



# Pi Chi Omega

*The Professional Pest Management Fraternity*

Pi Chi Omega  
Board Meeting  
Conference Call  
March 16, 2018 at 10:00 am

**Members present:** Aaron Ashbrook, Dale Baker, Judy Black, Andrea Coron, Mark Sheperdigian, Cisse Spragins

**Members not present:** Stephanie Hill, Bennett Jordan, Cassie Krejci, Glen Ramsey, Eugene White

**Guests present:** Kristin Coron, Dennis Judy, Desiree Straubinger, Eric Smith

The meeting was called to order by President Dale Baker at 10:04 am.

Roll was called.

Approval of board meeting minutes.

**A motion was made by Mark Sheperdigian (seconded by Judy Black) to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2018 Pi Chi Omega Board Meeting. The motion carried.**

**President Welcome and Report** – Dale set the goals for the meeting, which include moving forward with our 13 current nominations for membership and to approve the financials, review the membership structure and fee change proposal. Since Eric is on a time crunch we will cover the membership restructure/dues right after the Executive Director's Report. We will also discuss the website update.

**Executive Director Report** – Andrea Coron

Newsletter – Staff prepared and published the March issue of the newsletter and distributed it electronically. For this issue, we will only mail to members who do not have email addresses.

Membership: There are currently 417 (up from 396) members, of which 29 (down from 55) have open invoices. Fifteen (down from 17) of that subgroup owe for 2 years. For the group that is 2 years in arrears, those that do not pay will be presented to membership at PestWorld for forfeiture. Of the 23 new members we welcomed in January, 5 have not paid their dues yet.

New members – staff created invoices and membership packets for the 23 new members approved in January. Five of these new members still need to pay.

Membership Structure Change - Staff created a survey and sent it out to membership and collected 54 replies from members. We also prepared for and held a webinar in February for members interested in learning more about the changes and to gather their feedback. We compiled all the feedback and met with Dennis and Dale to make appropriate changes to the proposal – which the board will vote on today.

Membership Nominations – Staff collected and packaged 14 membership nomination forms and reached out for missing items before submitting a total of 13 to the Membership Committee for approval.



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Scholarship – Staff distributed scholarship applications via email and US mail to academic contacts. We sent out the scholarship info to members via mailchimp a couple times. We also matched an interested student at Texas A & M with a Pi Chi Omega member as a sponsor. We have received 9 applications to date, with today being the deadline for submission.

Staff has also been coordinating the Alain VanRyckeghem Scholarship with his wife and David Mueller at Insects Limited. Dave has asked that we keep donations open until March 30, as they have sent out a request to employees to make contributions by March 30.

## **Committee Reports**

**Membership Committee** – Dennis Judy – Andrea highlighted the changes that came out of feedback. We received consistent feedback about keeping the student dues low – so there will be no change to that dues amount – it remains at \$10. The next change was splitting what we were calling “Post Grad” into two levels a Grad Student (\$30) and a Student Transition Member (\$60). This addresses another issue we heard back from members about easing student members into a full membership. Since most of the feedback supported the dues increase, except for raising the retired dues level. Originally, we proposed raising that to \$35, but lowered that to \$30 to match the Grad Student level.

Comments were made by Eric that refined some of the membership definitions, to include adding language that broadens the scope of the student membership by including language about biology courses within the 1<sup>st</sup> year of their studies (Eric will give exact language). Aaron supported broadening the scope as at many universities and colleges biology departments are absorbing entomology departments. Eric also refined the PCO definition to language that ties “certification” to “government pest management certification”. Discussion about the ACE/BCE language was held, but the recommended language remained the same. Under Honorary, Eric suggested adding “majority” to vote of membership. Dennis also recommended changes to the titles of the broad membership categories to Student Member, Active Member and Long-standing Member, and further recommended moving the Professional Educator definition under the Active Member category. Board wanted to keep the categories as simple as possible, and as inclusive as possible.

**A motion was made by Mark Sheperdigian (seconded by Judy Black) to accept the proposed membership category changes and dues restructuring as modified. The motion carried.**

Get changes to Bylaws committee today and give them a deadline to make proposed bylaw changes back to us by Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Dale brought up the issue of the \$1,000 Lifetime contribution going 100% to the scholarship fund. It would be prudent to consider changing the allocation of the fund to appropriately fund the scholarship fund and the remainder to go towards non-designated funds. Dennis’ committee will recommend some language and present it to the bylaws committee to change the section of the bylaws that addresses this in regards to the new membership category changes.

