

Plenary Session of the 36th Annual Sea Turtle Symposium

March 4, 2016
Time: 4.44 pm

Meeting called by:
Joanna Alfaro

Type of meeting: ~ 126 - 166 people
Plenary Session

Note taker:
Manjula Tiwari

Agenda

President's Overview	Joanna Alfaro
Treasurer's Report	Terry Meyer
Travel Committee Report	Alex Gaos
Student Committee Report	Itzel Sifuentes
Election results	Nancy FitzSimmons
2017 Symposium Overview	Frank Paladino
Other business	

Additional Information

Special notes:

Agenda

President's overview**Joanna Alfaro****4.44 pm**

Alfaro thanks everyone for their patience and highlights the following:

- About 628 people registered for the Symposium.
- Number of countries represented is not available as yet.
- The new website has been a challenge and can be improved. Things will get better with Paladino and will continue to improve in the coming years.

Conclusions:

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Treasurer's report**Terry Meyer****4.45 pm**

Meyer went through the income statement and balance sheet for 2015.

Income statement

Revenues

Registration Fees	117,925.00
Membership Fees	175.00
Extra Payments	8,065.00
Auction Income	17,774.00
Cash Grants Income	64,105.42
Direct Grants TURKEY	91,378.67
Misc Sales	<u>2,520.00</u>

Symposium Income 301,943.09

Dividends & Interest 3,987.82

Total Other Income 3,987.82

Total Revenue 305,930.91

Expenses

Accommodations & Facility Exp	169,301.41
Entertainment - band and trans	3,961.00
Translation	6,993.00
Poster Board	1,748.00
Awards	2,050.00
Participant Gift	3,375.00
Printing - program, badges, etc	9,700.00
Printing - Abstracts	21,540.00
Organizing Expense	5,695.00

Bank Fees	90.00
Registration Expense	4,990.00
Credit Card Fees Expense	5,432.42
restricted Travel funds	<u>6,361.00</u>
SUBTOTAL SYMPOSIUM EXPENSES	241,236.83
BOD Retreat	21,319.39
Insurance	929.00
Investment Advisory Fee	1,755.00
Office Expense	80.85
Treasurer Support	2,000.00
Program Officer	<u>1,000.00</u>
OPERATING EXPENSE	27,084.24
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>268,321.07</u>
NET REVENUE	<u><u>37,609.84</u></u>

Balance sheet

ASSETS

Current Assets		
Money Market	125,011.4	
	7	
	121,249.4	
Checking Account	7	
Investment Account	98,848.69	
Accounts Receivable	259.97	
Advances for Peru Symposium	<u>40,000.00</u>	
Total Cash Assets		385,369.60
Other Assets		
Deferred Expense	<u>4,267.93</u>	
Total Other Assets		<u>4,267.93</u>
Total Assets		<u><u>\$389,637.53</u></u>

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$1,000.00	
Deferred Income - Next Year Grants	5,000.00	
Deferred Income - Next Year Registration Income	<u>88,986.50</u>	
Total Liabilities		94,986.50

Capital		
Unrealized Gain/Loss on Securi	(4,316.00)	
	261,357.1	
Retained Earnings	9	
Net Income	<u>37,609.84</u>	
Total Capital		<u>294,651.03</u>
Total Liabilities & Capital		<u><u>\$389,637.53</u></u>

Discussion:

Frazier: Is there any financial concern with the Symposium being annual?

Meyer: We have funds to carry on.

Motion to accept Treasurer's report: Jack Frazier

Second: Chuck Schaffer

Motion passes unanimously

Alfaro: The Board passed a motion to review the biennial vs. annual hosting of the Symposium in 6 years.

Conclusions:

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Travel Committee Report

Alex Gaos

4.55 pm

Gaos goes through the Travel Committee allocations below and thanks the Board and Joanna Alfaro.

Region	Bed Awards	Bed Amt	Cash	
			Awards	Cash Amt
Africa (except North)	6	\$1,055	8	\$3,000
US/Canada	18	\$1,800	41	\$2,050
Eng Caribbean	10	\$1,800	3	\$800
South Asia	1	\$280	1	\$300
Southeast Asia/Pacific	6	\$860	6	\$1,200
Middle East/No. Africa	3	\$200	3	\$600
So. America	95	\$9,800	31	\$4,150
Europe	18	\$2,040	10	\$1,400
MX/CA America, Spa Caribbean	38	\$3,700	34	\$3,150
	195	\$21,535	137	\$16,650

Overall Travel Grant Support

\$38,185

Jack Frazier: In the past, sometimes people with travel grants don't show up.

Gaos: This year it did not happen. A few cash grants didn't go out, but really good show. Need to evaluate post-Symposium.

Motion to accept Travel Chair's report: Jack Frazier

Second: Chuck Schaffer

Motion passes unanimously

Conclusions:

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Student Committee Report

Itzel Sifuentes

4.58 pm

Sifuentes thanks the Board and Joanna Alfaro. She highlights the following in her report:

- This year feedback was provided to: 50 orals, 63 posters, and 113 students. There were 51 evaluators.

- There was a student mixer called “Bridging our projects” and a workshop on,” How to make social media productive: fund your research!”

