

# Minutes of the American Pomological Society Business Meeting

Atlanta, GA, August 11, 2016

Peter Hirst, APS president, called the meeting to order at 10:30 am. There were 48 members in attendance.

## Old Business

The minutes of the 2015 APS meeting were presented by Peter Hirst in the absence of the Secretary. Corrections will be made to the minutes, including the addition of Richard Heerma as a member of the Advisory Board last year, and the title the paper for last year's Hedrick Award will be changed to , "Pollen Tube Growth in Apple: A Review". A motion to accept the Secretary's report as amended was made by Gennaro Fazio, seconded by Kim Hummer, and approved unanimously.

The Editor's report as prepared by Rich Marini was presented by Peter Hirst in Rich's absence. Dr. Marini expressed his thanks to Professor Ian Warrington for helping with the transition. Dr Marini requested that more people act as reviewers and accept the responsibilities when called upon. He also requested more articles for consideration from the members. A question was raised from the floor regarding DOI and Google Scholar search options. Ian explained that these are currently being addressed and will be done in the future for backdated copies of articles in the Journal of APS. David Karp mentioned that book reviews had been added to the journal and asked members to consider submitting book reviews in the future. Also, all articles will be digitized for internet archiving. There was a motion to accept the editor's report by Duane Greene, which was seconded by Gennaro Fazio, and approved unanimously.

For the Treasurer's report, Peter Hirst noted that the motion from 2015 annual meeting to have ASHS undertake the former Business Manager responsibilities for APS has been implemented and ASHS is now the Financial Management Contractor for APS. Essie Fallahi made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, which was seconded by Kim Hummer, and approved.

John Clark presented the Wilder Medal Award to Dr. Susan Brown, who is the Associate Dean at Cornell University and Director of the apple breeding program. In addition to her breeding program and research, she has a stellar publication record, has raised millions of research dollars and has trained many students. She has also released several new patented fruit cultivars including 'Snapdragon' and 'RubyFrost', in addition to 6 cherry cultivars and 3 apple cultivars. She was unable to be in Atlanta as she had broken her foot on the Saturday before the conference but had expressed her sincere thanks the APS for the accolade. Marvin Pritts accepted the award on her behalf.

Dr. Essie Fallahi then presented the U.P. Hedrick award for the best student papers submitted to the Journal. He first mentioned that the APS Constitution and Bylaws will be amended to reflect

three awards in the future for the best review paper with no cash award, a first place research paper with an award of \$300, and a second place research paper with an award of \$150. The first place award went to S. Adams, B.L. Black, G. Fazio, and N. A. Roberts for their paper, "The Effect of Plant Growth Regulators on Apple Graft Union Flexural Strength and Flexibility". There was a tie for the second place paper so awards were presented to S. Mahdavi and E. Fallahi for their paper, "Drought and Biostimulant Impacts on Important Attributes of Perennial Ryegrass for Orchard and Vineyard Floor in the Intermountain West Region of the United States" and to Andrej W. Svyante, Elina D. Coneva, J. Raymond Kessler, James D. Spiers, Edgar L. Vinson III, James A. Pitts for their paper, "Exploring the Growth and Cropping Potential of Pierce's Disease Resistant *Vitis vinifera* L. Selections for Enhanced Viticultural Sustainability in Alabama and the Southeast".

Kim Hummer accepted the P.H. Shepard award for the best research paper published in the Journal of the American Pomological Society, "Phenotypic Variability in a Panel of Strawberry Cultivars from North America and the European Union" by J.F. Hancock, P.W. Callows, M.M. Mathey, T. Mackey, K. Gunduz, S. Mookerjee, L. Cai, N. Salinas, N.V. Bassil, K.E. Hummer, and C.F. Finn.

Kirk Pomper then presented a slate of candidates for the Advisory committee to serve from August 12, 2016-2019, which included Renae Moran, David Bryla, Sengrui Yao, Mark Ehlenfeldt, and Elena Garcia.

Nahla Bassil was for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, and Emily Hoover was nominated to serve on the Executive Board (2016-2019) and Amaya Atucha was nominated to complete Nahla Bassil's term on the Board until 2017. These nominations were approved by acclamation. Penelope Perkins-Veazie was appointed Chair of the Editorial Committee.

The Registration of New Fruit Cultivars Committee report was presented by Ksenija Gasic, who thanked John Preece and David Karp for their continued support. They will be expanding the database to include and digitize all reports since 1948. They would also like to see this be used to include more cultivars from other crops (e.g., tropical and subtropical) thus helping to grow the lists.

Membership committee: Kirk Pomper declined to comment. Peter Hirst emphasized that membership numbers have grown over the last year and thanked Kirk for his service.

## NEW BUSINESS:

Mike Neff reported that things had gone smoothly for the most part regarding their transition in handling financial matters for APS but that page charges had been the major headache.

A workshop is being planned for the 2017 meeting in Hawaii, perhaps with an Asian flair. The idea of a tour was discussed for Hawaii and it was suggested that this be a full day before the conference starts. It was also suggested by Kim Hummer that a dinner utilizing local fruits be considered and will contact Ken Love regarding this idea. A fruit tasting showcase was also suggested using local Hawaiian fruits but that it would have to be off site somewhere. Distance to a site was a concern. It was stated that a bus would have to be arranged to transport participants to the site. Mike Neff said they would organize the bus if instructed to do so.

Michele Warmund then addressed the members and explained the difficulty in receiving payment for journal page charges. Mike Neff pointed out that the corresponding author would be held responsible by ASHS for page charges and that all co-authors will be required to sign off that they are accepting co-authorship at the time of manuscript submission. Mike Neff also stated that authors and co-authors will be required to sign a conflict of interest form too.

Peter Hirst then raised the issue of amending the APS Constitution to reflect the recent changes, including the Business Manager position which has been changed to a Financial Contractor. There was discussion about merging the duties of the Treasurer and President. Mike Neff requested that the Executive Board seek advice from the ASHS legal advisors. It was also suggested that one of the Executive Board members-at-large be appointed treasurer. This will be discussed by the Executive Board and will be sent to APS members electronically for a vote. Also, the Bylaws will be updated to reflect the changes in the Hedrick Award for review articles. Peter Hirst stated that the Constitution will be forwarded to the APS membership by e-mail within 30 days for voting. Curt Rom requested the minutes reflect that the vote should be conducted electronically. Essie Fallahi made a motion to accept the suggested changes to the Constitution and By Laws. The motion was seconded by Kim Hummer and approved unanimously.

Peter Hirst handed the gavel over to Michele Warmund, who closed the meeting after thanking Peter for his 6 years of service to the APS. Dr. Curt Rom, ASHS president expressed his appreciation to Dr. Hirst for his dedication and leadership as the president of APS. Peter thanked the members and expressed his appreciation to all those who have collaborated and helped him perform his duties with honor. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.