Dale also noted that we do want to encourage professors and educators into our organization and thought Andrea’s idea to hold a promotion to this segment for a limited time period and give them credit for referring new, or renewing students. Subsequent idea of doing a similar promotion to Active members who earn their BCE/ACE. The promotion will be fleshed out by the membership committee and staff will promote it.



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**Awards Committee** – Karen Furguiele – no report - Dale will reach out to Karen about a nomination for the Good Deeds Award.

**Bylaws Committee** – Eric Smith – Andrea let the Board know that he has added Greg Baumann and Russ Ives to the committee. They will be doing a comprehensive review of the Bylaws. Dale also talked to Eric about the changes the membership dues increase and restructuring membership will require in the bylaws.

**Finance Committee – Cisse Spragins** – Cisse presented the financials as follows:

**Balance Sheet** – as of March 13, 2018 Pi Chi Omega assets stand at \$222,788.26, compared to \$208,905.76 on March 13, 2017. Designated Scholarship Funds – funds that have been designated to be used only for scholarships can be seen under Temp. Restricted Net Assets on the Balance Sheet and stand at \$147,495.05 (as of March 13, 2018).

**Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual** – At the point of the current fiscal year, Pi Chi Omega's Income/Expense stands at a positive \$8,762.99. We are projected to end the year with a negative \$9,447.50, however the staff and Board work hard each year to outperform this projection.

**A motion was made by Judy Black (seconded by Mark Sheperdigian) to approve the financials as presented by the Treasurer. The motion carried.**

**Membership Committee** – Dennis Judy – presented the Board with the 5 student, 5 associate A, 2 associate B and 2 active member nominations to the Board for approval. Judy commented that Rentokil is spelled wrong and Ed Van Istendal is spelled wrong.

**A motion was made by Judy Black (seconded by Mark Sheperdigian) to approve the current batch of nominations as recommended by the membership committee with the edited changes. The motion carried.**

**Marketing & Website Committee** – Dale received a quote for between \$3,000 - \$5,000 for a total re-haul of our website to one that could be managed/updated by staff and/or Board members. Dale indicated that there is no money in the budget to support this proposal. Staff indicated that the monthly cost to maintain the website from the quote Dale recommended is lower than the website management company that we use for another client. Judy indicated that while she is always cautious about spending PCO funds, she feels it is long-overdue, and it is the Board's responsibility to turn it into a valuable membership tool. It was also noted that JT Eaton and Rockwell Labs before that, have been paying to provide the website to Pi Chi Omega.

**A motion was made by Judy (seconded by Mark Sheperdigian) to accept the proposal from Mitch Greenwald and update our website as described in the proposal.**

Dale shared with the Board some social/marketing ideas to conduct at PestWorld and/or other meetings. ID bugs correctly and win prizes. Inviting students to create some Videos about what they are researching to run at our booth. UPFUDA meeting in Minnesota was positive. Keep up our Frat Chats and presence in the industry.



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**Nominations Committee – Judy Black – no report**

**Scholarship Committee** – Desiree Straubinger – there have been 9 applicants to date and has coordinated with staff to get all application materials by next Wednesday and has scheduled a committee call to review applications.

**Ad-hoc Committee** – no report

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**NCUE Pi Chi Omega Raise the Bar** – Cassie recommended having a Raise the Bar at NCUE May 20-23<sup>rd</sup>. Staff has proffered a site and will work to identify Pi Chi Omega members who will be attending and promote the event to our members. Sponsors would be needed and to split the bar bill – Judy will put up \$100 and Cisse will also support the Raise the Bar event. Staff will develop an invite postcard to invite non-members to attend. There are 300-400 attendees at this meeting, so there is plenty of opportunity to invite new members into our organization. From the Board, Cassie, Judy, Desiree, Shep, and Cisse will be in attendance.

The next Board meeting will be held May 18, 2018 at 10:00 am (eastern).

**A motion was made by Judy Black, seconded by Cisse Spragins, to adjourn the meeting at 11:49 am.**