

North Central Weed Science Society
Summaries of Committee Reports
December 2004

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Presidents Report

Jerry Doll

Hopefully I have kept the ship heading the right direction. The crew is intact even though we continue to lose passengers. We spent time at the summer Executive committee meeting pondering this and other realities and the process continued beyond July. Tom Peters led the effort to have the NCWSS participate in the Shared Leadership program and three of our members are involved in this process. I tried to motivate state and province directors to be more active in the Society. This started by modifying and expanding the duties of directors last year. This year I communicated early with each one to stimulate action to gain members, increase participation in our annual meeting, and add news to the newsletter. A barometer of whether or not this helped will be in what we see in the reports written by the out-going directors. I encouraged all directors to be as active as they can for the good of the Society. The minutes of the summer Executive committee meeting contain significant information regarding the activities and direction of the Society that I encourage you to read. One of the most interesting and easiest decisions we made was to sponsor the Interactive Weed Encyclopedia. I'm sure you've seen it and we owe a debt of gratitude to Michael DeFelice for offering the fruits of his labors to us and other weed science societies.

Executive Secretary's Report

Robert Schmidt

Membership as of September 30

| | 2004 | 2003 | 2002 | 2001 | 2000 |
|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Members | 488 | 545 | 596 | 601 | 730 |
| Students | <u>70</u> | <u>95</u> | <u>100</u> | <u>94</u> | <u>117</u> |
| Total | 558 | 640 | 696 | 695 | 847 |

Annual Meeting preregistration

| | 2004 | 2003 | 2002 | 2001 | 2000 |
|---------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| | Columbus | Louisville | St. Louis | Milwaukee | Kansas City |
| Members | 263 | 278 | 279 | 321 | 391 |
| Students | <u>55</u> | <u>62</u> | <u>81</u> | <u>83</u> | <u>72</u> |
| Total preregistered | 318 | 340 | 370 | 404 | 463 |
| Final Attendance | 353 est. | 381 | 474 | 501 | 495 |

Since the NCWSS began advertising the CD/DVD for the "Interactive Encyclopedia of North American Weeds", 83 individual sales of this CD/DVD was purchased by phone or mail and 36 copies were ordered on the annual meeting registration form for a total of 119 copies. NCWSS realizes approximately \$25.07 per copy.

NCWSS Proceedings Editor

Bob Hartzler

No written report

NCWSS Communications Editor

Bill Johnson

Three newsletters were prepared and delivered via the NCWSS website in 2004. The summer edition which contains the call for papers for the annual meeting was also delivered to members through traditional mail. Budget needs, similar to 2003; include funds for newsletter layout, printing and postage for the summer edition, and website maintenance. He continues to encourage membership to submit items for inclusion in the newsletter.

NCWSS Research Report Editor

Bryan Young

Research Report submissions were solicited by email and at the NCWSS website in September. The submission due date for reports was November 10. The expected distribution date of the combined NCWSS Proceedings and Research Report CD is early January 2005. The 2004 NCWSS Research Report contains 95 reports which is slightly down from 2003 (114) and significantly reduced from 2000 (191). The 2004 bid cost from Noteworthy (CD program authoring and cover art only) is \$2,400.00. The 2004 bid cost from Advanced Duplication Services (CD production) is \$1,415.00 for 700 copies or \$2.02 per CD. Thus, the total cost is \$3,815.00 or \$5.45 per CD, which is up \$0.29 per CD from 2003. This cost does not include labor for compiling the information on the CD or mailing costs for distribution. No immediate changes are suggested, but an ongoing discussion of the value of the Research Reports to the mission of the NCWSS is encouraged.

