

## **SD-APS BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

February 19, 2021

Virtual Meeting

Executive Committee members in attendance: Shaker Kousik, Fulya Baysal-Gurel, Lindsey Thiessen, Rebecca Melanson, Nicole Gauthier, Teddy Garcia-Aroca, and Hope Becton

Executive Committee members not in attendance: Trey Price

The official business meeting was called to order on February 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 a.m. by President-elect Baysal-Gurel.

**Introduction of 2019-2020 SD-APS Executive Committee.** Vice President Baysal-Gurel recognized the members of the 2020-2021 SD-APS Executive Committee: Trey Price, President; Lindsey Thiessen, Vice President; Shaker Kousik, Immediate Past-President; Rebecca Melanson, Secretary-Treasurer; Teddy Garcia-Aroca and Hope Becton, Graduate Student Representatives, and Nicole Gauthier, Division Forum Representative – Southern Division. Daniel Anco, the incoming SD-APS Vice-President, was also recognized.

President-elect Baysal-Gurel also recognized the sponsors for the 98<sup>th</sup> Annual SD-APS Meeting: AgBiome, AMVAC Chemical Corporation, BASF, Bayer, Certis USA, Corteva Agriscience, Erwin Keith/Progeny Ag, FMC Corporation, Gowan Company, HM Clause, Nichino America, Inc., Syngenta, and Valent USA

**Minutes from the Business Meeting, 2020.** Minutes from the Business Meeting in 2020 in Charleston, SC, were shared on the screen for review. A motion to approve the minutes with the indicated corrections and no glaring errors was made by Lawrence Datnoff and seconded by Shaker Kousik. Motion passed unanimously.

**2021 SD-APS Meeting by the Numbers.** Melanson provided a quick overview of the 2021 SD-Meeting events and statistics. Overall, there were approximately 155 meeting attendees/registrants (as of 02/17/21) and 13 sponsors. There were 15 student participants in the Graduate Student Research Competition and 8 participants in the Graduate Student Poster Competition. There were another 20 presentations given during the oral technical sessions and 10 posters presented. One workshop, “Genomic Approaches to Plant Pathology: Bioinformatics as A Powerful Tool”, was offered during the meeting with approximately 30 people in attendance. Two symposia, “Louisiana Extension Perspectives” and “Industry Sponsors”, were included in the program, as well as three networking events, “Pitch Perfect”, “SD-APS Mardi Gras Social and Happy Hour”, and “Talk to an Expert”.

**Treasurer’s Report.** The treasurer’s report showed an ending balance of \$94,828.84 as of February 11, 2021, with unaccounted estimated projected meeting expenditures to be \$7,375. Prior to the meeting, we received approximately \$5,850 in sponsorships for the 2021 meeting, and we expect to receive another \$3,400 in sponsorships. Sponsors, recognized throughout the meeting, included AgBiome, AMVAC Chemical Corporation, BASF, Bayer, Certis USA, Corteva Agriscience, Erwin Keith/Progeny Ag, FMC Corporation, Gowan Company, HM Clause, Nichino America, Inc., Syngenta, and Valent USA. The estimated total cost for the 2021 SD-APS meeting is \$7,375; the estimated total income for the year, including sponsorships, membership dues, and meeting registrations, is \$15,425. The estimated total ending balance after all meeting income and expenditures is expected to be \$90,853.84. The breakdown of income/expenses already incurred and projected for the meeting that was presented (based on available information) is as follows:

<b>Beginning Balance (07/01/2020)</b>		<b>\$59,921.01</b>
Income:	APS Dues Income (through 02/11/2021)	\$3,893
	Meeting Registrations (\$6,175) & Sponsorships (\$5,850)	\$12,025
	<i>*Support from 2020 Meeting</i>	\$10,000
	TIAA-CREF Investment Interest	\$872.30
	TIAA-CREF Investments (Realized)	\$638.00
	TIAA-CREF Investments (Unrealized)	\$8,645.05
	<b>TOTAL CURRENT (Income)</b>	<b>\$36,073.35</b>
Expenses:	Investment bank fees	\$128.52
	Awards	\$1,000
	Other Expenses (from 2020 Meeting)	\$37.00
	<b>TOTAL CURRENT (Expenses)</b>	<b>\$1,165.52</b>
<b>Ending Balance (02/11/2021)</b>		<b>\$94,828.84</b>

