

Newsletter of the

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

14 April 2017

Highlights of the 2016 Annual Meeting

The 2016 annual meeting of the AAZN was called to order at 1:00 PM EST, 12 December 2016, in the Entomology Conference Room, 5th Floor, at the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC. Ten members were in attendance, four by telephone.

Acting Treasurer Al Gardner provided a report of the society's finances. He reported that the society currently has 128 individuals and 10 institutions listed on record as members that are currently paid-up through fiscal year 2016. These memberships accounted for \$2105 in dues. There were also several donations reported that totaled \$1263. Books and other printed materials sold by the association amounted to \$30 total. These sales, dues, and donations represent a cumulative income total of \$3368 received for FY 2016. Previously, FY 2015 had a cumulative income total of 2995. The FY 2016 cumulative income total was higher than that in FY 2015. This was the first net increase in total income for several years and reversed the trend of cumulative income decreases. Expenses for fiscal year 2016 included \$182.80 in supplies and postage. Other fees and expenses included \$500.00 to maintain the society's web presence; \$80.00 to maintain the society's tax exempt status; \$249.90 for domain charges; and \$2400 as a donation to the

International Trust. Total expenses for 2016 totaled \$3229.90. The society continues to maintain two fund accounts, one with Legg-Mason and another with Wells Fargo. These two funds total more than \$45,000 for societal long-term funding stability.

The website report (prepared by the society webmaster Gino Nearn) was read by President Gaimari in its entirety. Overall website health has been stable for all of 2016, with no major problems reported with the website being down for prolonged periods or information being hacked. Analytics indicate that there were >3600 website sessions reported for 2016. This was down from >6100 sessions last year. More than 87% of users were first time visitors this year. Most visitors (>50%) had their default browser language set to Russian. Most visitors spent an average of ~20 seconds on the website. No major changes were requested for the website in 2016.

Richard Pyle provided an update from the ICZN. A new group of officers has been newly elected and some changes are forthcoming to the ICZN. The BZN headquarters has been moved from London to Singapore. The first issue of the new BZN is set to be published in January 2017. The commission has been deliberating about validity and stability of "limbo names", i.e. taxon names published electronically that do

not meet the letter of the code. An effort is also underway to draft a 5th edition of the code, which may be available, tentatively, in 2020. The new code may be broken into two parts to help 1) streamline the rules for dealing with new names, and 2) dealing with legacy names. There was general discussion on the new edition of the code including provisions for digital publications, cases being brought electronically to the commission, whether the BZN will become an electronic journal, use of a wiki for 5th edition questions and comments, submitting petitions/cases electronically, and revising ICZN bylaws, etc.

Richard Pyle also presented a brief review of ZooBank, which is now on a stable server and providing service to a wider and growing community of taxonomists, currently represented by about 3800 users. He reported that approximately ~50% of publications with new taxon names find their way into ZooBank. This includes some paper-based journals as well. New protocols are being put in place to help streamline the process for publishers to deposit new names, fix errors with duplicate entries, and to begin the process of accessioning legacy names. There are also efforts to help harmonize how plant and bacterial names are databased with how ZooBank records names of taxa. Some discussion centered around funding opportunities to help ZooBank continue to grow and provide more efficient and wider access to the taxonomic community.

The meeting discussion then moved to officer nominations and elections. President Gaimari provided copies of the AAZN bylaws to help guide the process. Currently, the councilors for the society are not

