



## **WSWS Officer and Committee Report Annual Board Meeting – March 9, 2015**

**Office or Committee Name:** Program

**Officer or Chairperson Name:** Joe Yenish

**Date of Preparation (include year):** March 5, 2015

### **Committee Activities during the Year:**

The 2015 annual meeting program was developed with 54 poster and 86 oral papers, for a total of 140. Six of these papers will be presented in the general session and five will be presented in the diagnostics symposium. However, since finalizing the program, 2 posters and 3 oral papers have been withdrawn. Reasons provided for withdraw included illness, schedule conflicts, and computer equipment problems (crash). A total of 19 oral papers and 19 posters have been entered in the student contests. One undergraduate student poster was entered which is included in the overall poster count. Prior to the cancelations, we were up two papers from the 2014 meeting in Colorado Springs. However, following the paper withdraws, we are down 3 papers from the previous meeting. While this is not as great a year over year reduction as was observed from 2013 to 2014, it was still a net decline. Hopefully, the numbers of papers withdraw are simply an aberration and not a long-term trend. In addition to the papers withdrawn, there were two papers I cancelled at the request of the author prior to finalizing the program.

Kirk Howatt, Education & Regulatory Section Chairperson, organized a session for Wednesday morning Pesticide Information Centers in Oregon and elsewhere in the western U.S. Additionally, Kirk and Joe worked with Bill Cobb to organize a symposium on plant diagnostics. In a change from normal scheduling, the symposium is scheduled on Monday afternoon prior to the WSWS meeting in hopes of drawing interested local attendees who may then wish to register for the full meeting.

The general session will include the Presidential Address by Drew Lyon, the WSSA Director of Science Report by Lee Van Wychen, a report on the WSSA Liaison to the EPA by Michael Barrett, a presentation of on the development of the PNW wine industry by Joan Davenport of WSU, and finishing with a presentation on drone technology by Bret Chilcott of AgEagle. I was not aware of any major problems with the WSSA online submission process, with the exception of some late paper entries..

**Recommendations for Board Action:** None

**Budget Needs:** None

### **Suggestions for the Future:**

Concerns over dual entries in the student contests draw attention to the issue of difficulty in accessing or interpreting the student paper contest rules. Additionally, the continued reduction in final paper numbers continues to be a concern. The suggestion is to consider recommendations devised by Brian Jenks and Phil, Banks.

**Current Committee Members:** Kirk Howatt (Ed & Reg Section Chair), Ed Davis (Research Section Chair), and Joe Yenish (Program Chair)

**Name of Person Preparing This Report:** Joe Yenish