

Minutes from Acarological Society of America general business meeting- 17 November 2019

4:45 pm - Business meeting called to order by President Sam Bolton

Memorial and moment of silence for deceased acarologists:

- Ekaterina Sidorchuk 1981-2019
- Daniel Pence 1943-2019
- Donald Macfarlane 1930-2019

Proposed symposia for ESA 2020 in Orlando (organizers):

- Current Advances in Acarology: Monica Farfan and Lorena Lopez
- Women-organized, women-presenting symposium: Monica Farfan, Emilie Demard, Emily Durkin
- Tick symposium: Beto Pérez de León and Shahid Karim

Nominating committee for officer and Board positions:

Wayne Knee, Fred Beaulieu, Hans Klompen

Election for President-elect for 2020

Candidates:

H. Joel Hutcheson – 5 votes

Lorena Lopez – 19 votes

Election for Two Board Member positions:

Candidates:

Ray Fisher – 18 votes

Shahid Karim – 9 votes

Paula Lado - 12 votes

David Nielsen - 6 votes

Voting Scheme

A vote to change the annual candidate selection process and voting should proceed.

- The general membership approved by majority for a scheme in which a request for nominees would be made a month ahead of the ASA annual meeting.
- Candidates can nominate themselves by email to the Board, or in person at the business meeting.
- The voting will take place online after the business meeting. Voting will be open for one month.
- This will be implemented in 2020.

Student Awards – Congratulations!

Abstract Awards:

Kelsey Cline – University of Arkansas, Austin Fife - University of Florida, Emilie Demard – University of Florida

Outstanding Student Presentations:

First Place: Emilie Demard – University of Florida

Second Place: Paul Bergeron – Washington University

Code of Conduct:

Following the implementation of a Code of Conduct by many other professional societies, Monica Farfan and a committee of members will form a code of conduct for the ASA based on the Entomological Society of America's Code of Conduct. This will include expectations of how ASA members and officers will comport themselves both in-person and electronically.

This will be presented to the board and members prior to formal introduction into the official ASA guidelines.

Changes to the ASA Constitution for Online Voting

With the vote to proceed with online voting next year, there will be changes made to the Constitution to make this possible and part of our election process. Sam Bolton will take responsibility for making these changes.

A vote involving the entire membership to approve these changes will occur before 1 January 2020.

Initiatives to Increase Membership:

Potential impediments to potential members joining the ASA

- Not knowing about ASA - visibility
- Thinking ASA is a society for systematists

Monica Farfan will form a small committee of members to design and print a shirt and/or other merchandise for sale. Students are encouraged to participate in this.

A survey will be initiated and sent out electronically to ASA members regarding their experiences with the Society, their perceptions of the Society, and their perceptions of what non-members think of the Society. These opinions will be used to formulate an approach to increase our visibility and approach new potential members.

Respectfully submitted,
Monica Farfan

Cc: Kaitlin Campbell and Samuel Bolton