

**MINUTES: AMERICAN ELASMOBRANCH SOCIETY**  
**GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING**  
**Reno, NV     DATE: 18 July 2015**

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Call to order 15:33

- I. Approval of minutes from 2015 General Business meeting (**Luer/Summers, APPROVED**)
- II. President's Report (Lowe)
  - A. Elasmol-L – AES has discontinued operation of the Elasmol-L listserv, since it was not maintainable by the Society and therefore a liability
  - B. No progress from the ad hoc Student Fund Committee on ways to build the endowments
  - C. Discussion about AES meeting with Sharks International – Brazil in 2018. Survey of AES members indicates that many would be in favor of this.
  - D. Formation of the ad hoc committee (Chris Lowe, Jen Wyffels, Cathy Walsh, David Shiffman, Lara Ferry, Jeff Carrier, Michelle Heupel, Dovi Kacev, Sonja Fordham, Ed Heist, Misty Paig-Tran) to address equity & diversity issues within the Society. AES plenary given by Jen Wyffels on the “changing face of AES” – how our demographics are changing, but we need to work to increase our diversity
  - E. STEM enhancement – Local meeting high school student meeting experience. Targeting underrepresented groups at local schools. Bring HS students/teachers or parents to the meeting for a day to learn about careers in STEM fields
  - F. Call to expand Code of Conduct with help from ad-hoc committee
- III. Treasurer's Report (**Hueter/Huber, APPROVED**)
  - A. Review general operating fund by category
  - B. Review of endowed funds
  - C. Review of 2016 AES Budget, approved during BOD meeting
- IV. Secretary's Report (Wyffels)
  - A. Membership as of 1 July, 2015:
    - AES has 353 paid members with 78.2% MGS, an increase of 4.3% from 2014
    - 94.6% completed online renewals, an increase of 25.6% from 2014
    - 31 (8.8%) are new members
- V. Editor's Report (Shiffman)
  - A. Elasmol-L shutdown with forums to take its place. Bulk of push-back came from non-members. Previous elasmol-L posts are archived at website. Forums are viewable by anyone but only members can post.
  - B. Facebook group has been made available to anyone with a professional interest in elasmobranch research, not just AES members (but not to non-scientist “enthusiasts”). Membership and dismissal criteria to be posted on the Facebook homepage.
  - C. New website implementation July 2014. Need membership to help generate content. Website links should not be member laboratories because that information is captured in the membership directory.
  - D. Continue to add Society History to website as it becomes available
- VI. JMIH Planning Committee Report (Heist)
  - A. Historical review of profit and loss from 2010-present with JMIH. Net profit of \$9605 over 4 meetings
  - B. 2016: NOLA July 6-10 with hotels 155/night inclusive
  - C. 2017: Austin, TX with hotels \$149 (\$171 inclusive)
  - D. 2018: Sharks International joint meeting João Pessoa, Brazil
- VII. SAC Report (Kolmann)
  - A. Membership  
2015 Members:

- Matt Kolmann – Chair
  - Cheston Peterson – Auction & Corporate Donations
  - Jonathan Davis– Calendar
  - Kady Lyons – Store
  - Kelley van Hees – T-shirts
  - Jo Imhoff – Workshop
  - Christine Bedore - Post-doc
  - Kelsey James- Webmaster
- B. Workshop  
2014: Integrative Biology: What it is and how it can benefit your research; panelists: Nick Wegner, Yannis Papastamatiou, Andy Nosal, Marianne Porter
- C. Calendar
- 2015: ordered 100, selling for ~ \$17.00
  - Submissions up from last year
- D. Website & Newsletter
- Newsletter to be reprised in 2016 electronically!
  - Good success of Survey Monkey and other methods in combination with Facebook to gauge t-shirt need
- E. Store
- Revamped much of the merchandise
  - Found more inexpensive substitutes for some items & new items
  - Rising cost of shipping coupled with distance from host institution/nearby members
- F. Auction
- 2014 = \$7454 (total)
  - Maui Brewing Company, Microwave Telemetry, Plano Molding, Save Our Seas, Wildlife Computers, Potenski
  - auctioneer: Steve Holman
- VIII. Nominating Committee Report (Jeremy Vaudo)
- 70.6 % participation in electronic vote!
  - Nominating Committee: Derek Burkholder, Shannon Corrigan, Melissa Giresi, Jo Imhoff, Yannis Papastamatiou
  - Grant Fund Committee: Aaron Carlise, Michelle Heupel
  - Board of Directors: Toby Daly-Engel, Nick Dulvy
  - President: Dean Grubbs
- IX. Grant Committee Report (Toby Daly-Engel)
- A. 12 applicants, 11 awarded
- B. 5 student applicants for research grants, 3 awarded
- C. 3 Symposium applications, Selected “Biology and Ecology of Sawfishes”  
Co-organizers R. Dean Grubbs and Gregg R. Poulakis
- X. Student Awards Committee (Luer)
- XI. Publication Committee Report (Holman)
- Our stock is as follows:
- Skate Symposium - 16 copies
  - Age and Growth Symposium - 19 copies
  - Castro - 22 copies
  - Carrier et al. #2 - 21 copies
- XII. Conservation Committee Report (Fordham)
- Resolutions presented to be finalized and included in 2015 election vote after website posting for a minimum of 72 hours

- A. Thorny skate
  - B. Smalltooth sawfish recovery
  - C. ICCAT
  - D. Dusky shark
- XIII. Shark Attack File Committee Report (Lowe on behalf of Burgess)
- 2014: 72 (3 fatalities, those in Australia 2 and South Africa)
  - 2015: U.S. total stands at 26 (on target for last year's total) with 12 in FL (where there's been no press attention), 7 in NC (where there's been a media feeding frenzy), 4 in SC, 2 in HI, 1 in TX. Six fatalities worldwide, one of those in U.S. (HI). About ten attacks outside U.S. so total on target for last year's 72
  - AES resolution about political correctness has resulted in sharks now calling all interactions "bites," press giggling and continuing to use "attacks," and ISAF personnel calling bites "bites" and attacks "attacks."
  - Based on best available scientific evidence we are not under siege by sharks, although Shark Week may cause some sharks to change their minds.
- XIV. Other Business
- A. Membership Process and Categories (Jen Wyffels)
    - Restructure and Simplify existing 10 Membership categories down to 6 -
    - Musick/Ferry, APPROVED**
    - Full or Regular Member (\$50)
    - Student- university level (\$25)
    - Emeritus or Senior Member (\$25)
    - Benefactor- professional associations and businesses (\$250)
    - Lifetime- professional members (\$1000)
    - Friend- open to the public and carries no privileges within society business (\$10)
  - B. Eugenie Clark Award Announcement
    - \$2500 achievement award funded by Save Our Seas and Mote Marine Laboratory
  - C. Young Professional Recruitment Fund (YPRF) Announcement
    - 1 year membership targeting under-represented groups as a diversity mechanism
  - D. High School Student Mentoring Program

Motion to Adjourn – **Gonzales-Jurado/Musick, APPROVED, 16:56.**