WSSA Representative

Roger Becker

The WSSA Board met at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel on Waikiki Beach, Honolulu HI, July 24 through the 25th. Key issues included an afternoon on further developing the strategic planning for WSSA. It is anticipated that the meeting in Hawaii will be well attended, primarily from individuals that normally do not come to WSSA meetings. Four excellent tours including Biological Control, Invasive Plants, Oahu Agriculture, and a Pineapple Tour are planned for Wednesday, Feb. 9 in lieu of the scheduled program to allow all members to attend a tour if they choose rather than having a conflict with the meeting. WSSA will no longer apply for CCA CEUs, as it is more work than it is worth since only 6 people signed up in Kansas City. Ideas to change the WSSA meeting format are still floating. WSSA incurred a \$10,000 expense for not filling their room block at Kansas City. It is important for members to stay in the hotel. Therefore, to better manage registration, WSSA will develop a three-tiered registration level to encourage earlier registrations. Future meeting site selection that has been discussed includes Monterey, California and two Texas locations, San Antonio and Houston. The 2008 IWSS meeting will be held in Vancouver June 23-29, 2008 at Westin Hotel. The 2006, 50th Anniversary WSSA Meeting will be at the Marriott Hotel, Times Square, New York. In addition to the regular meeting, a 50-yr. celebration will be held, including displays and a mixer with all living past presidents invited and includes plans to have presentations on the history, current situation, and the future of WSSA.

Publications/Materials. If electronic versions of *Weed Science* and *Weed Technology* become available, libraries will drop subscriptions for hard copies. As libraries continue dropping hard copy subscriptions, WSSA will need to adjust for this in the budget. *Weed Science* costs about \$28,000 per volume (6 issues/yr) and *Weed Technology* is about \$33,000 per volume (4 issues/yr) to produce. Mike Foley agreed to serve one more term with the condition that someone would begin training after the 2nd year. The Board moved to have the Awards Committee consider establishing an award for outstanding reviewers for *Weed Science* and *Weed Technology*. Considerable debate occurred on the issue of the WSSA bentgrass report. Key issues were that reports tied to WSSA truly reflect the feeling of the Society, and that a consensus report is likely not feasible on controversial topics. Similar to NCWSS, WSSA will market the SWSS "Interactive Encyclopedia of North American Weeds" DVD, same terms and costs as NCWSS arrangements with SWSS. WSSA will print 2500 copies of the *Weeds in Wildlands* book and will sell for \$20, including S&H. The History of WSSA book (Arnold Appleby), 750 copies will be printed \$7.14 per copy. WSSA approved \$5,000 for advertising XID, Flora ID NW and other WSSA items by the advertising committee. WSSA has sold 781 copies of the XID CD, including site licenses. The WSSA Newsletter will go to totally electronic distribution in October. Print copies of the WSSA Directory are too expensive to continue, est. to run \$15,000 to \$20,000. A PDF type file of the membership directory can now be downloaded, and members need to be reminded to update their directory information.

Director of Science Policy. Specific language to portray the responsibilities of the director of science policy was provided by Joyce Lancaster. **Is this adequate for our needs to formally put into the NCWSS MOP?** Questions of the level of support possible by NCWSS in times of declining membership are floating internally. After five years, total cost of the position is now exceeding \$110,000 contributed annually by member societies. Through work on NIWAW, IPINAMS and the APHIS Bentgrass project Rob Hedberg brought \$151,736 into the societies in the

past two years. Of this amount, \$103,760 has been paid out for over 1.5 FTE supplied by WSSA members who helped "staff" these projects. The remaining \$47,976 is available to offset Rob's time on these projects and associated overhead expenses. Rob Hedberg again will lead the National Invasive Weed Awareness Week for WSSA, raising \$7,500 and will be able to get another \$20,000 to support this event, a multi-agency, multi-department event to gain awareness of invasive weed issues at the national level. The nominations of Jeff Schardt and Jennifer Vollmer to the Invasive Species Council are awaiting confirmation. Nelroy Jackson will be reappointed and George Beck is currently a member. David Shaw will be the NAREEE (National Research, Extension, Education and Economics Advisory Board) representative from the national agronomy, crop, soil, horticulture or weed science societies. Rob is raising visibility and support for research funding for food and agricultural sciences through CoFarm and CFAR coalition. CoFARM (Coalition on Funding Agricultural Research Missions) is made up of 22 scientific societies with an affiliate membership category that includes a single university and the association for the heads of Entomology Departments. The second group, C-FAR (Coalition on Food and Agricultural Research) has approximately 80 individual, corporate, trade group, college and science society members including Co-FARM. In the coming three months both groups will be launching new efforts to interact with the Hill. CoFARM will be doing a one and a half day briefing and hill visit event in mid-September and they would like member societies to bring in competitive grant recipients who can highlight the successes and benefits of this type of funding. Meanwhile CFAR is in the process of planning a series of four hill seminars for the coming year. The objective is to build recognition for the group by developing an informative lecture series on timely and widely ranging agricultural research issues. WSSA will become a member of CFAR (annual dues are \$1,000). WSSA already is a member of CoFARM, annual dues \$500.

