

Report of the ASPT Secretary

July 2008

Mailings: The Fall Mailing was sent to the business office in early October 2007 and was mailed shortly thereafter. It consisted of 11 items with 16 pages, including letters from the President and Secretary, minutes of the August 2007 ASPT business meeting, a listing of officers and committees for 2007-2008, a financial statement, call for nominations, and flyers about Systematic Botany Monographs.

The Winter Mailing was sent to the business office in February 2007 and mailed in late February. The mailing consisted of 14 items with 17 pages, including a letter from the Secretary, a call for papers for the Botany 2007 meeting in Vancouver, BC, and short biographical sketches of candidates for President-elect and Council Members-at-large along with a ballot and directors for voting online (see below). Additional items in the mailing were Cooley Award guidelines, Graduate Student Research Award Guidelines, calls for nominations for the Asa Gray Award and the Peter Raven Award, calls for symposia and colloquia, and flyers about Systematic Botany Monographs.

Elections: For the first time, ASPT held online elections for officers in 2008. Members were allowed to vote via mail if they preferred. Eric Roalson oversaw the online voting. Member SRNs were used to access the online ballot. If voting by mail, members were required to write their SRN on the ballot so that ballot irregularities could be monitored. 515 ballots were cast (467 online and 48 by mail). There were 1357 eligible voters, which means that 38% of eligible voters voted in the election, which is a remarkable increase in voting.

Warren Wagner was elected President-elect and Carolyn Ferguson and Ken Cameron were elected to the Council.

Potential issues for council: A number of potential by-laws changes will be briefly discussed at the Council meeting in Vancouver. In addition, Council should consider whether online voting will be the sole form of voting in the future, and if not, should ASPT continue to provide a mailing envelop for the printed ballot.

Respectfully submitted by Alan Prather, ASPT Secretary