

Minutes of the APS- Caribbean Division Business Meeting

June 28, 2005
San Jose, Costa Rica

Meeting called to order by Drs. Carlos Araya and Miguel Vilchez

Attending members: George Will, Maria Mercedes Roca, Ron Brlansky, Lee Calvert, Jim Steadman, Jose Amador (on behalf of J.K. Brown), Secretary/Treasurer Miguel Vilchez, Current President - Carlos Araya, Incoming President - Juan Jose Filgueira.
Nonmembers: John Hartung, Ann Vidaver, Debbie Howd

Old business: The date suggested by the incoming President, Dr. Juan Jose Filgueira, for APS- Caribbean Division 2006 meeting was September 4, 2006 to September 6, 2006 in Cartagena, Colombia. Dr. Filgueira said they have the resources, the University has the logistical staff, and they are combining APS-CD with the National Phytopathological Society of Colombia. Dr. Steadman mentioned that the dates in September would include the U.S. holiday, Labor Day. After some discussion Dr. Filgueira said the date could be changed to the 11-15th of September.

The new Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Ron Brlansky, was introduced by Miguel Vilchez. Dr. Araya thanked Miguel for helping with the organization of the meeting.

Vilchez said that he had no report on the 2004 meeting in Cuba since he and most Americans could not attend the meeting. He reported that the Caribbean Division membership was down; 274 members have paid. He mentioned that Brlansky should check on payment of dues. The problem for foreign members is that it costs more than the \$10 for dues to send the money.

Awards: Wellman award: Vilchez announced that Dr. Jim Steadman was awarded the 2005 Wellman Award, and that Dr. Richard Lee was the 2004 Wellman Award recipient in Cuba. Nominations for the Wellman award will be solicited and voted on in February, 2006. Guidelines say that it must go to a member of the division. A second award for service to the Caribbean Division, not necessarily a CD member, was discussed.

Student travel award (The student must be a CD member): There were two awards this year - Mr. Abby Guerra (Panama) a student from the University of Florida, and M. Abu from Mississippi State University. Abu did not attend the meeting so no funds were sent to him. Dr. Brlansky suggested that we look at other avenues for reduced membership dues for students and post docs.

Treasurer's Report: Secretary/Treasurer Vilchez. As of June 30, 2004 the treasury had a balance of \$11,196.75

Additional receipts, interest since June 30:

Dues	\$1,430.00
Interest	\$ 149.94
Total	\$1,579.94

Expenses (Election):	\$472.14
Data entry:	\$124.00
Total	\$596.40

Current balance: **\$12,188.29**

A motion was made by Dr. Steadman and seconded by Dr. Araya to thank Miguel Vilchez for his years of service as secretary/treasurer of the division and that we owe him a debt of gratitude. It was unanimously approved.

Counselors report: Dr. Judy Brown was not able to attend the meeting; however, M. Vilchez summarized her written report and a copy was furnished.

Future meeting sites: The 2006 meeting will be in Cartagena, Colombia. A proposal by Dr. Oscar Moreno was brought forward by M. Vilchez for the 2007 meeting to be held in Merida, Mexico. It was suggested that the meeting should be held jointly with the Mexican Phytopathological Society and the Latin American Phytopathological Society, possibly in September. There will be a new president for the Mexican Society in September, and the venue for the 2007 meeting will be proposed and, hopefully, approved then. We are optimistic about the 2007 meeting site. For 2008 George Will proposed having a joint meeting with the APS Pacific division in Guam. This will be proposed at the next Pacific Division business meeting. There was some discussion as to the problem of traveling to Guam.

NOTE added: The Pacific Division membership, which met shortly after the APS-CD, decided that the cost would outweigh the benefits to most; as this seemed to be a concern by APS-CD, it has been decided that the meeting will not be held in Guam. Thank you again George, for your proposal!

The Pacific Division countered with a suggestion to hold a joint PD-CD meeting in 2008 in the Cayman Islands (Grand Cayman), which are located midway between the coasts of Honduras and Cuba in the Caribbean, about one hour flying time from Miami.

Nominations for Councilor: Secretary/Treasurer Vilchez indicated that we need to nominate candidates for Councilor at this meeting and then call for an email vote from the membership. Judith Brown indicated that if need be, she would serve another term or another year. It was suggested that a spokesperson from the Latin America/Caribbean (LAC) region should be considered (the Councilor before J. Brown was from Puerto Rico). The nominee needs to be financially able to attend the annual meeting, the midyear meeting (in St. Paul, MN) and the division meeting. This is a financial difficulty for many outside of the U.S.

Ron Brlansky nominated Lee Calvert (Colombia). Jim Steadman nominated Maria Mercedes Roca (Honduras). Calvert normally attends the APS meetings in the U.S. and could probably make the mid year meeting in St. Paul. Could the constitution go out as an email attachment and then vote for approval via email along with the counselor vote? Dr. Brlansky was to discuss this with Councilor Brown. Vilchez asked that Judy Brown would remain councilor through the APS annual meeting in Austin to represent the CD, and then we can vote on the councilor for 2006.

NOTE: J. Brown agreed to serve one more year to give sufficient time to nominate and elect a new Councilor. The number of individuals attending the Business Meeting was insufficient to canvas the membership for nominations. In keeping with the terms for APS officers, the incoming Councilor will take up his or her duties on the last day of the next APS meeting (06), at the APS Council session where introductions are made and an orientation provided.

Topic Meeting Ideas: Drs. Roca and Steadman asked if we can get companies to sponsor a symposium to help with some of the costs to have LAC region members attend the meeting. Drs. Brlansky and Steadman discussed the idea of having a program committee to help the local arrangement group in planning the meeting. Three areas were identified for a committee to examine: logistics, funding, program ideas (most important). Steadman mentioned having a heterogeneous committee that should include the APS-CD counselor and representatives of educational institutions, industry, research institutions and international centers. It was suggested to have Drs. Calvert, Roca and Araya serve on a planning committee to look at the structure and function of APS-CD meetings with a 3 year time frame.

With no further business, the meeting was closed by Dr. Araya.

Submitted by Ronald H. Brlansky, Secretary/Treasurer on July 15, 2005