

Report of the ASPT Secretary

July 2009

Elections: For the second time, ASPT held online elections for officers in 2009. 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.

Dick Olmstead was elected President-Elect
Chelsea Specht and Allison Miller were elected Council Members-At-Large

This year 495 votes were cast online and 20 by mail, for a total of 515 votes out of 1422 eligible voters, or 36.2%.

Last year 467 votes were cast online and 48 by mail, for a total of 515 votes out of 1357 eligible voters, or 38%.

Voting rates are similar to, but slightly lower than, last year. However, rates remain considerably higher than before online voting became an option. There were more eligible voting members this year, but with the same number of voters, the result was a slightly smaller percentage voting than last year. However, this year there were more online voters and fewer mail voters.

Mailings: The Fall Mailing was sent to the business office in mid-Nov 2008 and was mailed shortly thereafter. It consisted of 10 items with 14 pages, including letters from the President and Secretary, a list of officers and committees for 2008-2009, a financial statement from the ASPT Treasurer, minutes of the 2008 ASPT business meeting, call for nominations and the service roster, calls for nominees for the Raven and Gray awards, and flyers for Systematic Botany Monographs.

The Winter Mailing was sent to the business office in the first week of March 2009 and mailed about one week later. The mailing consisted of eight items with 12 pages, including a letter from the Secretary, instructions for online voting for the 2009 election, short biographical sketches of candidates for President-elect and Council Members-at-large, a ballot for those wishing to vote by mail, a call for papers for the Botany 2009 meeting in Snowbird, UT, a call for nominations for the Peter Raven Award, calls for symposia and colloquia, and flyers for Systematic Botany Monographs.

Summary of Council votes by email since the last Council Meeting:

September 2008: Council voted (nine affirmative votes, none dissenting) that ASPT should charge authors \$280.00 per figure (a figure can be composed of more than one image) for the color figures in Systematic Botany until the cost changes significantly.

December 2008: Council approved a six-year renewal contract with Ingenta (Publishing Technology Inc.), with annual increases limited to the Consumer Price Index, with a 6% cap.

December 2008: Council developed an anti-discrimination policy, as needed for our application for D&O and EPL insurance (see next item).

February 2009: Council voted (nine affirmative votes, none dissenting) that ASPT go forward with purchasing liability insurance policies with Chubb (Directors & Officers + Employment Practices Liability) and Hartford (bodily injury & property damage + bond), and canceling (replacing) the bond insurance that previously was in place.

March 2009: Council voted (nine affirmative, none dissenting) to authorize that ASPT be a co-signer of a letter from the National Center for Science Education to the Texas State Board of Education to support accurate science education for all students by adopting the science standards (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills or TEKS).

April 2009: Council voted (eight affirmative, one abstention) to approve the recommendation of the Awards and Honors Committee that Alan Graham be awarded the 2009 Asa Gray Award.

April 2009: Council voted (eight affirmative, one abstention) to announce the Gray and Raven awardees prior to the council meeting.

May 2009: Council voted unanimously (nine affirmative, none dissenting) to approve the recommendation of the Awards and Honors Committee that Sandra Knapp be awarded the 2009 Peter Raven Award.

June 2009: Council voted unanimously (nine affirmative, none dissenting) to approve the policy document (covering conflicts-of-interest, whistle blowers, document retention, joint ventures, gift acceptance, grant monitoring, and payments and reimbursements) to be included with the Form 990 tax return for 2008.

June 2009: Council voted (nine affirmative, none dissenting) to approve the 2010 Electronic Licensing Agreement BioOne.

June 2009: Council voted (seven affirmative, two abstentions) to approve a letter to the Louisiana State Board of Primary and Secondary Education to urge revision of policies and language in the Louisiana Science Education Act (Act 473) pertaining to teaching creationism in Louisiana classrooms.

July 2009: Council voted (nine affirmative, none dissenting) to present Ken Robertson with a Distinguished Service Award for his 12 years of service as editor of the ASPT Newsletter. A second unanimous vote was taken simultaneously to present Ken with a plaque and a floral print.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Prather