Strategic Planning. Jill Schroeder chairs a new strategic planning group. As the first order of business, the group will evaluate the last strategic plan and determine the Society's progress in following it. At Kansas City, then President Hamill met with presidents and/or regional representatives from each Society. Regional organizations are not willing to fold into one large organization. Many ideas were discussed on how one regional organization might work with another regional organization. It was recommended that regional representatives get together before next year (2005). At the Honolulu WSSA summer board meeting, the recirculating topics of alternating regional and national society meetings and for combining the regionals with the national society meetings ensued. The general feeling of the Board was that we proceed with the independent meetings as is.

Shared Leadership I training was hosted by Barbara Rushmore in Montana, October 14-17, 2004, with a second meeting, Shared Leadership II to be held in California, March 10-13, 2005. The Board agreed to send Rob Hedberg, Carol Mallory-Smith, and Reid Smeda, members involved in long-range planning and/or who are key members of the Board and anticipated to be involved in Board activities for the near future. Growth in finances for WSSA has been about 2% annually. The importance of having a business plan was stressed; therefore, the WSSA Board will develop one in the interim before the 2005 annual meeting.

Education/Outreach/Web Site. The WSSA web site has been an ongoing issue. The Web Design Committee composed of Shawn Askew (Chair), Roger Becker, Steve Dewey, Anita Dille (Dieleman), Tony DiTommaso, Larry Lass (ex-officio), David Pike (ex-officio), and Gerry Stephenson (ex-officio) is charged with web site redesigned. NEWSS has volunteers that manage their web site, and would like to have WSSA consider providing web site service for regional societies. Shawn Askew has since resigned the post due to time constraints and the Society will seek out another individual to chair the web committee. The Education Committee - Director of Education Gerry Stephenson - has two goals: 1) develop a library of information on the WSSA web site and 2) develop an interactive program on the WSSA site.

Miscellaneous. The Necrology Committee notified the WSSA Board of difficulties of the sharing of knowledge between regionals and WSSA. A reminder was stated to have the Necrology Committee representatives from the regional societies and WSSA periodically check in with each other to insure the sharing of information with the intent of not inadvertently totally missing a necrology report or having multiple copies and versions of a similar necrology report appearing in various formats. As usual, the WSSA awards committee is searching for nominees for fellow and honorary members so anyone in mind, please nominate. Kassim Al Khatib had contacted current WSSA President Thill to inform him that the NC region had put together a white paper on waterhemp, similar to the jointed goatgrass initiative, asking for WSSA support.

CAST Representative

Kassim Al-Khatib

The Fall Board meeting of CAST was held in Oklahoma City on September 17 and 18. The board members devoted much of their time to focus on strategically planning and finding ways for CAST to maintain contact with the stakeholders especially the sustaining members. The membership continues to decline and some of the decline was due to inadequate contact between CAST and their stakeholders. The other reason for the decline is consolidation of companies. However, recently Monsanto and Uniroyal Chemical Company declined to renew their membership and that may be due to poor communication between these companies and CAST. The Executive Board will soon have a contact with key stakeholders.

Special publications were released in this summer including the publication entitled "Animal Organ Donors: Human Health Applications." The paper examines current and future concerns and benefits for xenotransplantation--using animals as organ and tissue donors. The second publication was "Management of Pest Resistance: Strategies Using Crop Management, Biotechnology, and Pesticides." Fifty-two presentations are collected in this 191-page proceeding from an April 2003 CAST-convened symposium on pest resistance management (PRM). Major objectives of the meeting included identifying common issues related to PRM across disciplines, considering ways to remove barriers to effective preventive resistance management, describing research activities in PRM, and disseminating this information to a wide audience of stakeholders. Upcoming CAST publications of interest to NCWSS include: 1) Global Risks of Infectious Animal Disease; 2) Postcommercialization Gene Flow from Biotechnology-derived Crops: Policy and Research Considerations; Agricultural Ethics; and 3) Pros and Cons of Bioenergy: Pointing to the Future."

