

2004-2005 Update: The Caribbean Division (Councilor, JK Brown)

Objective 1C. Recognize and strengthen Divisional meetings.

1. 2004 GOALS

A. Annual Meeting.

Goal #1 was to plan, organize, and hold our annual meeting in San Jose Costa Rica, and to include symposia and workshops on topics of relevance to the membership. The 2006 meeting site was to be confirmed and the 2007-2008 meeting sites were to be established.

Goal #2 was to provide travel support for two graduate students to attend the 2005 APS-CD held in San Jose, Costa Rica.

B. Division Website.

Goal#1 was to update the website periodically, with APS Headquarters assistance.

Goal#2 was to post meeting announcements, registration materials, and hotel forms with updates every 3 months.

C. Division Constitution.

Goal#1 was to make final amendments to the Constitution and MOO followed by ratification. This was necessary because the previous constitution could not be located since 1999.

Goal#2 was to discuss at the annual business meeting a proposed change to the MOO (Wellman Award).

Goal#3 was to announce the New Student Travel Award to the National meeting funded by donations from Jose and Sylvia Amador.

D. Meeting Abstracts.

Goal#1 was to publish the abstracts for the 2003 (Texas) and 2004 (Cuba) annual meetings were published in the Phytopathology Supplement.

E. Elections-Electronic.

Goal#1 was to hold our first electronic election to fill the Sec-Treasurer position.

Goal#2 was to verify (with Marci's help) that all membership dues were paid and update/obtain email addresses for the membership, the latter (this is not an easy task given the broad international distribution of the membership and the difficulty on the part of some to receive and send email because not all individuals have access to a personal computer or an individual email address. This will facilitate the electronic election process and enhance communications).

Actions Taken to Meet the 2004-05 Goals

A. Annual Meeting.

Goal #1.

-A highly successful annual meeting was held in San Jose, Costa Rica June 27-July1, 2005. The President was Dr. Carlos Araya, Universidad Nacional, Esc Ciencias Agrarias. 110 members representing eleven countries attended the meeting. Scientific communications were presented through various Symposia, keynote presentations, 15-min oral presentations, and posters.

-Two student travel awards were given by APS-CD.

-The Wellman Award was presented to Dr. James Steadman (University of Nebraska) for his outstanding, lifelong contributions to international phytopathology.

-Plans for the 2006 meeting in Carrera, Bogotá were confirmed and briefly discussed; the local organizing committee has been formed. The President-Elect is Dr. Juan Jose Filgueira-Duarte.

-The 2007 meeting will be held in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico (Dr. Oscar Moreno Valenzuela), and the 2008 meeting may be held in Guam, possibly joint with the Pacific Division (Dr. George Wall, University of Guam).

-Seven new memberships were obtained. The Brazilian delegation requested greater involvement in the division.

Goal #2. Two Student Travel Awards were presented to students in the division to enable them to attend the 2005 APS-CD in San Jose, Costa Rica. One award of \$300 was obtained from funds in the APS-CD Travel Award (APS Foundation), while the other \$300 award was supported from the APS-CD Treasury.

B. Division Website.

Goal#1.

-The website was updated with APS Headquarters assistance. The final version of the Constitution was posted together with the MOO, both recently drafted, and revised by an *Ad hoc* committee representing the division.

-The 2004 and 2005 winners of the Wellman Award were posted: Richard Lee and James Steadman, respectively).

Goal#2. Meeting announcements, registration materials, and hotel forms with updates were posted every 3 months up to the time of the meeting.

C. Division Constitution.

Goal#1.

-The ad hoc drafting committee and membership made final modifications to the Constitution and MOO, to ratify the constitution.

-At the 2005 Business meeting, a specific goal was to discuss a proposed change to the MOO (Wellman Award). The question was debated whether a recipient of the Wellman Award must be a long-standing member of the APS-CD. The group agreed that this policy should be up held.

-The New Student Travel Award to the National meeting funded by donations from Jose and Sylvia Amador was announced. Criteria for selection and the amount of the award (\$300) will be included in the MOO, 2005.

D. Meeting Abstracts. The abstracts for the 2003 (Texas) and 2004 (Cuba) annual meetings were published in the Phytopathology Supplement.

E. Elections-Electronic.

Goal#1. The first electronic election was held to fill the Sec-Treasurer position (through APS Headquarters).

Goal#2. That membership dues were paid and email addresses were updated for the membership, were confirmed with the assistance of the APS headquarters staff. This will greatly facilitate the electronic election process and enhance communications. The election for the Councilor will be held electronically in 2005.

F. Other: Leftover funds that were raised to support the South Padre Island meeting of 2003 were used to cover the cost of publishing the abstracts. The Executive Committee and several members from the 2003 local organizing committee decided this. Also funds from this source were provided to the Mexican Society of Plant Pathology to reimburse them for the cost of publishing the 2003 meeting proceedings. Also, funds were dispensed to the Southern Division Treasury to compensate for some expenditure incurred during the 2003 (joint) meeting. The Meeting account was closed.

What changes or additional strategies should be created to help achieve the objective? Work to achieve all stated goals and objectives is underway. No new strategies or changes are needed at this time.

What objectives or strategies do you suggest adding to the strategic plan? Suggest that the APS Council entertain a discussion regarding Brazil's request to participate more fully in the Caribbean Division, with the prospect in mind that APS and the Brazilian societies in general initiate a dialog along the lines of an Ambassador Program, discussed in 2004 Council meeting.

What recommendations do you suggest for improving the process by which your committee conducts its work? Attendance at the Annual Business meeting is very low; possible solutions will be discussed by this year's organizing committee to improve attendance and participation. The low attendance precluded the nomination and election of a Councilor for the division. Thus an electronic election will be held. However, this is not the only problem owing to low attendance.