



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2011 INTERNATIONAL BOARD MEETING

On May 23 and 26, 2011 the International Board of Directors met in Kiama and Sydney, New South Wales, Australia with Greg McPhee presiding at the meeting. All eight regions of IPPS were represented.

Highlights of the meeting:

The Education Committee was charged with developing recommendations on how to best utilize the funding set aside for the IPPS Travel Scholarships, stimulating more interest in having members exchange experiences by traveling to other regions. The Board will review the recommendations at its September conference call meeting.

Year-end membership for 2010 was recorded at 1,787 from all regions, a decrease of 152 in the reported numbers compared to the previous year.

Calculations for dues income and the cost of operations as well as the costs to produce the Combined Proceedings in book and CD formats were reviewed. The Board reconfirmed previous action to increase basic membership dues paid to International by \$3.00 – an increase to \$33 per person USD for 2012.

With the 2011 budget approved with another operating loss expected, the Board took action to plan an increase in basic dues of \$5.00 for 2013, as a way to bring income closer to the actual cost of operations.

The International Editor presented reports regarding publication of Volume 59 distributed in September of 2010, and Volume 60 expected to be mailed in September of 2011, with fewer books and CDs anticipated due to declining membership. In 2010, there were 22% of members who do not receive the Proceedings at all with their memberships; however, ALL members now have access to the Proceedings on the PubHort website and the ten free downloads of full papers. Although considered as a cost-saving possibility, the Board took action to retain the front section of the Proceedings, retaining the leadership and historical information from each region.

Plans to implement an international newsletter were undertaken by David Cliffe and Greg McPhee for a one-year period, as a way to launch this project with minimal cost to IPPS.

The Board agreed to retain the current structure of International Office support from the Heuser Group, and appointed a committee to develop a plan for eventual transition of the editor's responsibilities when the current Editor decides to retire. The policy and procedures for the newly developed schedule for the International Tour and International Board Meeting was approved for regions to follow, with flexibility on the days of the week to accommodate typical regional conference schedules.

Preliminary plans for the 2012 International Tour in Japan were reviewed.

The Finance Committee reviewed information regarding the editorial preparation costs needed to prepare the papers for publication in the book or CD format, as well as for the PubHort website. The Board took action to initiate a cost recovery process by spreading the editorial preparation costs among all members as part of the basic dues structure, recoverable over a three-year period. Detailed information about the costs and the plans for recovery will be reviewed by the Board and also shared with members later this year.

Two more conference call meetings of the International Board of Directors were arranged for September and December, with possible webcam technology as well as telephone conferencing to be utilized.

The Board heard a presentation by Dr. Jian Huang of China regarding their activity in establishing a China Society of Plant Propagation and interest in becoming a region of IPPS. Appreciation was expressed, along with the suggestion that more individuals from China become at-large members of IPPS to reach a threshold where regional status can again be considered.

The Board took action to require all regions to arrange for their websites to be hosted on their own servers, separate from the IPPS main website after an infection in the main site created serious problems for the main website functioning.

There was agreement that more lead time is needed for planning the International Tour in conjunction with regional conferences, particularly since the International Tour and Board meeting requires a two-week commitment from attendees. To avoid conflicts with regional conferences, Directors were asked to be prepared to bring to the International Board Meeting their dates for regional conferences for the next three years, so the tour can be scheduled by the hosting region ahead of those dates without conflict.