

Minutes of the business meeting of the Mississippi Entomological Association, October 28, 2008.

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 p.m. by President Ryan Jackson. The treasurer's report was requested and summarily presented by Fred Musser. He explained that because of university policy, Mike Williams had taken over the position mid year. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the treasurer's report.

Dennis Reginelli was asked to present the awards committee report. He reported that only one award, a distinguished service award was to be presented, and that members needed to step up to the plate this coming year and nominate members who were deserving of service awards.

The nominees for next year's offices in the MEA was submitted by J. T. Vogt and presented by president Jackson as follows: President - Melissa Siebert. VP - Jeff Gore. Secretary - Mike Caprio. Treasurer - Mike Williams with assistance from Fred Musser and Harry Fulton. Exec. Vice President - Clarence Collison. Directors - Chris Daves, Angus Catchot, Clint Allen, and Gordon Andrews. Harry Fulton motioned for acceptance of the nominees for the coming year, Clarence Collison seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously carried.

Harry Fulton, legislative committee chair person, presented a report of new and important entomological legislation for the state of Mississippi. He reported that the Mississippi Beekeepers Association (MBA), with the support of the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, will seek legislation to get reimbursement for damage to beekeeping operations by endangered Black Bears, and legislation to exempt beekeepers from frivolous law suits if they have been operating for at least one year. Discussion concerning the desire for MEA to support this legislation resulted in a motion from Clarence Collison for the MEA to assign someone to draft letters of support for the legislation. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the members.

Jeff Willers presented the public relations committee report. He mentioned that the executive committee had suggested the authorization of sending articles to newspapers to let the populace know of the existence of the Midsouth Entomologist, thus informing people of an option for publishing entomological articles. Angus Catchot made a motion to put such an article in newspapers throughout the Midsouth. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Jack Reed suggested that it should also be placed in university newspapers. After discussion about the 4-H interest in entomological essay or poetry activities, an entomological essay contest could stimulate material to be published in the Midsouth Entomologist. Harry Fulton made the motion that the public relations committee look into creation of an essay contest. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Blake Layton gave the scholarship committee's report with the information that there were nine applicants for the seven available scholarships.

Rusty Mitchell, chairman of the hospitality and entertainment committee, reported that nine companies contributed to funding of the steak dinner at the bull barn. He reminded members to thank representatives of those companies as opportunity allows.

There was nothing to report by Don Cook, chair of the membership and rules committee, or Jeff Gore, chairman of the research and education committee.

Chris Peterson reported briefly on the success of the Midsouth Entomologist to date.

Discussion was then opened to discuss old business. The merger of the spring meeting of the joint pest control associations in Mississippi with the crop-college that meets in February was brought to the fore. It was mentioned that it would be a 2-year trial period and that if it did not work out, the option was there to return to the joint pest management meeting format. Approval for this merger was determined from an internet vote of MEA members earlier in the year.

In the absence of new business, Gordon Andrews moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and approved and the meeting was adjourned until next year.