<b>PROJECTED 2021 Meeting Expenses (Estimated)</b>		
Awards	Award Plaques	\$500
	Travel Award* (modified)	\$1,000
	Graduate Student Research Competition	\$1,000
	Poster Competition Awards	\$225
A/V	A/V Rental	N/A
Food	Hotel (Welcome Reception, Breakfast, Lunches, Breaks, and Awards Banquet)	N/A
Transportation	Vans for Field Tours	N/A
Miscellaneous	APS Management Services (estimated 75 hours @\$60/h)	\$4,500
	Supplies, handouts, door prizes, etc.	\$150
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,375</b>
Sponsorships		\$3,400
Other Support		N/A

Discussion was held about the excess funds in the SD-APS account. Melanson explained the need to maintain a sizeable buffer in order to cover the entire cost of an annual meeting indicated that SD-APS has, in the last few years, taken steps to use some of these funds in support of the membership. These steps have included the increase in award funding, covering the costs of various expenses associated with meeting tours, and offering various door prizes related to plant pathology and professional development. The current funds have also allowed for the meetings registrations to remain at \$150 for regular members and \$50 for student members for an in-person meeting. These registration fees, particularly for students, sometimes do not even cover the cost of the banquet meal. The membership recounted past years when there was concern that the Division would go in the red. Various suggestions, such as adding new awards, supporting graduate student attendance to annual meeting workshops and fieldtrips, supporting outreach to colleges and high schools in the vicinity of the in-person meetings, increasing the poster competition awards, were offered. Nicole Gauthier made the motion to survey the membership to solicit ideas and form a committee to review suggestions and propose new initiatives. Lindsey Thiessen seconded the motion. A motion to approve the financial report as presented was made by Lindsey Thiessen and seconded by Kevin Ong. Motion passed unanimously.

**Membership Report.** The latest report shows that Southern Division membership (2020) was at 535 members reflecting a decrease in membership by 21 members. Increases occurred in early the career and student membership categories but decreased in emeritus and regular membership categories. The largest change was in regular membership (-43). Membership in AL, AK, GA, MS, SC, TX, and other non-Southern Division states increased, while membership in FL, KY, LA, NC, OK, TN, and internationally decreased. A motion to approve the membership report as presented was made by Mason Newark and seconded by Fulya Baysal-Gurel. Motion passed unanimously.

**Necrology Report.** The membership recognized the passing of Robert Davis, Wiley N. Garrett (GA), Michael M. Goodin (KY), Steve Koenning (NC), and Jerry T. Walker (GA). The membership added Eugene Moody (GA) and Stuart Lyda to the necrology report. A motion to approve the report was made by Shaker Kousik and seconded by Fulya Baysal-Gurel. Motion passed unanimously.

**Graduate Student and Post-doc Representative Report.** Teddy Garcia-Aroca and Hope Becton provided a report from the graduate students. Students and post-docs participated in the meeting by serving as the moderators for the graduate student and technical sessions. The GSRs along with Rebecca Melanson organized and hosted the networking events “Pitch Perfect” and “Talk to an Expert” and Teddy Garcia-Aroca organized the bioinformatics workshop. All volunteers in these events were thanked for their service. Graduate students also have a presence on social media. If you would like to be featured as a graduate student spotlight, please contact one of the GSRs. Shelly Pate from the University of Tennessee was announced as the incoming Graduate Student Representative.

**Divisional Forum Update.** Nicole Gauthier, the Southern Division Divisional Forum Representative, summarized the role of the divisional forum (DF) representative and encouraged members to contact her with comments and concerns. She then announced that DF’s “Plant Pathologists of the Future” is now a permanent part of the APS national meeting itinerary. This symposium showcases the top student presentations from each division. DF has also been working to develop uniform SOPs for all divisions, including divisional meeting registrations, sponsorship and donations, abstract submissions, and most recently, virtual meetings. In 2021, virtual meeting formats and logistics will be a primary focus; SD-APS is the first divisional meeting of the year, so our successes and recommended approaches will serve as a starting point for other divisions as they plan their meetings.

**Careers 101 Update.** Nicole Gauthier, co-chair of the Careers 101 Taskforce Gauthier, reported that the 2021 Careers 101 workshop “CVs 101” had 37 registered students and 10 “expert” volunteers. There are five workshops in the series, and this is the first topic to repeat in the cycle. Students and experts analyzed job announcements in academia, government, and industry and discussed approaches to adapting CVs to specific positions, requirements, and institutional expectations. Activities were conducted through breakout groups in order to facilitate discussions and interactions. Careers 101 is an APS Taskforce with a national scope, but workshops are held at divisional meetings.

