

**Board Meeting of the 28th Annual Sea Turtle Symposium
January 24 (7:00 pm), 2008
Loreto, Baja California**

Travel Committee Report

The travel grants for the 2008 Symposium totaled \$50,500 (cash and rooms) for 200 people from 7 regions. \$40,000 was distributed in cash. Travel support was also provided by Pro Peninsula and Project Global. African representation was poor this year due to the lack of Mexican Consulates on the African continent. High attendance from Latin America was noted.

Nominations Committee Report

Suggestions for further streamlining the nominations process were discussed and included: providing guidelines and limiting the length of the nominees' biographies, asking nominators to provide a letter from the nominee indicating their willingness to serve in the position, and clarifying the election of the President-Elect to the membership.

Symposium overview

J. Nichols, the Symposium President, expressed that the town of Loreto was very pleased with the Symposium and highlighted the following aspects:

- Loreto was at its best with paved roads, painted basketball court, etc. The locals were made to feel proud of their town.
- Fund raising had been very successful.
- The Program Chairs and Coordinator have done a brilliant job.
- Everyone was invited to the banquet—even those who had not paid—because of a generous sponsorship.

Gestures to thank the community were discussed and agreed upon.

Michael Coyne reported that 800 people had registered; about 705 had paid registration and approximately 70 countries were represented.

Online voting

Michael Coyne reported that 287 people had voted online.

Treasurer's report

Ed Drane presented the official signed copy of the auditor's report and highlighted 2 points:

- 1) It is a very clean audit
- 2) The report is done on a calendar year basis and may cover 2-3 Symposia.

Ed Drane pointed out that the net assets have gone up dramatically and discussed the various categories in the Treasurer's report, which usually covers 2 years. 2007 was a very good Symposium—the auction did very well with an income of \$22, 608.

Student Awards

Matthew Godfrey has been invited to be a Co-Chair on the Student Awards Committee. This year there were 20 judges – five for each session. There were 20 student oral presentations in the biology section and 12 in the conservation section. There were three

presentations in the biology speed session. If Speed Sessions have greater student participation, then Speed Sessions may become a separate category in the future. There were 50 student posters in each category—because of the rain, the judges will be easier on students who had to be by their posters.

Speed Sessions

Michael Coyne conducted an online survey on the Speed Sessions and everyone provided excellent feedback. The Program Chairs feel that this might be a permanent thing.

Awards

This year there was an Ad Hoc Awards Committee consisting of J. Nichols, Brendan Godley, Kama Dean, Ana Barragan and Michael Coyne. Two lifetime achievement awards, one President's award and two sea turtle champions awards will be given out this year. The President makes the President's Award decision.

Confidentiality

A sentence on confidentiality of discussions were added to the Terms of Reference of the ISTS officers.

2009 Symposium

Colin Limpus provided an update on preparations for the Symposium and described it as the collaborative effort of many Australians. Logos, location details, transportation, hotel information, regional meetings, visas, sponsorship, etc. were discussed. A draft of the budget was reviewed and budget items discussed.

Members in attendance: Thane Wibbels, Ed Drane, Michael Coyne , Dimitris Margaritoulis, Nancy FitzSimmons, Manjula Tiwari , Kartik Shanker, J. Nichols Donna Shaver, Ana Barragan, Naoki Kamezaki, Colin Limpus, Marydele Donnelly, Jean Beasley, Lisa Campbell.

Observers: Yoshimasa Matsuzawa, Hoyt Peckham, Dave Owens.