

Pi Chi Omega General Membership Meeting – January 6, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 by Gerry Wegner.

The minutes of the October, 2008 membership meeting were reviewed and accepted with corrections. A motion was made by Linden Griffith and seconded by Judy Dold .

Committee Reports

Scholarship

David Fincannon has begun a letter writing campaign in an effort to increase the donations for the scholarship. The first part of this campaign is geared toward the creation of endowments in the name of regionally known industry icons.

The Board of Directors voted to decrease the number of scholarships from 4 to 3, while increasing the value of the scholarships to \$2,000.00.

Steve Yaninek has volunteered to help Pi Chi Omega to distribute information regarding the scholarship to other Entomology Department Heads. Gerry will forward all of the information to Steve.

Web Page

The Pi Chi Omega web page is being transitioned away from the current provider. The host for the Pi Chi Omega website will be JT Eaton. JT Eaton, and Dale Baker, have volunteered their services to update the web page and increase the usability and member features. Dan Morland, Cisse Spragins and Bob Geltz will be working with the JT Eaton team to make this a quick and seamless transition.

Membership

The following people have been nominated for membership into the Fraternity.

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 to accept these nominations was made by Eric Smith and seconded by Berry Pannkuk. The motion was carried to accept the nominations.

By-Laws

The By-Laws have been amended to reflect a new membership category, “Member 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.

The proposed change to the "Aims and Purposes" was presented and renamed the "Pi Chi Omega Mission Statement". The new Mission Statement was presented to the General Membership.

A motion was made by Judy Dold and a second provided by Lizbe Knote. The motion was carried.

Awards

Shep Sheperdigian's awards committee recognized Copesan Services for their generous donations to the Pi Chi Omega Scholarship Fund. Copesan's contributions over the years have totaled \$33,000.00. In recognition for their contributions, Gerry Wegner has agreed to donate two bug clocks.

Research Ideas

A request was made to renew an interest in potential research ideas from the industry. There is a sheet in the Purdue manual soliciting ideas for research ideas.

Nominations Committee

There are no nominations to present at this time.

Marketing

Cisse Spragins has been working to send out an e-newsletter to send out updated information to the general membership. If you have not received a copy of these newsletter, please contact Cisse or Vern.

Posters promoting membership in Pi Chi Omega were displayed at the last Entomological Society of America.

Archival

Eric Smith is working on sorting through several archived documents and photos and incorporating them into the 50-Year history book.

Eric has received 10 introductions to chapters and is waiting for 4 outstanding chapters.

Other Business

Executive Director's Report

Vern Toblan expressed his dismay over the approximately 100 members that have not paid their dues. Many of those members are delinquent for more than two years. Those members will have their names published in the newsletter and those that are greater than three years in arrears are in danger of having their membership revoked.

Treasurer's Report

The financial health of the organization is strong. One CD was renewed for \$30,000 at 4.5%. However, another CD did lose some money during this tough economic time.

The balance in the Scholarship Fund is approximately \$90,000.00.

Dues notices will be sent out soon to all of the members. Please make an effort to pay these in an expedient manner.

Newsletter

A hard copy newsletter, as well as an e-newsletter, will be distributed soon with information from both the October and January meetings. The Organization would like to thank both industry publications, Pest Control Technology and Pest Management Professional, for their assistance and donation of services to provide copies of the newsletters to the general membership.

New Business

New Projects

At the October meeting, Austin Frischman suggested that the Organization look into an Charitable Organization, Nothing But Nets. From there, the Board of Directors researched Nothing But Nets and other similar Charitable groups. Through this research another group equally deserving, Soft Power Health, was discovered. It was discussed at the Board meeting that rather than conduct a fund drive for these groups, the organization would provide information for individuals within the organization to donate at their leisure and convenience. A discussion began as to whether this was acceptable to the General Membership. Some members of the Fraternity felt that the Fraternity should still conduct a fund drive as a way of donating as an organization rather than as individuals.

Other

A suggestion was made to modify the agenda for future meetings so that the Treasurer's Report can be discussed earlier in the meeting.

A motion was made by Russ Ives to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 and was seconded by Tom Myers.