Dr. Stanley Fletcher, representative of the American Peanut Research and Education Society, began his term as CAST President following the September meeting replacing Dr. Dale Maronek. The CAST booth describing recent activities pertaining to weed science and related matters is available for reviewing at the sustaining members display section at 2004 NCWSS annual meeting. The next CAST Board of Directors meeting will be held in April 2005 in Alexandria, Virginia.

Extension Committee

Dawn Nordby, Chair

The Extension Committee of the NCWSS held a business meeting at the 2003 Annual Meeting. Shawn Conley presided over the meeting. Items discussed by the committee during the meeting included multi-state collaboration on weed control guides and the development of an Extension Publications database for the NCWSS website. The committee suggested that the Herbicide Mode of Action and Injury Symptoms (North Central Regional Extension Publication 377) be revised. A motion was made by Chris Boerboom and seconded by Jerry Doll to elect Richard Proost as the Vice Chair of the Extension Committee. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned. The 'Future Role of Extension' Symposium was held the last day of the 2003 NCWSS Annual Meeting with nine presentations given. At the Extension symposium, it was noted that current challenges facing extension and industry call for greater efficiency in many activities. A joint Weed Science Extension and Cooperative Meeting was organized and held October 11-13, 2004 in Des Moines, Iowa. The 2005 meeting has been scheduled for September 27-29 in Des Moines, Iowa. The NCWSS list serve was updated to include new faculty and staff in Extension. A list of all the extension publication in the North Central Region has been compiled and is in the process of being formatted to be placed on the NCWSS website.

Graduate Student Committee

Bradley Fronning, Chair

Bradley Fronning as a graduate student representative helped with the NCWSS weeds contest in Minnesota. A guest speaker was contacted to address all the graduate students during the graduate student luncheon at the NCWSS annual meeting in Columbus.

Industry Committee

Kevin Thorsness, Chair

The committee worked with Resident Education Committee chair and others to secure Kansas State University as the host for the 2005 North Central Collegiate Weed Science Contest. Bayer CropScience is potential host for the 2006 North Central Collegiate Weed Science Contest. University of Minnesota hosted the 2004 North Central Collegiate Weed Science Contest at the Southern Research and Outreach Center in Waseca, MN. Currently there are 23 sustaining members displayed on the NCWSS website. The Industry committee chairman has contacted sustaining members to encourage them to pay their sustaining membership dues. Potential new sustaining members were contacted by the Industry committee chairman and the name of one possible new member (Sipcam) was sent to Bob Schmidt. With the aid of the NCWSS Vice President and the Industry committee Vice Chairman a topic and speaker was identified for the annual industry breakfast to be held on Thursday morning during the annual meeting. Two sustaining members have requested display space for the 2004 NCWSS meeting. For the future the committee suggests continuing the Industry meeting/breakfast with a speaker as it seems to help maintain attendance. Recruit additional sustaining members such as new companies, distributor companies, and after patent companies.

Research and Publications Committee

Michael Crotser, Chair

The committee and President Jerry Doll promoted the weed identification DVD that was developed by the SWSS titled "*Interactive Encyclopedia of North American Weeds, Version 3.0*". Since we are marketing this DVD through our society, we compiled a e-mail list of most all of the instructors who teach weed control at two and four year colleges, graduate programs, and technical colleges within our geographic region. In the e-mail we indicated that it was available through our societies website and it will be available in Columbus during the December annual meeting. It is recommended that the charge for this committee be revisited. The last several years the committee has been relatively inactive and has not furthered our society.

Resident Education Committee

Christy Sprague, Chair

Paper and Poster Contests. There were 28 graduate papers, 21 graduate posters, and 4 undergraduate posters entered in the contests at the 2003 NCWSS meeting in Louisville, KY. There were three sections in the paper contest and two sections in the poster contest. For 2004, there are 30 graduate papers, 19 graduate posters, and 2 undergraduate posters. An announcement requesting volunteers for contest judges was placed in the NCWSS Newsletter.

