



## ***BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES - 2010***

February 8, 2010

Wyndham Orlando Resort, Orlando, FL

President Robert Kemerait called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

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**Remarks from Barbara Christ, APS President:** Barb congratulated the graduate students for their presentations. She then spoke about (1) the goals of APS (to provide strong leadership, to weather these economic times, to create possibilities for the next generation, to best serve members and science, to connect with global communities and to grow the society), (2) the major APS initiatives over the past three years (financial planning, the future education of plant pathologists, and restructuring APS governance), and (3) the various Ad Hoc committees (with emphasis on the leadership institute and restructuring of governance). She gave an overview of the history and structure of society governance and APS Council and enumerated the recommendations made to address six focus areas (the executive committee, the size of APS Council, communication, leadership development, membership and the scientific planning board). She provided a brief overview of the proposed changes to streamline the structure of the APS Council that will be made available to members in the near future. Lastly, she addressed several other issues (education, financial savings at APS, financial strategic planning, and a visioning forum on how to keep us relevant). She concluded by inviting everyone to this year's annual meeting in Nashville, where the theme will be "Creating Possibilities". She announced that the plenary session will be moving to Monday afternoon and committee meetings will spill over to Sunday morning. Additionally, there will be a leadership institute on Saturday and Monsanto will be hosting a leadership program for graduate students.

In response to a question from John Rupe, she also addressed APS's "China Initiative", a collaborative effort with the Chinese Society of Plant Pathology. Through this initiative, memberships in these societies will be offered at reduced rates to encourage cross membership in both societies. APS is also encouraging the publication of their best work in our journals, and the exchange of symposia when possible. Along a similar vein, she mentioned that the Japanese Society of Plant Pathology wants to hold a joint symposium with APS at the 2011 annual meeting in Hawaii.

**Minutes of 2009.** The minutes of the 2009 Business Meeting (Atlanta, GA) were distributed and approved unanimously (J. Woodward, motion; B. Padgett, 2<sup>nd</sup>).

**Financial Report.** The 2009 report was presented by Donald Ferrin, Secretary-Treasurer. The beginning balance for January 1, 2009 was \$22648.86. The income of \$11,110.38 was offset by expenses of \$12,958.99, leaving a deficit of \$1,848.61. The ending balance as of December 31, 2009 was \$20,800.251. The financial activities were primarily from the Atlanta meeting, sponsorships received for the Orlando meeting, and payments made for Student Travel Awards for the Orlando meeting. The report was approved unanimously (C. Clark, motion; B. Padgett, 2<sup>nd</sup>).

**Membership Report.** As of January 19, 2010, there were 602 members of the Southern Division, a decrease of 23. The report was approved unanimously (J. Woodward, motion; J. Rupe, 2<sup>nd</sup>).

**Necrology Report.** There were seven reported deaths of SD-APS members since the last meeting: Elroy A. Curl (AL), Clauzell Stevens II (AL), States M. McCarter (GA), Robert Aycock (NC), Guy V. Gooding (NC), Tosso Triantophyllou (NC), and Harry C. Young, Jr. (OK). The report was approved unanimously (J. Sherwood, motion; D. Langston, 2<sup>nd</sup>).

**APS Councilor's Report.** John Rupe reported on various financial aspects of APS, including that they will help organize meetings, that the Plant Management Network is expected to be in the 'black' for the first time in 10 years, and that APS is switching to new software that will allow for new, improved services. Lastly, he encouraged graduate students to get involved and thanked the Southern Division for allowing him the opportunity to serve as councilor.

**Graduate Student Travel Awards.** David Langston gave the report. Awards were presented to each of three students: Julie Campbell (Texas A&M University), Bhabesh Dutta (University of Georgia), and Kirthi Yadagiri (Clemson University). We discussed the need to emphasize this award in next year's newsletter. They had each already received a check for \$300.

**Graduate Student Paper Competition.** Kenneth Seebold was the chair of the judging committee. David Langston, Anthony Keinath and Tim Brenneman were also judges. There were 12 papers submitted. The first place winner (\$300 prize) was Moytri Roy Chowdhury (University of Arkansas) for her presentation: "Characterization of rice blast resistance gene *Pi-z(t)* in rice germplasm using DNA markers and pathogenicity assays". The second place winner (\$200 prize) was Terry Spurlock (University of Arkansas) for his presentation: "Etiology of zoysiagrass diseases in northwest Arkansas". The third place winner (\$100 prize) was Ashley Zearfoss (North Carolina State University) for her presentation: "Effect of temperature on latent period of *Stagonospora nodorum* blotch on winter wheat under field conditions". 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. This year's Outstanding Plant Pathologist was Christopher Clark, professor at Louisiana State University. He was presented an award plaque and a check for \$400 by David Langston.

**Old Business.** During a discussion of meeting apart from SAAS sometime in the near future, Ray Schneider suggested that we meet with the Southern Soybean Disease Workers, who meet in Pensacola Beach, FL every year. Boyd Padgett and Jason Woodward agreed that this might work and questioned whether we could absorb the costs of a meeting if we meet separately from SAAS. Tim Brenneman pointed out that last year we passed a motion to meet separately in 2013. Bob Kemerait will inform SAAS of this and a planning committee consisting of Boyd Padgett and Bobby Haygood was appointed.

**New Business.** The election results were presented: Ray Schneider (Louisiana State University) was elected vice-president. Once again, members were generally liked and had no problems with the online registration and abstract submission procedures. John Sherwood asked that members take seriously the issue of APS governance and vote when the issue comes up. Both he, and Councilor John Rupe are in favor of the proposed changes.

**Resolutions.** Kenny Seebold lived up to expectations in presenting witty commentary of the meeting and our annual resolutions.

**Introduction of Incoming President.** Bob Kemerait presented the presidential gavel to Boyd Padgett, who in turn presented Bob with a commemorative plaque.

The meeting was adjourned by Boyd Padgett at 3:55 p.m.

Submitted by Don Ferrin, Secretary-Treasurer.