

**American Arachnological Society
Minutes of the 28th Annual Meeting
Oklahoma University
Norman, Oklahoma
26 June 2004**

Reports

- President Gary Miller called the meeting to order at 15:10 cdst.
- Reading of the minutes from the 27th annual meeting, held at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science 27 July 2003, was waived and the minutes were approved unanimously with no discussion.
- Membership Secretary Jeff Shultz presented his report by first distributing handouts. He reported there are 525 members (512 in 2003). The Society has a fairly stable total membership overall but with a large turnover. Typically there are many new members joining after the annual meeting. The new associate group (Grupo Iberico de Arachnologia) has added 6 new AAS members; 26 AAS members joined GIA. The institutional membership continues to decline. The report was approved by the membership.
- Treasurer Karen Cangialosi could not be present so a handout showing Final 2003 and 1st Quarter 2004 accounts was distributed to those present. President Miller went over the report, which was approved by a unanimous vote.
- Editor-in-chief Dan Mott reported that the increase in the number of pages per issue (175) has helped relieve the JOA backlog. The print run also has been increased. There has been an editorial change (Søren Toft replaces Maggie Hodge). Review articles will now be accepted for publication in JOA. The AAS will be publishing the ISA Congress Proceedings. The deadline for manuscripts is January 2005 and all standard JOA manuscript rules are in force.
- President-Elect Beth Jakob reported on future meeting sites. The 2005 annual meeting will be hosted by Maggie Hodge and Sam Marshall in Hiram, Ohio. Nancy Crider will host the 2006 meetings at the College of Notre Dame in Baltimore, Maryland. Jakob appealed to folks to consider hosting the 2007 or 2008 (or later) meetings.
- Secretary Alan Cady reported on the 2004 AAS election. Deborah Smith was elected as the newest Director, and Cady remains as Secretary. President Miller recognized Cady's efforts as Secretary, and those present acknowledged with applause.
- President Miller recognized the continued and enormous efforts of Paula Cushing and her team working on the Spider Genera of North America revision. The Membership concurred with hearty applause. Miller also recognized the Marketing Committee for the Revision, which has, and will continue to do, much work to promote and distribute the Revision.
- President Miller mentioned some of Past-President Brent Opell's legacy. Opell was instrumental in:
 - Restricting JOA access to members until a year after publication
 - Restricting AAS Research Awards to members
 - Using PayPal for dues and meeting registration

Old Business and Announcements

- President Miller outlined proposed amendments and changes to the AAS Constitution and By-Laws. He reviewed the protocols for amending these documents, stating debate occurs in the Executive Committee, not the Membership. Members vote up-or-down on the proposed amendments. Proposed amendments must come before the Membership at least 2 months before voting. A 2/3 majority of votes received is necessary to approve a change. The Business Meeting, June, 2004, served as notice of these proposed amendments. There are six amendments before the Membership:
 1. The Webmaster becomes an official member of the Executive Committee (non-elected, voting).
 2. The Parliamentarian becomes an official member of the Executive Committee (non-elected, non-voting).
 3. Removal of "Honorary" Membership classification.
 4. Change the word "mail" throughout the Documents to "standard post or electronic mail".
 5. Remove requirement of publishing complete membership listing in Newsletter every 5 years.
 6. Change wording to reflect current constitution of the Nominating Committee.
- The Constitution & By-Laws are currently on the AAS website. Another version will be posted explicitly showing the proposed amendments.
- Miller wanted to make it very clear that if the honorary member classification is dropped, that does not preclude anyone from honoring any member they wish.
- President Miller recognized Secretary Cady for the work on the Constitution & By-Laws. Those present indicated their approval by applause.
 - Miller stated that the Executive Committee decided to appoint a graduate student member to the Executive Committee. He asked for feedback on this issue. This move could help build membership.

New Business

- A resolution was brought forward by Sam Marshall to President Miller to recognize Oklahoma University, Doug Gaffin, and his team for a "great meeting". This was met with loud applause. Miller stated this resolution would be forwarded to the OU President and the Dean of Doug Gaffin's division.
- Deborah Smith, Chair of the AAS Student Research Committee, stated the "members only" stipulation for eligibility to submit proposals makes it tough for some foreign individuals. Rich Bradley suggested that perhaps AAS Members could contribute each year to a fund to help the less-advantaged arachnologists.
- Jon Coddington stated that the AAS should have a "splash" at the European Congress at Ghent. He suggested the AAS should advertise more, especially relative to the Revision.

- Paula Cushing stated she is organizing a plan to get the AAS in the forefront at Ghent to promote the Revision.
- A motion to adjourn was forwarded by Bea Vogel. It was expeditiously seconded by the AAS Parliamentarian H. Don Cameron.
- The Business Meeting was adjourned at 16:03 cdst

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Cady
Secretary - AAS