Summer Contest. The 2004 North Central Collegiate Weed Science Contest was hosted on July 20 at the University of Minnesota's Southern Research and Extension Center in Waseca, MN. Bev Durgan, Kevin Cavanaugh, and their staff, as well as the 56 volunteers made this contest a huge success for the first year that a University has hosted a contest in the North Central Region. A total of 56 students competed in the contest. There were 13 teams from 10 different universities that competed. The 2005 contest will be hosted by Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS on July 21, 2004. Dallas Peterson and Anita Dille will be the contacts for this event.

Prior to the Summer Contest there was a survey sent out to several individuals (students, coaches, faculty, hosts, and volunteers) for some general feed back on the summer contest. Following the 2004 Summer Contest there was a meeting held among participants, volunteers, and hosts to discuss how the overall contest went. Overall the meeting was a huge success and general comments were that there is plenty of time for Weed ID and maybe something else could be incorporated with this session. Sprayer calibration also seems to be of great importance, however there was some discussion with eliminating the time keeping portion of the calibration. Most suggestions had to do with the finances for the meeting. In Minnesota, local agri-business in Minnesota donated funds to host refreshments and meals. Also discussed was the idea of increasing the registration cost to \$30 per contestant and asking the NCWSS board for some additional financial support. Financial support is still a major issue with the summer contest, particularly with the switch to University hosts. Our recommendation to the board is to increase the registration fee to \$30 per contestant and consider increasing its financial contribution to the summer contest. Current and future hosts of the summer contest also need to keep extensive records for future hosts.

Career Placement Committee

Michael Urwiler, Chair

The WSSA Weed Jobs page was checked several times to see what was posted. Just not much there – especially from private industry! No place exists on this website for “persons seeking employment”. No contacts have been made with agricultural industry about potential employees nor has anyone seeking a position contacted this committee. Therefore, the functionality of this committee is uncertain. It is suggested that this committee be linked up with the Weed Jobs listing on the NCWSS and WSSA web pages.

Distinguished Achievement Award Committee

Michael Horak, Chair

The committee solicited nominations for 2004 awards during the past annual meeting and throughout the year. An announcement also was placed in the summer newsletter. A total of 13 nomination packets across the 6 categories were received. The following individuals were recommended for awards: Gordon Roskamp – Education, Robert Klein – Education, Dave Stoltenberg – Research, Partrick Tranel – Young Scientist, and Robert Wolf – Service. Identifying potential nominees and nominators at the annual meeting greatly increases the number of packets received.

Fellow Committee

Patrick Greier, Chair

Nominations were solicited in late summer and two candidates were presented for consideration as Fellow of the NCWSS. Fellows chosen for board approval were Duane Rathmann and David Regehr.

Finance, Steering, and Policy Committee

J. D. Green, Chair

At the close of the 2004 fiscal year, the Society has an invested financial reserve of \$310,000 which exceeds twice the annual operating expense of the Society (\$92,709) by over 50% as mandated in the Manual of Operating Procedures, Chapter 9. Therefore, the financial reserve is adequate at this time. This past fiscal year the total income (\$97,538) declined slightly from the previous year, but income exceeded expenses. In the previous four consecutive years the total operating expenses had exceeded income (excluding investments). Although a net loss was budgeted for the year, the society was able to realize a net gain this past fiscal year primarily due to a decline in the expenses for the annual meeting, reduced cost for producing publications, and income received from investments. The 2003 annual meeting (2004 fiscal year) generated a net profit of \$21,163. Income from the NCWSS Research Report/Proceedings covered production costs with a net profit of \$8,782. Expenses exceeded income for program services by \$25,116, which was near the budgeted amount. Major program expenses included North Central Collegiate Weed Science Contest (\$6,500), Management Fee (\$18,200), and the WSSA Science Director (\$14,000).

One change was made to the MOP as a consequence of Board motions at the December 3, 2003 board meetings. A motion was moved and approved by 30-day ballot to dissolve the position for the Regulatory and Crop Consultants special interest group from the NCWSS Board of Directors and move the responsibilities for regulatory issues to the Legislation, Regulatory and Public Policy Committee. A comprehensive review of the MOP was conducted by the executive committee during the July 21, 2004 summer board meeting. Twelve major changes to the MOP were recommended and will be presented at the December 2004 meeting of the board of directors.

