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Period in Office: Feb 1994 to Feb 1995

Significant challenges for WSSA during this period:

The greatest challenge for WSSA during 1994-95 was to develop plans and programs to increase the Society's and Weed Science's influence on policy making and legislation in Washington, D.C. There was a major push by the Clinton Administration during this period to reduce pesticide use and risk to the environment. The public is becoming more removed from agriculture and food production each year and are less responsive to the needs of agriculture. Membership in WSSA continued declining as it has for a number of years. The consolidation of agricultural chemical companies and the reduction in the number of ARS-USDA weed scientists are contributing to the declining membership. The position of National Program Leader at ARS-USDA has been vacant for some time and is partially responsible for the decline in the number of ARS weed scientists. Travel to WSSA meetings and the cost of holding the meeting are increasing significantly, thus increasing registration costs. These are major factors in declining attendance at the meeting. Although WSSA is financially sound at this time, there is a growing sense that with declining membership and increasing need to expand our influence in Washington, D.C., there will be a need for greater financial resources in the near future. The President's Reception at the beginning of the annual meeting has become very expensive and the Society has always found an industry company to pay for this event. If this event is important to WSSA, it needs to find a way to pay for the event.

Directions and Initiatives of WSSA during this period:

To expand WSSA's and weed science's influence in Washington, D.C., the Society took the following actions: Joined with the Regional Weed Science societies and the American Society of Agronomy in hiring a fulltime Congressional Liaison that would be in Washington, D.C., provide funding to the National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy, continued to sponsor two Congressional Fellows, supported several new CAST publications that were distributed to members of Congress and government agencies and sent a delegation of weed scientists to Washington, D.C. in May 1994 to meet with heads of government agencies and congressional staffers. Closer cooperation with the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Society was explored. One action taken by WSSA was to sponsor a symposium 'Alternative Approaches to Weed Management' the 1994 ASA meeting. WSSA also established a Pesticide Use/Risk Reduction Response Team so the Society can responded more rapidly to current issues related to legislation and government programs aimed at reducing pesticide use. In 1995, WSSA adopted a new Strategic Plan that will provide clearer directions for the Society in the years to come.

Besides having members of the WSSA delegation visit with leaders of ARS-USDA about filling the National Program Leader position for Weed Science, the Society approved and sent to ARS-

USDA a resolution strongly urging the agency to fill the NPL position for Weed Science as soon as possible with a highly qualified weed scientist.

To meet the need for greater public awareness of agriculture and the impacts of weeds on society and the environment, the Society sponsored the following two videos: 'Video—A Kids Journey to Understanding Weeds', and 'Impact of Weeds'.

To reduce the costs of the annual meeting, WSSA approved a plan beginning in 1998, to move the days of the annual meeting from Tuesday-Thursday to Monday-Wednesday. By making this change, the Society can get cheaper meeting room fees, and this move is a benefit to members as they can get cheaper air fares by traveling on Sundays and Thursdays rather than Mondays and Fridays. The Society also developed a new policy governing our investments to allow the Executive Manager and the Treasurer to move some of the financial resources from bonds into treasury bills, treasurer notes and certificate of deposits that have the possibility of greater returns for the Society.

The WSSA Board of Directors decided to do away with the President's Reception on Monday evening that was sponsored by one of the ag-chemical companies and instead to have WSSA sponsored luncheon for members of the Local Arrangements and Program Committees.

For several years, a number of members have complained that WSSA's logo does not reflect the current thinking and programs of WSSA and Weed Science. In February 1995, the WSSA Board of Directors approved a new logo.