Sifuentes encouraged people to become evaluators.

Jack Frazier: Student Committee needs a big applause. Should use their evaluations to those applying for awards. They are helping the Society tremendously.

Conclusions:

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

ISTS Elections

Nancy FitzSimmons

5.02 pm

- The 2016 Nominating Committee consisted of:
Chair: Nancy FitzSimmons, Australia
Shaleyla Kelez, Peru
Milagros Lopez Mendilaharsu, Brazil
Alberto Abreu Grobois, Mexico
Edward Aruna, Sierra Leon

The Nominations process was:

- Nominations open 1 Oct – 30 Nov 2015
- Nominations received from 8 people
- Total of 12 nominees
- One nominee was rejected due to never having attended an ISTS symposium
- Online voting opened 29 Jan 2016
- 172 people voted
- Details of the individual tallies will be included in the minutes of the Plenary, to be posted on ISTS website

Results

- **Nominating Committee ex-Board of Directors:** Kartik Shanker (Only 1 nominee)
- **Nominating Committee:** Kate Mansfield, USA and (Connie) Ka-Yan Ng, Hong Kong
- (Vote tally range for 5 nominees: 47-74 votes)
- **Board of Directors:** Andrews (Andy) Agyekumhene, Ghana and Jeanette Wyneken, USA
- (Vote tally range for 4 nominees: 52-86 votes)
- **President-Elect:** (Yoshi) Yoshima Matsumota, Japan (Only 1 nominee)

FitzSimmons encourages self-nominations.

Conclusions:

Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:

2017 Symposium overview

Frank Paladino

5.08 pm

Venue: Las Vegas
 Dates: April 15-23 2017
 Hotel: Marriott Resort and Spa
 Theme: Climate change – marine turtles and the change
 Costs: \$149/night for double occupancy; 4 people \$189 / night
 Meeting rooms free with 980 room nights
 Desert tortoise and freshwater turtle meeting will also take place.

Discussion:

Jack Frazier: There is a US SE Society and the International Society.
 Paladino: No SE meeting in 2017; they will be joining us in Las Vegas.

Diego Amorocho: How do we submit a workshop proposal?

Paladino: Email me.

Panagopoulou: Last year at the Board retreat we passed a protocol. Workshop Committee will receive and evaluate proposals.

Balazs indicates that he and his wife got married 50 years ago in Las Vegas and they are still married!

Conclusions:

Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:

Other business

5.18 pm

- Zoe Meletis: Propose a motion from the floor that we need to think carefully about how we spend our money. I propose that the Board come up with 3 Nevada-based conservation options – water is an issue - let our Symposium make an impact in conservation.

The Board said they would discuss this at the retreat

Matthew Godfrey: Why not a motion now?

Paladino: Cannot do that at a meeting, but will discuss at retreat. We have taken a stance; there will be no Mirage hotel with dolphin shows, etc.

- Alfaro: This year registration included an Amazon donation line. The NGO will ask you where you want that money to go – adopt a tree or support some other conservation initiative.
- Nathalie Wildermann: Create an ethics committee for abstracts and a check box at registration that indicates that all co-authors have seen the abstract.

- Jack Frazier: Treasurer and Secretary are elected for 5 years. These 2 people provide enormous support. Board needs to consider what the transition will be like, if necessary.

Alfaro: We will also be discussing Treasurer and Secretary replacement, if it becomes necessary.

- Jack Frazier: Conducted a survey last year. There are 17 people on Board and the ISTS produces a Symposium. If the Board is reduced could the Society function efficiently with a smaller number? Ask Board to consider it. It would reduce operational costs. It would require amendment to the By-Laws and Constitution and I will be happy to help.

Paladino: Usually at the retreat not all Board members are present. Board retreat less than 10% (\$22,000) of the income (\$300,000). A meager amount. Also want proper representation of the international Society and representation from around the world. Having seen how the Board works together, the diversity is important and helps make decisions.

Panagopoulou: As an outgoing member, I dedicated many hours to the Society and majority of the work put forward has been updating the By-Laws and Constitution, dealing with the financial mechanism, protocols, etc. The Board has not been just organizing the Symposium, but working to improve the Society so Frazier's statement is not 100% correct.

Balazs: Been on the Board for 3 years and personal goal is to build the Society. The Symposium operates seamlessly. I don't agree with all that Paladino said, but we all have a say. Frazier's report highlighted a need for transparency and we need to strive towards that. Love Board members but we see things very differently.

Daniela Freggi: This Society is a sea turtle family and the Board is very important. So it is important to have a bigger Board because it provides representation.

Marc Girondot: I prefer also the Board is large.

The Board will discuss this issue at the retreat.

- Jim Spotila: We founded the Society in Philadelphia. Such a big and thriving Society and Board and think it is excellent.
- A standing ovation is given to Joanna Alfaro.

Conclusions:

Action items:

Discuss Nevada-based conservation actions, transition procedure if Treasurer or Secretary do not want to renew their term, ethics for abstracts, current size of Board.

Person responsible:

Board

Deadline:

August 2015 retreat

Additional Information

Jim Spotila: Motion to adjourn

Ana Barragan: second

Adjourned at 5.40 pm