Future Site Selection Committee

Charles Slack, Chair

The committee evaluated the Hyatt Regency in St. Louis, MO for the site of the 2007 annual meeting. Greg Elmore has agreed to be the lead for Local Arrangements. The dates under consideration are December 9-13 or the week before on December 2-6, 2007 if the annual Seed Trade meeting is not a concern.

Legislation, Regulatory, and Public Policy Committee

Steve Miller, Chair

No written report.

Local Arrangements Committee

Mark Loux, Chair

The committee met at the Hyatt Regency, Columbus in September 2004 to conduct a planning session for the December annual meeting. As of November 15 everything appears to be in order for the NCWSS to have a successful meeting in Columbus. At that time, members had registered for a total of 659 sleeping rooms, which corresponds to 88% of the room block specified in the most recent contract with the hotel (750 rooms). A dispute with the Hyatt arose in October when the hotel informed the chair of the LAC that the Union Room would be unavailable to the NCWSS until after 9 pm on December 13. The Union Room was assigned for posters and sustaining member displays, and these are usually set up anytime on Monday. The hotel had used an earlier draft for use of meeting room space based on our previous needs during the 1999 meeting held in Columbus. The LAC chair took strong exception with the hotel's position, but won no concession from the hotel other than use of one section of the Union Room on December 13 for storage of poster easels, etc. Chairs of future LAC's should be aware of the minimum space needed to conduct the meeting and make sure any communications from the hotel include this space. In addition, LAC chairs should contact the hotel several times during the two years before the meeting to ensure that the space is still being held.

Membership Committee

Phil Stahlman, Chair

The committee met during last year's annual meeting and determined that because of changes in the industry and organizational membership there was a need to conduct a demographic analysis of the membership and perhaps poll members to determine if NCWSS was still providing value to me individually; if not, then what changes are needed. Neither the analysis nor the survey was conducted for lack of a champion. However, the chairperson drew on recent experience from a WSWS survey of its members and provided a copy of survey questions along with a few suggested revisions to Kassim Al-Khatib, who was preparing a survey questionnaire for NCWSS members. It is expected that this survey will provide insight into member needs, likes and dislikes, and assist the Board's vision for the future. Members seem to like symposia and discussion of individual topics. Discussion sections have long been a highlight of WSWS meetings and the SWSS is planning major program changes to include discussion sections and restrict the number of volunteered papers. It is suggested that the NCWSS continue to schedule one or two interesting symposia each year, schedule discussions of interesting or controversial topics, and monitor the SWSS programming experiment.

Nomination Committee

Tom Threewitt, Chair

Two candidates were selected for the office of Vice-President to be presented to the board for election. There were quite a few suggested names but the majority of the individuals contacted did not want to be considered at this time. The state directors were asked for names for consideration.

Program Committee

Tom Peters, Chair

This year the program includes four symposia producing full agendas, general session and thirteen topic sections. Call for papers and poster titles were in the summer newsletter. Titles came in at an increasing pace following the Labor Day holiday. Glenn Nice and Bill Johnson facilitated an efficient process for title submissions and for providing summary information on titles, corresponding authors, section requested, etc. A total of 187 papers were submitted for the conference compared to a total of 21 in 2003.

The program committee and other interested individuals convened for a breakfast meeting during the WSSA meeting in Kansas City, MO. We talked through a proposed list of eleven possible symposia topics that was reduced to four. Individuals contacted to serve as symposia chairs included Michael DeFelice, Kevin Gibson, Ed Luschei, and Domingo Reigo. However, Domingo Reigo was unable to fulfill this commitment; therefore, Don Suttner and Terry Stone agreed to handle the Turfgrass symposia. Section chairs were contacted to help solicit papers during the early fall and to round out their sections. Email communication between the symposia chairs, Resident Education committee, and Mark Loux with local arrangements was useful in putting the program together. I wish to acknowledge the help received from Scott Bollman, graduate student at Michigan State University who prepared the index for the program. Several emails with Mark Loux, LAC chair, helped facilitate development of the program.

