



**WSWS Officer and Committee Report
2019 Annual Meeting – Denver, CO**

Office or Committee Name: President's Report

Officer or Chairperson Name: Andrew Kniss

Date of Preparation (include year): March 8, 2019

Activities during the year:

Conducted a brief post-meeting Board of Directors meeting after the 2018 annual meeting in Anaheim, and presided over the summer Board meeting in Denver.

Most committees are fully staffed with new appointments, but there is still some trouble filling some of the larger committees, especially the public relations and the legislative committees.

Several Science Policy Committee meetings were held, and I was able to attend most of them throughout the year. Dicamba continues to be a hot-topic in the Midwest and Southern states, and is a fairly constant source of policy discussion.

Last fall, I attended the SACNAS meeting in San Antonio with student member Elizabeth Mosqueda. We made contact with over 200 students while sitting at the exhibitor booth, many of whom were interested in plants but who didn't really know much about weed science or the potential graduate school and career opportunities within our discipline. I think the WSWS and the WSSA should consider additional outreach opportunities like this to help our membership recruit the best possible students who may currently be unaware of our discipline.

Periodically throughout the year, I attempted (unsuccessfully) to recruit a chair for the new ad hoc Diversity and Inclusion committee. I hope that this will finally be up and running soon.

I was in regular contact with Site Selection Committee chair Pete Forster as he worked on 2021 options for the annual meeting. This was somewhat of a challenge, but I think there will be options for the 2021 meeting.

I notified the applicants for the Elena Sanchez Memorial student travel awards of the committee decisions. I also called each of the members who ran for WSWS offices and informed them of the election results. The newly elected members were invited to attend the Board of Directors

meetings. I communicated with Fellows and Honorary Members committee chair Joan Campbell to ensure that the newly selected Fellows had been notified and will plan to attend the meeting in Denver.

Communicated with Gary Leeper and Eric Gustafson with IMI about another transition in our Business Manager position. I am please with Eric's responsiveness in the short period he has been in this position, and I look forward to continue working with him as our new Business Manager.

Met with WSSA 2020 Program Chair Bill Curran, Eric Gustafson, and James Leary at the WSSA meeting in New Orleans and discussed some preliminary planning information about the joint WSWS/WSSA meeting in Hawaii. Several options for pre-meeting tours were discussed and several local contacts were identified. This information will be passed along to the newly elected WSWS Program Chair Corey Ransom.

Also at the WSSA meeting, I attended the regional board & presidents breakfast, and several items related to the WSWS were discussed, including digitizing regional and national weed science society proceedings in a more uniform, searchable format, 'weed bingo' as a potential educational game, the national student weed contest to be held in 2019 in Iowa, among others.

Recommendations for Board Action:

Budget Needs:

Name of Person Preparing This Report: Andrew Kniss