Certification Board – Entomological Society of America

Meeting Minutes, November 16, 2002

Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Notes from the BCE Board Meeting recorded by Don Allemann:

The BCE Board Meeting was called to order by Director Mike Merchant at 8:30 am. Board members were introduced and an address list handed out for corrections.

In attendance:
Mike Merchant, Director:
Paul Heller, Director Elect 2004:
Shripat Kamble (part time) Gov. Board Liaison:
Bill Wymer, Eastern Branch:
Jeff Weier, Pacific Branch:
Bob Davis, Southwestern Branch:
Gerald Wegner, North Central Branch:
Don Allemann, Southeastern Branch: and
Chris Stelzig, ESA Office Liaison.

Don Allemann was recognized by the group as this year's recipient of the BCE Recognition Award.

A motion was approved to approve the minutes of the last Board meeting in San Diego, CA 2001.

New Board members for 2003 include: Phil Sloderbeck, 2003 Director and Von Kaster, Rep. for the North Central Branch.

Mike Merchant and Chris Stelzig spent time reviewing the effects of ESA "Motion 5" (outsourcing) on the BCE program. With the significant changes in ESA structure the day-to-day functions of the BCE program will be handled by Drohan Management Group (DMG) with oversight provided by Chris. DMG is located near the ESA office which permits Chris opportunity to visit frequently. There will likely be a few rough spots along the way of transition but every indication points to a good working relationship as the computer interface is good.

Following discussion a motion was passed to do away with the BCE numbering system in favor of the ESA membership number. The motion requested a link to BCE designation in the ESA member data file. Example: if we want to make a mailing to BCE's, is it possible to retrieve easily from the ESA data file?
The ESA Gov. Board is providing good support to the BCE program. It is projected to produce $40,000 in income for this year with expenses of $31,000. Implementation of the ACE program has a budget request of $8800, which still allows BCE to achieve a status of "self supporting". Financial projections for 2003 are equally positive.

The ESA Gov. Board has approved a request for BCE to award $500 plus a certificate to future BCE Recognition Award winners rather than the present certificate only.

There are plans to conduct a BCE Membership survey to help access benefits, problems, and willingness to serve on BCE committees. We need feedback from BCE members on the value and any issues with BCE membership. We presently have 436 BCE's on the active list.

The theme for the Informal BCE Conference for the 2002 ESA meeting is Digital Photography. There no longer is a separate charge for attending the BCE Conference. Suggestions for future years include; Insect Taxonomy for non-taxonomists: Biological Control on a Practical Level in the Urban Environment: and Insect Rearing. Volunteers are needed to organize future Conferences.

Growing BCE: A discussion on ways to increase BCE membership resulted in the following specifics:

More work at the Branch meetings. Branch Reps are responsible for coordination.

Promote BCE at Service Industry meetings. PCO, Mosquito Control and Forensic Ent.

Promote harder to applied entomologists.

Work with student Affairs to increase awareness and promote BCE student awards.

Have an e-mail sent to all Ent, Dept. chairs to increase awareness in all Depts. Also make faculty aware of BCE Intern Status for students. Heller

Place info on BCE in the Phi Chi Omega newsletter.

Promote to the Food Handling industry. contact Forrest St. Aubin and Al St. Cur. Allemann

Wymer to contact register.pro.com for a link to BCE.

Wymer to coordinate a promo-board to be available at Branch Meetings.

ACE program update:

Present goal is to have the ACE program up and running by the first quarter of 2003. Many details to be finalized yet, including a pre-release test of the exam by a group of service technicians.

ACE program may require a change in ESA Bylaws. Gov. Board is reviewing now.

A draft of the exam for ACE membership is available for review. It may eventually be available on the internet with a password and proctor assigned.
The fee structure is not quite finalized but it will likely be in the range of $200-$250 to get in and $50-$75 annual membership. We expect an initial membership of 50+ people with growth to follow as value is recognized. ACE membership will not require ESA membership. Merchant will finalize the program with the committee.

The BCE Operations Manual can be downloaded from the ESA website. But a hard copy with current information will be sent to all Board members. The exercise to streamline BCE committees is about complete and committees fully staffed.

A motion was passed to send out a copy of the BCE Code of Ethics with all membership application forms.

Following discussion it was concluded that future candidates for Director Elect should be selected from the existing BCE Board to be sure the candidate has Board experience.

Motion approved to adjourn the Board meeting at 3:37 pm.