

## Minutes of the 2018 MSA Business Meeting

Ballroom B, Puerto Rico Convention Center, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

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1. The 2018 Business Meeting was called to order by *President Tom Volk* at 7:38 am. *President Volk* introduced the MSA officers and councilors present, and thanked members for attending the meeting.
2. *President Volk* called for the approval of the minutes of the 2017 MSA Business Meeting held in Athens, GA. Paper copies of the minutes were provided at the Business Meeting by *Executive Vice President Sarah Bergemann*, and have been posted to the MSA website [[https://msafungi.org/Portals/0/2017%20\(2\)%20MSA%20Business%20Meeting%20Minutes.pdf](https://msafungi.org/Portals/0/2017%20(2)%20MSA%20Business%20Meeting%20Minutes.pdf)]. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of the membership.
3. *President Volk* summarized the highlights of the President's annual report. The financial state of the society is excellent; *President Volk* thanked Finance Committee Chair Jean Lodge for her leadership in contracting Middleton Advisory to assist with the Society's investments. As Chair Lodge is rotating off the committee in 2019, *President Volk* urged members to contact incoming *President Elect Anne Pringle* if interested in taking over as chair of the Finance Committee. *President Volk* acknowledged the activity and enthusiasm of the MSA Student Section, and encouraged members to donate school supplies and/or make financial donations to the Student Section's contribution to Puerto Rico hurricane relief. *President Volk* reported on the MSA Council's proposal to change the MSA By-laws to realign the subject areas of the MSA councilors and place the responsibilities of the seven special expertise committees [Biodiversity, Culture Collections, Ecology, Environmental Health & Medical Mycology, Genetics & Cell Biology, Phytopathology, Conservation] under the aegis of the councilors.
4. *Vice President Anne Pringle* reported on the results of the 2018 Spring Ballot. *Vice President Pringle* expressed appreciation to all those who stood for election. *Vice President Pringle* welcomed newly elected Vice President Mark Cubeta, Executive Vice President Marin Talbot Brewer, and new councilors Alicia Quandt (Genetics/Molecular Biology, Jason Stajich (Cell Biology/Physiology), Nhu Nguyen (Ecology/Pathology), and Brandon Matheny (Systematics/Evolution). *Vice President Pringle* thanked outgoing Executive Vice President Sarah Bergemann for her service to MSA.
5. *Executive Vice President Sarah Bergemann* summarized the Executive Vice President's annual report and reported on the MSA Council's annual meeting. Council activity includes 5 email polls since mid-year, including proposals to promote diversity efforts, nominations for MSA Fellows, and a request for emeritus member status. The annual meeting of the MSA Council was held on Monday, July 16, 2018 at the Puerto Rico Convention Center. Attendees included members of the executive council and a majority of members from the general council; incoming councilors Nhu Nguyen, Jason Stajich, Brandon Matheny, and Alisha Quandt; newly elected Executive Vice President Marin Talbot Brewer, *Mycologia* Managing Editor Brian Shaw, and Student Section representatives, Terry Torres-Cruz and Rebecca Shay. One of the major issues approved by the council was a proposal to change the subject areas for the MSA councilors [currently Genetics/Molecular Biology, Cell Biology/Physiology, Ecology/Pathology, and Systematics/Evolution] to Genetics/Cell Biology, Ecology/Conservation, Systematics/Evolution, and Symbiosis/Pathology. Sara Branco reported to the council on the MSA Diversity Award created by the Diversity and Inclusion Committee; the committee is currently in the process of raising funds for an endowment for the award. Several

- action items were produced, mostly pertaining to modifications of the MSA Manual of Operations. *Executive Vice President Bergemann* stated that it has been an honor to serve MSA in this capacity, and that the society will be in good hands under incoming Executive Vice President Marin Brewer.
6. *Executive Vice President Bergemann* announced the deaths of five MSA members in the past year: Cletus Kurtzman, Robert Lichtwardt, Franz Oberwinkler, Gary Lincoff, and Yves Renaud. A moment of silence was held to honor these members.
  7. *Executive Vice President Bergemann* presented 79 new members from 16 countries for approval. A motion to approve the new members was seconded, and the new members were unanimously approved by a vote of the membership.
  8. *Executive Vice President Bergemann* presented the names of four Emeritus candidates for approval by the membership: Robert Antibus, Marshall Bergen, David Largent, and David Yohalem. The motion to approve the Emeritus Members was seconded and unanimously approved by a vote of the membership.
  9. *Treasurer Chris Schardl* summarized the highlights of his annual report. As of December 31, 2017, MSA had net assets of \$1,814,156.04, an increase of over \$200,000 compared to the 2016 year-end total. Restricted net assets increased by 8.69%. The society provided \$13,500 in travel awards and \$47,450 in research awards for the 2017 annual meeting in Athens, GA. Last year was the first year of our *Mycologia* co-publishing arrangement with Taylor and Francis. A \$35,000 administrative and editorial stipend and a \$45,000 minimum royalty payment were paid to MSA by Taylor and Francis. The MSA Council approved a proposal to use the administrative and editorial stipend to support reimbursement for *Mycologia* managing, executive, and associate editors to attend the MSA annual meeting in amounts up to \$600 for registration and up to \$1000 for travel. In the event that an editor cannot attend the MSA annual meeting, that editor can receive up to \$800 in expenses for attending an alternative meeting, with approval by the MSA President. Martha Christiansen generously bequeathed \$16,000 to the Myron Backus fund in her will; MSA also received a generous donation of \$50,000 to support research projects in specific project areas, and a generous donation of \$2,000 from the Melavante Corporation to support the NAMA award.
  10. Final Business—*President Volk* provided updates on upcoming meetings:
    - 2019, meeting in Minneapolis, MN, Aug 10-14. The meeting theme will be “Diversity in All Dimensions”. A call for symposium proposals will be issued in August, 2018.
    - 2020, meeting in Gainesville, FL, dates TBA. Matthew Smith will be the local organizer.
    - 2021, meeting with Botanical Society of America, location and dates TBA.
  11. *President Volk* introduced Sharon Cantrell as the 2018-2019 President of the Mycological Society of America, thanked her for her many previous acts of service to the Society, and passed on the official MSA gavel.
  12. *President Cantrell*, as her first official act, presented Certificates of Appreciation to Society members in recognition of exceptional service. These included outgoing President Tom Volk, outgoing Executive Vice President Sarah Bergemann, outgoing councilors Todd Osmundson (Ecology/Pathology), Heather Hallen-Adams (Cell Biology/Physiology), Lisa Grubisha (Genetics/Molecular Biology), Else Vellinga (Systematics/Evolution), Chris Schardl (IMC11 Program Chair), Sharon Cantrell (IMC11 Local Organizing Committee Chair), Don Pfister (MSA Program Chair), Matias Cafaro (IMC11 Congress Secretary), Jean Lodge (IMC11 Local Organizing Committee Co-Chair), *Mycologia* Executive Editor Francis Trail, Associate Editors Ignazio Carbone, Jeff Cary, Jessie Glaeser, Niklaus Grunwald, Peter Kennedy, Andy Methven, Tim James, Andy Miller, and Brian Perry.
  13. *President Cantrell* officially adjourned the 2018 Business Meeting at 8:06 am.