

NCWSS Report to WSSA BOD

Maui, Hawaii

February 29, 2020

- 1) **Financial** - The NCWSS has run a deficit each year. In 5 years, there has been a net loss of \$10K or about \$2K per year. The significant changes are the increased cost of the Director of Science Policy, supporting the national weed contest and a reduction in sustaining membership dollars which is the second primary source of income of the NCWSS. It seems like smaller companies are not willing to pledge and pay, not necessarily an issue with the larger companies.
- 2) **APEX System / New database**
 - a. How do we help the few graduate students that don't seem to meet deadlines and get their paper/poster entered in the contest? The APEX system has not fixed this challenge. There was a cost to each regional society and we should see an improvement.
 - b. Kelly Mazur has asked the NCWSS BOD to consider moving to a newer membership database system, maybe across several of our societies. This might help us move data into the APEX system. The WSSA currently uses member clicks. Kelly would propose other database options unless the NCWSS BOD wants to be on the same site as WSSA. We would have more control over the data and then we would give APEX the data for abstracts instead of APEX pulling from our database.
- 3) **Early publishing of abstracts** - Unofficial proceedings of the December 2019 annual meeting were published so that abstracts were available earlier than normal. This helped the contest judges as well as regular attenders. When official proceedings are prepared, they will be uploaded (after the first of the year) and the unofficial proceedings will come down.
- 4) **Open positions**
 - a. **Communications Director** – a position description is being created that will manage social media accounts, solicit symposium ideas, be a news advisor and chair a working group that will submit content for the newsletter to Kelly Mazur.
 - b. **Secretary / Treasurer** - David Simpson will be stepping down as Secretary / Treasurer and the NCWSS will need to fill this role.
 - c. Expecting a vote on a single ballot for both positions this Spring
- 5) **Weed Science career brochure project** – The NCWSS membership brochure needs to be updated. Do we want a universal career brochure for all Weed Science Societies or a separate one for each society? It would be good to update the brochure with new recognized people in Weed Science and could be used for recruiting at career days, etc. This may be an opportunity to propose a project funded through the WSSA.

- 6) Industry Symposium** – During the 2019 annual meeting a symposium entitled “NCWSS relevance to industry” was held that included results from a survey of industry. Several ideas emerged including highlighting volunteer opportunities, creating a template for industry members to report learnings to managers and creating a document that describes the development opportunities and value of serving the society. There is planned follow up on several items and recommendation will be provided to the NCWSS BOD.
- 7) December meeting report** - 247 regular attenders, 17 fellows, 110 students for a total of 374 total people (52 registered for invasive plant group). Meeting App analytics show 356 invited individuals and 246 used it (very good participation).
- 8) Future meeting sites / dates** – The annual meeting in December 2020 in Minneapolis, MN marks the 75th Anniversary of the NCWSS! The plan is to send out a press release for 75th anniversary and there likely will be other commemorations planned. The site selection committee has chosen St. Louis, MO as the location for the December 2022 annual meeting.