The largest section for the meeting is the Ecology section. I talked with Ed Luschei about breaking the talks into topics such as interference, weed management, and weed biology. But, we gravitated to similar section topics as have been used previously. Topics that could be considered in the future for sections include no-tillage, biological control, herbicide resistance, weed interference, weed biology, weed management, weed seedbanks and invasives. The number of volunteer talks declined in 2004 compared to 2003. To slow this decline we should consider increasing the number of symposia – suggest pursuing five or six topics for 2005. Although the perception is that a symposium needs to be six to eight invited papers, three or four papers may be sufficient for some topics.

In the future, one way suggested to reduce the amount of stress on the Program Chair, especially if we choose to solicit more topics for symposia is to ask the Vice President to be responsible for symposia. The role of the Vice President would be to work with the Program Chair to develop topics and solicit symposia chair. The President-Elect would be responsible for the sections, general session, and pulling the program together.

Publicity and Public Relations Committee

Steve Miller, Chair

No written report.

Resolutions and Necrology Committee

Tony White, Chair

In 2004, two members of the NCWSS passed away – Dr. Deane W. Finnerty, 80, died on January 21, 2004 and Dr. LeRoy Holm, 87, died on November 14, 2004. The chairman sent sympathy cards to both families to extend condolences from the entire membership of the NCWSS. A complete obituary will be published in the February 2005 newsletter to honor these respected members and an abbreviated version presented during the banquet at the 2004 annual meeting in Columbus, OH. As stated in past years, the membership is encouraged to pass along information on deceased members to the Resolutions and Necrology Committee.

It is assumed that the local arrangements committee has done a superb job in making arrangements for the NCWSS 2004 meeting in Columbus, OH. The faculty and staff at the University of Minnesota Southern Research and Outreach Center in Waseca, MN provided an excellent learning experience for the participating students. The 2004 NCWSS Poster and Paper judges will fulfill their obligations and responsibilities. Michael DeFelice should be commended for his hard work and gracious offering of the SWSS weed identification DVD titled “The Interactive Weed Encyclopedia” to the society. Therefore, it should be considered by the committee to develop resolutions noting exemplary effort and dedication.

Herbicide Resistance Committee

Jeff Stachler, Chair

The committee will meet during the annual meeting to discuss the future of this committee.

Electronic Communications Committee

Glenn Nice, Chair

The web page had over 20,000 visits from December 2003 to November 2004, downloading over 54,480 pages. In 2004 fiscal responsibility for the web site host service was transferred from Brent Pringnitz to Executive Secretary, Bob Schmidt. The hosting service remains, the Host Depot (<http://www.hostdepot.com/>). Newsletters and seasonal pages, such as the summer contest page and annual meeting page received good traffic. Commercial and educational users were the most frequent, but Canada and Japan also were common users. A NCWSS email list service was created. There are 42 addresses based on the committee information released and presented every year on the web site (<http://www.ncwss.org/info/committees04.pdf>). The pre-fixes of the address are abbreviations of the committee or session followed by “@purdue.edu”. To protect against spam mail all mail has to be approved by either Bill Johnson or Glenn Nice.

There were 148 titles submitted this year through the ‘on line’ title submission. This year an extra field was put into the form to collect the ‘presenters’ email address. Two messages were received where the page did not come up. In both cases, when tried later that day or the next day the presenter was able to submit. These cases were thought to have occurred at times of heavy traffic. For the 2005 title submissions, new components to consider for the title submission web page is to separate authors and their affiliations for index purposes. A proposal is also submitted for changing the Electronic Communications Committee from a special committee to a standing committee since it now serves a vital function for the society.

Long Range Planning Committee

Duane Rathmann, Chair

The Long Range Planning Committee (LRP) has been a special committee appointed by the president for many years. The need for a group like this in our Society increases all the time and it is apparent it needs to be made a standing committee. A formal proposal to create LRP as a standing committee will be submitted for consideration at the Summer Board meeting, along with a committee statement and purpose. It is also apparent that the goals of the membership (a standing committee) and LRP committees overlap. A proposal to merge the two committees was presented and discussed at the Monday (December 13) Board meeting, at both the LRP and Membership Committee meetings. The decision has been made to create a one-year, informal integration of the Membership Committee into the LRP Committee, with the Chair of the Membership Committee serving as member of LRP. Board action and changes to the MOP regarding this integration will be delayed pending outcome of the trial integration.

