

American Arachnological Society
Minutes of the 22nd Annual Business Meeting,
The Field Museum, Chicago, IL
3 July, 1998

1. The 1998 Business Meeting of the American Arachnological Society was called to order by President Ann Rypstra at 16:15 on 3 July, 1998. President Rypstra welcomed everyone and conveyed a reminder from Bea Vogel that the AAS was founded in 1973, making this the 25th anniversary for the Society. Bea thought the Society should congratulate itself, and the assembled members showed their agreement with hearty applause.

A motion was made and seconded to waive reading of the minutes from the 1997 AAS Business Meeting. The motion passed unanimously. It was also moved and seconded to accept the Minutes with minor corrections. This also passed unanimously.

Archivist Lenny Vincent made a call for materials (photos, tapes, correspondence, field notes), and stated that he now has materials from Vince Roth. Lenny mentioned that there are other materials in the Smithsonian Institution. He also asked for any ideas from members concerning the archives and their use.

2. Elections- President Rypstra introduced Jon Reiskind, Chair of the Nominations Committee. Jon acknowledged work by the other committee members, Lenny Vincent and Rich Bradley. Sixty-four ballots were returned, and Reiskind mentioned that mailing ballots separately from the Newsletter increased their return. Jon announced that David Wise was elected as Director (in a close count), and Alan Cady was re-elected as Secretary. The By-Laws change (removing the Associate Editors from the Executive Committee and keeping the General & Managing Editors) passed with one abstention. President Rypstra thanked the Nominations Committee, and the Membership acknowledged those elected and the Nominations Committee.
3. Membership Report- President Rypstra introduced Norman Platnick, Membership Secretary, who stated that AAS membership has jumped after remaining steady for a number of years. He recited the membership numbers as 489 individual and 133 institutional. Norm was thanked by Rypstra for his many years of service as Membership Secretary.
4. Future Meeting Sites- The President introduced President-Elect Fred Coyle. He reviewed the future meeting sites as: 1999- The University of the West Indies in Trinidad hosted by Chris Starr; 2000- Transylvania University in Lexington hosted by David Wagner and Dave Wise; 2001- Keene State College hosted by Karen Cangialosi; 2002- University of California-Riverside hosted by Rick Vetter; 2003- Denver Museum of Natural History, hosted by Paula Cushing; 2004- University of Oklahoma, hosted by Doug Gaffin.. Anyone wishing to host meetings should contact President-Elect Fred Coyle.

Chris Starr cautioned not to fill meeting dates too far in advance possibly allowing Brazilians to host a meeting soon.

President-Elect Coyle then described the judging schemes for the student paper and poster awards. He thanked the Chairs for the two judging teams, Karen Cangialosi (papers) and Jon Reiskind (posters), and asked members for advice or suggestions about future student competitions. President Rypstra thanked Fred and the judging crew. She noted that having many active students and meeting venues for the next 5 years are good signs for the future.

5. Report on the Journal of Arachnology- General Editor James Berry remarked that the new editor system is working well. He remarked about the lost JOA mailing, and described rising publishing costs relative to income from dues. The Journal is getting larger, mainly from longer articles, but Society income barely covers publishing costs.

Robert Suter, then described the index for JOA volumes 11-25. It will be all electronic, with the web address published in the Newsletter. (Note- this index is available at < <http://vassun.vassar.edu/~celt/suter/spiderform.html> > -Ed.)

Managing Editor Petra Sierwald stated that Journal of Arachnology policy is all manuscripts must be submitted in the English language. Chris Starr expressed his hope that perhaps something could be done so this policy is not necessary.

General Editor Berry recognized the other editors and thanked them for their work (Managing- Petra Sierwald; Associates- Gary Miller & Bob Suter; Proceedings Editor- Brent Opell). Ann Rypstra thanked Jim for all his work, and the membership demonstrated their appreciation too.

President Rypstra stated the Society is looking for a "webmaster" to build and maintain an AAS website. She made a plea for suggestions and recommendations.

6. Treasurer's Report- Treasurer Gail Stratton distributed the year-end 1997 and 2nd quarter 1998 financial reports to those present. She pointed out that these accounts show no Congress activity, and the balance as of 19 June 1998 was \$118,448. The Society also had provided \$15K in support of travel for Congress attendees. Gail said \$2,397 was raised by the auction, and she thanked all who donated materials, Betsy Berry who organized the event, and George Uetz, who helped separate bidders from their money with his skillful auctioneering. Gail echoed Jim Berry by stating the Society's income is close to expenditures, and since our dues are low, perhaps a small dues increase may be in the future. Jerome Rovner recognized Gail's long service to the Society, and President Rypstra pointed-out the extra fiscal work generated by the Congress which Gail has been handling.

7. Research Awards- President Rypstra reported a delay in the Student Research Awards due to logistic problems, and that there is now one deadline date for Student Research Awards, 31 October. Ann said that

Elizabeth Jakob is stepping down after 2 years of service, and that Deborah Smith will be taking the reigns of the Research Awards Committee.

The President mentioned the Vince Roth Fund for systematics research is housed at the California Academy of Science and administered by Charles Griswold. All contributions should be made through Charles. If this fund reaches endowment size, support for systematics research by students could be made available, probably via the existing Research Awards Committee.

Barb Roth mentioned that Vince's copy of Bonnet's book should be someplace where it is accessible to students, or perhaps it could be sold with the proceeds going to the Roth Fund. Jon Reiskind stated that the Roth spider family key brings in about \$1,200 annually, and that also could go into the Roth Fund. President Rypstra said the Executive Committee will consider both ideas.

8. Norman Platnick, former CIDA President, spoke to those present about the reformation of CIDA to the International Society of Arachnology (ISA). A full description of changes in the Constitution, By-Laws, executive structure, and services will be voted on by CIDA members.

9. New Business- Norm Platnick presented a gift to the Congress host, Petra Sierwald, and President Rypstra recognized Petra and all the work necessary to conduct such an event. These recognitions of Petra and her staff were met with extended applause of appreciation from the Membership. Petra Sierwald passed on the AAS Bell to the next meeting host, Chris Starr.

A movement to adjourn, was made and seconded, and President Rypstra adjourned the meeting with "Vote with your feet" at 17:05.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alan B. Cady Secretary