**Awards.** An update on the awards and student competitions was provided. The Scholarships, Graduate Student Research Awards, Outstanding Plant Pathologist Award, and Donald M. Ferrin Memorial Service Award were presented at the Awards Banquet. **Liliana Cano**, **Savithri Purayanur**, and **Lindsey Thiessen** were recognized as the judges for the 2021 scholarships. **Terry Spurlock**, **Jeff Standish**, **Joseph Carillo**, and **Dan Anco** were recognized as the judges for the Graduate Student Research Competition. **Sara Thomas-Sharma**, **Yar Rosado Rivera**, and **Terry Spurlock** were recognized as the judges for the Graduate Student Poster Competition. All judges were thanked for their service. The following is a summary of the awards presented at the banquet:

**Scholarships.** Vice President Thiessen announced **Juanita Gil** (University of Arkansas), **Sandhya Neupane** (Tennessee State University), and **Krishna Neupane** (Tennessee State University).

**Graduate Student Research Award.** During the meeting, 15 students competed in the Graduate Student Research Competition. Vice President Thiessen presented the awards. First place was awarded to **Andres Sanabria** (North Carolina State University) for the presentation “Exploring alternative management of plant pathogens of stevia in North Carolina, Mexico, and Paraguay”. Second place was awarded to **Owen Hudson** (University of Georgia) for the presentation “Characterization of prothioconazole resistance in *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *niveum* (FON) laboratory mutants”. **Kendall Johnson** (University of Georgia) was awarded third for her presentation “Spatial analysis of phony peach disease in commercial and research peach orchards in Georgia”. Honorable mentions were awarded to **Kimberly D’Arcangelo** (North Carolina State University) and **Madison Stahr** (North Carolina State University) for their presentations “Utilizing a population genetics approach to facilitate crop-specific management of the cucurbit downy mildew pathogen, *Pseudoperonospora cubensis*” and “Identifying and evaluating vector competency of insect pests in North Carolina sweetpotato storage facilities for dispersal of *Ceratocystis fimbriata*”, respectively.

**Poster Competition.** During the meeting, 7 students competed in the Graduate Student Poster Competition. Vice President Thiessen presented the first place award to **Brittnay Meyer** (Texas A&M University) for the poster “Taken in plain sight: fungal pathogens affecting watermelon production fields in Texas” and the second place award to **Sandhya Neupane** (Tennessee State University) for the poster “Evaluation of chemical and biocontrol products for the management of Fusarium root and crown rot of oakleaf hydrangea”.

**Donald M. Ferrin Memorial Service Award.** President-elect Baysal-Gurel announced **Shaker Kousik** (USDA) as the recipient of the Donald M. Ferrin Memorial Service Award.

**Outstanding Plant Pathologist.** President Dufault announced **David N. Appel** (Texas A&M University) as the recipient of the Outstanding Plant Pathologist Award.

The SD-APS Awards Committee was recognized: Natalia Peres (chair), Jason Woodward, and Lawrence Datnoff, Tim Brenneman, and Jonathan Richards.

**Old Business.** No old business was discussed.

**New Business.** No new business was discussed.

**2022 Meeting.** Baysal-Gurel announced that plan to host the 2022 SD-APS Meeting, hopefully in person, in Chattanooga, TN.

**New Leadership.** President Price will pass the presidential gavel to Fulya Baysal-Gurel via mail. At the conclusion of this meeting, Fulya Baysal-Gurel became President, Trey Price transitioned to Immediate Past-President, and Lindsey Thiessen became President-Elect. Daniel Anco was recognized as the incoming Vice-President. Nicole Gauthier will be continuing in her term as the Divisional Forum Representative. Rebecca Melanson was announced as taking on a third three-year term as Secretary-Treasurer. Hope Becton and Shelly Pate will be the Graduate Student Representatives for the next year.

**APS Council Update.** Ronald Walcott, APS Vice President, provided an update from APS Council on the accomplishments during the International Year of Plant Health, Public Policy Board events, Podcast Plantopia, Grow: Plant Health Exchange, APS journals (three gold open access: *PhytoFrontiers*<sup>TM</sup>, *Phytobiomes*, and *MPMI*), APS Press (currently 76 titles available and online collection that includes 24 Compendia), the Lafayette Frederick Diversity in Mentoring Award, APS Foundation, Plant Health 2020 and Plant Health workshops, Plant Health 2021 (virtual), division meetings, APS webinars, student and early career member opportunities, the global network of plant pathology societies, member engagement, the APS Mobile App, and the APS Education Center. Dr. Walcott also thanked everyone for their membership and volunteerism in the society.

**Resolutions.** Resolutions of the 2021 SD-APS Meeting were presented by Kenny Seebold and Lindsey Thiessen at the Awards Ceremony.

Records on motions to end the missing are incomplete.

The business meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Rebecca A. Melanson, Secretary-Treasurer