

Pi Chi Omega Board Meeting – January 5, 2009

Eric Smith
Gerry Wegner
Mark Sheperdigian

Cisse Spragins
Mike Goldstein
Jim Sargent

Kim Kelley-Tunis
Vern Toblan

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 by Gerry Wegner.

The minutes of the October 22, 2008 board meeting, to include the supplemental minutes for the meeting of December 8, 2008 were reviewed and accepted with corrections. A motion was made by Jim Sargent and Cisse Spragins and seconded by Eric Smith. The minutes were accepted unanimously.

Committee Reports

Scholarship

Dan Moreland provided a report indicating the progress of the letter writing campaign. Dan stated that he will be writing an opinion piece in his publication in support of the letter writing campaign. The first letters, approximately 98, to past scholarship recipients were sent out prior to the holidays. These letters were sent out by David Fincannon. To date, no replies have been received regarding these letters.

Scholarship submission letters are being sent out to the universities later this month. There are approximately 50 letters being sent to universities throughout the United States. An announcement will be made in the newsletter once the letters have been sent so that interested parties that may not have received the announcement will have time to request an application. There will be four scholarships provided again in 2009. In the past the organization has received approximately 12 – 15 applications per year.

A motion was made by Eric Smith and seconded by Jim Sargent, to reduce the number of scholarships to three, while increasing the value of the scholarship to \$2000.00. The motion was accepted unanimously.

The silent auction for this year has grown considerably with several books and magazines donated by both Gerry Wegner and Tom Myers. All proceeds from the auction will benefit the scholarship program.

Web Page

The Pi Chi web site will be nonfunctional in a very short time. JT Eaton has volunteered to provide the organization with a functional web site. A motion was made by Cisse Spragins and seconded by Kim Kelley-Tunis, to accept JT Eaton as our new host for the Pi Chi Omega website. The JT Eaton contact will be Dale Baker. Gerry appointed Dan Morland, Cisse Spragins and Vern Toblan to work with Dale to get the new website up and running as quickly as possible. The organization is looking for a transition within 30 days.

It was suggested that a section for dues payment be added to the website. This will allow a more expedited method for dues payment for both current and delinquent members.

Membership

There are four new members that have been approved for membership by the Membership Committee. Those members are as follows:

Active Member – Brian Eisenberg, MGK

Associate Member A – Steven Miller, Middleton Lawn and Pest

Associate Member B – James Rodriguez, J.T. Eaton

Student Member – Damisi Bailey, Virginia Tech

A motion was made by Eric Smith and seconded by Mike Goldstein, to accept the nominees for membership. The motion was passed unanimously.

To date, the Pi Chi Omega membership stands at 467 members.

There are still over 100 members that are not current on their dues. Those that are over three years past due will be receiving a letter from Vern indicating that their membership will be revoked if dues have not been received. The membership committee will be making phone calls to these delinquent members to verify that these members are still interested in maintaining their membership.

By-Laws

Eric Smith provided a copy of the Pi Chi Omega Mission Statement. While the original version was extremely well written, the new version will be updated to provide further clarification on how the organization has grown over the years.

A motion was made by Cisse Spragins and seconded by Jim Sargent, the motion was carried.

Eric has also worked on the wording for the by-laws addition that creates a new membership category, Emeritus. An Emeritus member is a member in good standing that has attained the age of 70 years and has 25 years of membership within the organization. This designation will be bestowed to the requesting member, once all of the states criteria have been met.

In addition, Eric Smith has also made changes regarding Directors within the organization. The new by-law states that all Directors that miss two consecutive board meetings, shall be replaced by the President, with a majority confirmation vote of the other current officers of the Fraternity present at a director's second missed board meeting. New Directors will then complete the term of the replaced Director.

A motion was made by Kim Kelley-Tunis and seconded Cisse Spragins, to accept the By-Laws revisions as amended. The motion was accepted.

Awards

Shep has created an awards committee. Shep suggested that David Finacannon receive the Good Deeds award based on his work to capture the stories of the early pest management pioneers. David has donated both his time and equipment to meet with many industry icons and digitally record their stories and memories of the pest management industry. An example of David's work was presented at last year's Purdue Pest Management Conference. That presentation featured John Osmun and was very well accepted by the conference attendees. This is a secret!!! The award will be presented at the Membership Meeting during NPMA.

Research Ideas

Jim has no report at this time.

Jim contacted Purdue to change the wording on the Research Ideas Questionnaire. Past questionnaires were confused with the Presentation Ideas Questionnaire and therefore the information presented was not relevant.

Jim will provide a new list of research ideas by the end of the month for inclusion in the e-newsletter. This list will be shared with the general membership and both publications.

Nominations Committee

There are no nominations at this time. During NPMA the following positions will be open for nominations:

- Director (two positions)
- President-Elect
- Secretary

Marketing

The Marketing Committee will be releasing an e-newsletter by mid-February. The posters were displayed at ESA seeking scholarship recipients and encouraging membership.

There was continued discussion on whether the organization should allow for sponsorship by manufacturers on the Pi Chi Omega web site. It was also suggested that there be links to the Pi Chi Omega web site from both manufacturer and member web sites and then back again.

Archival

The Organization will be going through the boxes of material that has been received from John Osmun as well as items that were recovered from Entomology Hall.

Other Business

Executive Director's Report

The next published newsletter will be a combination of information from NPMA and Purdue. The information will be sent to the publications very soon for printing.

Vern will be in the exhibits hall during the Purdue Conference.

Treasurer's Report

A written Interim Report will be provided at a later date.

Old Projects

50 – Year History

Eric Smith has 5 of 10 chapter introductions with commitments for another 4. He has also edited the book and is now working to keep consistency in the chapters written by various authors.

Members of the organization will be going through material that was received from John Osmun and will be using it for information for the 50-Year History book. Purdue has provided a room in the Union for this endeavor, room 213. This material will then be scanned and archived. Eric and Vern will look at the cost associated with archiving the various materials. Preliminary costs may include software, hardware and labor costs.

Video Archival – David Fincannon

The Board discussed way in which it could provide some additional financial support for this endeavor. There needs to be an agreement between Pi Chi and David for use of some of the materials that is sponsored by Pi Chi Omega.

New Business

New Projects

Based on a suggestion from Austin Frishman, members of the board collected information on Nothing but Nets, and other similar charitable organizations. Although, the Fraternity felt that the Soft Power Health organization was a better alternative for a service project than the Nothing but Nets. According to the research, this organization seems to be more accountable with the donated funds. However, due to the economic climate, it may be best to limit the amount of monies that are allocated by the Organization and place a greater emphasis on the Scholarship Fund.

A motion was made by Cisse Spragins and seconded by Eric Smith to place information on recommended charitable organizations on the web site. This would allow members to donate money to the organization of their choice and at their convenience. The motion was carried.

Gerry Wegner provided a copy of a White Paper that he has been working on regarding providing pest management service to low-income housing units. This paper was e-mailed to the Board of Directors for review. Gerry will continue to work on this project and will look for ways of publishing the information for the Organization.

Eric Smith provided suggestions on long-term financial planning for the Fraternity. His suggestions will be sent to all of the Board of Directors for review and later discussion.

Other

Things to consider for future meetings include funding for the publication of the 50-Year History Book.

The Membership meeting is scheduled for Tuesday evening at 5:30 – 7:00 in the West Faculty Lounge of the Purdue Union. The cost of this meeting is \$30.00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Kelley-Tunis