Considerable discussion was devoted to strategies and activities of the LRP. The following broad topic areas were defined, with each becoming sub-committee activity within LRP:

| Long Range Planning Committee | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| Sub Committee | Strategic Planning | Committee Structure | Membership | Revenue Diversification |
| 2005 Tasks | Summarize Benchmarking & Membership surveys. Use surveys to propose a vision statement. | Propose organizational strategies that support strategic, rather than logistic Board actions | Summarize Membership survey. Define membership needs. | Uncover Opportunities for: * Endowment * Silent auctions * Grants * Publications * Symposium options for new audiences |

LRP Committee members were asked to volunteer for further service on LRP sub-committees of interest; sub-committees will work on developing action plans within each sub-committee area. Action plans will be submitted for consideration at the Summer Board meeting.

LRP committee personnel will summarize both the bench marking exercise conducted by the executive board and LRP, and the membership survey initiated at the 2004 annual meeting. This summary will be completed by April 1, 2004 and be presented at the Summer Board meeting, to the membership via the newsletter, and to the entire board for feedback and planning.

Membership Survey Follow-up Action. To get a better pulse on the reasons for declining membership and annual meeting attendance, each State Director will be provided a list of prior members that did not attend the 2004 meeting and an electronic copy of the survey. Directors are to contact up to four prior members from their state who did not attend the 2004 meeting to complete the membership survey via a phone interview. Completed survey forms should be sent to Kassim Al-Khatib by February 1, 2005.

The committee recommends that 1) Bryan Young and Kassim Al-Khatib who attended the Shared Leadership I Workshop, as well as Wayne Fithian and Tom Peters to attend Shared Leadership II Workshop and 2) hold confirmation of a 2007 meeting location until after survey efforts are summarized.

State Director Report - Kansas

Curtis Thompson

I have appreciated the opportunity to represent Kansas over the past 3 years on the NCWSS Board of Directors. This fall an email election was conducted to appoint a new director to represent Kansas. Doug Nord, Diamond Ag. and Craig Nichols, Syngenta were the two nominees. Doug Nord was elected the next representative for Kansas. Activities have included forwarding information to Kansas members and encouraging members to submit individuals for awards. No additional encouragement for paper submission was not provided other than through NCWSS. One of the greatest frustrations was assembling an up to date email list. I think it is essential that directors receive an electronic copy of emails and addresses for every member of their state immediately following the NCWSS annual meeting. This is one of the major losses when we eliminated the paper proceeding report.

State Director Report - Michigan

Karen Renner

The new director elected to represent Michigan is Andy Chomas, Michigan State University.

State Director Report - Nebraska

Wayne Fithian

The new director elected to represent Nebraska is Jes Spotanski, Midwest Research.

State Director Report - Ohio

Brad Miller

In September, 2004, NCWSS members in Ohio were surveyed to determine their interest in serving as State Director for Ohio on the NCWSS Board of Directors. Nominees included: Traci Bultemeier, Pioneer; Dr. Doug Doohan, OSU-OARDC; John Gruber, Ag Consultants; John Smith, Agriliance; and Jeff Taylor, Monsanto. A ballot listing the five nominees was sent on September 23rd, 2004 to twenty-five NCWSS members in Ohio via an e-mail distribution list provided by Bob Schmidt, Executive Secretary. Our newly elected Director representing Ohio for the NCWSS is Jeff Taylor. Promotion activities for NCWSS included interactions with Dr. Monte Anderson, Agronomy Department Chair, Wilmington College, Wilmington, OH, it was frequently suggested that interested Wilmington College faculty and undergraduate students consider involvement in the NCWSS by attending the Annual Meeting. Links to the NCWSS newsletter via the internet were forwarded to Dr. Anderson, as well as notifications of Annual Meeting registration. Other activities included notifying Ohio NCWSS members to review Mike Horak's request for Distinguished Achievement Nominations, and to reply with candidates for follow-up by the Distinguished Achievement Award Committee. Nominee and Nominator names were forwarded to Dr. Horak prior to the September 1 deadline.

State Director Report - Wisconsin

Tom Hartberg

The new director elected to represent Wisconsin is Stephen Sanborn, Syngenta.