

2008 WSSA Committee Report to Members Summary for 2008 and Action Plan for 2009

Committee Code and Name: P23 Website Committee

Committee Chair: Ed Luschei

Board Coordinator: Clarence Swanton?

Committee Members Rotating Off: E. Spandl, R.A. Campbell

Appropriate Replacements: (NC) Greta Gramig from NDSU, (Canada) Christian Willenborg

2008 Summary of Activities

What were the committee's goals for 2008?

The goals for 2008 were modest – essentially just maintaining and handling/posting new news and the society, meetings, grants, weeds in general.

List the committee's accomplishments in 2008:

What information was posted on the WSSA website?

Funding opportunities, Press releases, Meeting info, Committee Reports, Meeting minutes, Abstracts from prior year's meeting.

How much funds were requested? How much was spent?

No money was spent to my knowledge beyond the pay for the technical web manager, David Krueger and costs related to the hosting company. We had requested \$5,000 in flexible funds to be spent to hire hourly labor that might be associated with data entry; however, that money was not needed. There may have been costs associated with the end of the contract with the web content editor -- a position discontinued after a reevaluation of web-support resource allocation.

What was the impact of the committee activities/accomplishments on the following: membership, publication, policy, legislation, and/or education?

The primary function of the website was, certainly, society information (e.g. annual meeting information) both for members and non-members. The public relations committee's tireless and laudable efforts were posted to the site. The added abstract search features appear useful to many, as is the Bayer-code, weed name lookup database. Detailed usage information will be made available in the report delivered directly to the board.

What is the current state of the committee's projects and activities?

In 2007, Rob Gallagher and a student entered XID report information, created through an joint Education-XID committee activity, into a WSSA maintain wiki system (mediawiki – the same software used for Wikipedia) codenamed: weedipedia. I was unable to find a volunteer to 'take charge' of wiki system project and, after suffering defacement by spammers, we "inactivated" the software. Late last year we reactivated it and changed some settings to avoid the spammer problems from re-occurring. I (EL) will provide supplemental information at the BOD meeting related to how the society might use the system to further its mission. I would ask that \$5,000 be held for possible content-related development/support for any website-related efforts that might require substantial time doing a routine task (e.g. data entry).

2009 Plan for Committee Activities

Goals for 2009:

Continued maintenance, expanding the abstract archive system, transitioning the activities on some committees (e.g. award) to an online process. At the meeting of committee chairs at the prior annual meeting, it was clear that many other committees had ideas or plans connected to the website. We therefore feel it is important to remain flexible to ongoing suggestions. We plan to continue the evolution of the “weedipedia” project and we may have recruited someone willing to serve as a “lead” on the project.

Plan of Action:

What is needed to further the goals of the committee/project?

Recommendations for Board/Society Action:

Funds requested for 2009:

\$5000 in flexible funds to support content management.

Other requests for the Board:

I would suggest that steps be taken to ensure the retention of the technical web manager.