Travel Awards. Boyd Padgett gave the report. The sole awardee was Ashok Chanda (Louisiana State University AgCenter). He had already received a check for \$300.

Graduate Student Paper Competition. Chris Clark was the chair of the judging committee. Jason Woodward and Albert Culbreath were also judges. There were 18 papers submitted. The first place winner (\$300 prize) was Bhabesh Dutta (University of Georgia) for the paper, "Epidemiological relevance of seed detection assay to seedling transmission threshold for bacterial fruit blotch in watermelon". The second place winner (\$200 prize) was Nicholas Sekora (Auburn University) for the paper, "FAME Analysis as an alternative means for distinguishing *Meloidogyne* species and races". The third place winner (\$100 prize) was Nicole Ward (Louisiana State University AgCenter) for the paper, "Uredinia of Asian soybean rust as a unique niche for other fungi". The students were presented with certificates. Prize money was disbursed after the meeting.

Outstanding Plant Pathologist Award. This award recognizes distinguished contributions to plant pathology. There were two nominations and five judges. John Hartman, professor emeritus at the University of Kentucky, won the award. An award plaque was presented to John by Boyd Padgett. John will also receive \$400.

Old Business. Ron Gitaitis brought up a suggestion from a previous year that the meeting program include the names of past winners of the Graduate Student Paper Competition. It was pointed out that this information was on the Southern Division website.

New Business. The election results were presented: David Langston (University of Georgia) was elected vice-president. Don Ferrin was appointed secretary-treasure to replace Tom Isakeit, who stepped down from this post after 5 years of dedicated service. After discussion on how to make the meetings financially more self-sustaining, a motion was made by B. Padgett and seconded by D. Langston that the meeting registration fee for regular members be raised by \$20 beginning in 2010; the motion was passed unanimously. Other suggestions included having the president elect actively solicit sponsorships from additional chemical and seed companies. It was pointed out that due to budget constraints, these companies would like to see the program prior to donating and be able to sponsor specific events. It was also suggested that we specifically invite them to attend the meeting. Kenny Seebold asked that members begin to identify potential candidates for the fall election for vice-president. There was also discussion of meeting with other plant pathology groups, such as the Potomac Division, to increase attendance and reduce costs. After discussion, it was decided to meet with SAAS in

Orlando in 2010 because we must give them a 3-year advance notice if we are going to meet separately. A motion was made by T. Brenneman and seconded by B. Padgett to meet separately from SAAS in 2013; this motion carried with 3 opposed. This will be proposed to SAAS at next year's business meeting. Clayton Hollier reminded attendees that the Southern Soybean Disease Workers Meeting was to be held on March 12 in Pensacola, FL, and B. Padgett reminded those attending to bring images of diseases. Boyd also mentioned that the Southern Entomologists wanted to form a multidisciplinary work group for row crops. Members were generally favorable to the new online registration and abstract submission procedure, largely because they could use a credit card to pay their registration.

Resolutions. Kenny Seebold lived up to expectations in presenting witty commentary of the meeting. A motion to accept the resolutions was made by D. Ferrin and seconded by R. Gitaitis.

Introduction of Incoming President. Kenny Seebold presented the presidential gavel to Bob Kemerait. Bob presented Kenny with a commemorative plaque.

The meeting was adjourned by Bob Kemerait at 5:30 PM.

Submitted by Don Ferrin, Secretary-Treasurer.