



## 2020 Annual Meeting – Maui, HI

**Office or Committee Name:** President-elect/Program Chair

**Officer or Chairperson Name:** Corey Ransom

**Date of Preparation (include year):** February 28, 2020

### Activities during the year:

Julie Kraft accepted the invitation to serve as Member-at-Large, Public Sector and will bring great insights into increasing involvement of practitioners in the WSWS annual meetings.

The call for symposia went out in the spring and five symposia selected for the annual meeting as described in the summer report. A symposia that was not selected will be presented as a Workshop at the end of the program on Thursday. The call for papers was delayed as the new Abstract Submission site was being completed, resulting in a compressed submission time-frame. The new submission site seemed to work well, but a large amount of time was spent trying to clean up and edit submissions (authors, affiliations, title formatting, etc.). Hopefully, more constraints can be built into the submission site to eliminate some of the options to submitters. Another issue is that some attendees submitted numerous papers. According to our operating guide, a member is only allowed to personally present 1 oral and 1 poster paper at the annual meeting, except if they are a symposia speaker (then they can give 3 total). In excessive cases, some presenters were contacted and asked to withdraw some of the submitted papers in order to fit all presentation into the program (they often were still allowed more than 2).

Working with the Program Chair of WSSA was excellent, with any issues related to my own inexperience. The combined meeting with WSSA in both the meeting and in the program presented several obstacles, many of which were resolved. A key issue was my lack of engaging the assistance of the WSWS Program committee. I will include recommendations below.

The program has shaped up nicely and hopefully will be positive for all attendees. A few highlights are included. There are over 600 presentations at the meeting, including oral and posters as well as the 3MT contest presentations. It appears that 19 WSWS students are participating in the Poster Contest (22 in 2019) and 36 in the Oral Paper Competition (23 in 2019). This is positive given the high cost associated with the meeting location. I was unable to

determine undergraduate presenters as well as graduate students giving presentations not in any contest. I have also been unable to determine the number of WSWs students competing in the 3MT competition. A few presenters had to withdraw papers due to travel restrictions (Coronavirus) or excessive hotel rates (probably waited too long).

Major changes to the format of the meeting include, presentation of awards during the General Session and in place of an Awards Luncheon, presentation of student contest winners on Wednesday night prior to Student Night Out, and likely presentation of retirees at the business meeting on Thursday. Additionally, while discussion sections were included in the program, they were shortened to 45 minutes, are at the end of the day, and I did not get discussion titles into the program. I will try to remind members to attend those sessions at the General Session.

As to committees, the past chair of the Necrology Committee will give the report at the business meeting, I think due to some confusion last year. Earl Creech, the chair this year is willing to remain in that role next year if the board approves, which would negate the need to appointment another member to the committee for next year.

**Recommendations for Board Action:**

Review the policy on number of presentations allowed and then recommend changes to the submission site to limit the number of submissions by a single presenter.

Also, potentially discuss and draft some recommendations and guidelines for if and when we combine with other societies to help navigate some of the inherent challenges of a joint meeting. This can include clarity on which groups will lead which efforts and how committees of both organizations will interact.

**Budget Needs:** None.

**Name of Person Preparing This Report:** Corey Ransom