staggered as stated by the by-laws. There was discussion on how to address this and move forward to be in line with the by-laws. Some of the problems with the current arrangement are due to the lack of membership involvement in societal service. There was general consensus that the entire membership needs to be approached on finding new officers for upcoming years. There is no requirement for officers being in the DC area, and recruitment needs to be society wide. President Gaimari is willing to serve one more year as President. Floyd Shockley has agreed to serve as President Elect for 2017. Andrew Cline is now Secretary. Al Gardner will be Treasurer one more year (through 2017). There will be a need for a new treasurer next year as our current treasurer, Al Gardner, will be resigning his post. Michael Engel and Roy McDiarmid are each willing to serve another term as Councilor. There was one vacant position for a councilor. A motion was forwarded to nominate Dave Smith as a new councilor by Bruce Collete, and was seconded by Roy McDiarmid. The motion was unanimously passed. A motion was forwarded by Bruce Collette to close nominations for this year's meeting, and was seconded by Andrew Cline. The motion was unanimously passed. A motion for a full slate vote of all candidates for all offices was proposed by Roy McDiarmid. There was approval by acclamation, and the motion was unanimously passed.

One old business item was discussed with regards to establishment of a FaceBook presence for the AAZN. At the previous meeting Floyd Shockley stated he was willing to establish the society's FaceBook presence, and Steve Gaimari stated he

manage the site once it was established. These tasks were not accomplished last year, but both Floyd and Steve are willing to execute their roles to establish and maintain a society FaceBook presence this year.

An item of new business that was discussed included the revision of the society's existing constitutional bylaws. As currently phrased, there are difficulties performing society business other than the time during the annual meeting and only with those individuals present at the meeting. President Gaimari would like to see more membership involvement in societal matters. Likewise, there was general agreement to have elections via digital media prior to the annual meeting, but this is also restricted by the current bylaws. To address these needs and to further embrace electronic communication, voting and engagement with the membership, President Gaimari established a three person committee of himself, Floyd Shockley and Andrew Cline to revise the current societal bylaws to allow for new provisions and wider societal involvement. Over the course of the next year, the committee will develop the new bylaws and then post them for a review period (TBD) for the membership to suggest changes/additions. The new bylaws will then be voted upon at the next annual meeting.

A second item of new business included providing more and directed announcements of the annual meeting to the membership. President Gaimari and Floyd Shockley are to send additional announcements to individuals and groups, prior to next year's meeting, in an effort to have more of the membership present at annual meetings. There is no requirement for participants to

be in the DC area to be a part of the meetings. The meetings are now available through teleconferencing, with the addition of videoconferencing hopefully at the next meeting.

A brief discussion followed with regards to AAZN continuing to provide donations to the ICZN endowment fund. Prior contributions by the AAZN have amounted to \$2400 per year, and a motion was unanimously passed to continue to give this level of funding.

There was also unanimous agreement to continue the services of Gino Nearn as the society webmaster at the same rate as he was paid the previous year.

President Gaimari adjourned the meeting at 3:00 PM EST.

Current Officers of the AAZN

President: Stephen Gaimari, 2016–2017
(CA Department of Food and Agriculture)

President-Elect: Floyd Shockley, 2017
(National Museum of Natural History)

Secretary: Andrew Cline, 2017–2019
(CA Department of Food and Agriculture)

Treasurer: Alfred Gardner, 2016–2017
(National Museum of Natural History)

Councilor: Floyd Shockley, 2015–2017
(National Museum of Natural History)

Councilor: Roy McDiarmid, 2017–2019
(National Museum of Natural History)

Councilor: Michael Engel, 2017–2019
(University of Kansas)

Councilor: David Smith, 2017–2019
(National Museum of Natural History)

Continuing Book Sale

1. ICZN. 1999. *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*. 4th ed. London: The International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, xxix + 306 pp. **Sale price** \$15.00 plus postage; \$19.00 postpaid in the U.S. (book rate). [= \$33 off original price!]

2. ICZN. 1987. *Official lists and indexes of names and works in zoology*. London: The International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, 4 (unnumbered) + 365 pp. **Sale price** \$25.00 plus postage; \$29.00 postpaid in the U.S. (book rate). [= \$60 off original price!]

3. ICZN. 2001. *Official lists and indexes of names and works in zoology. Supplement 1986–2000*. London: The International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, 4 (unnumbered) + 136 pp. **Sale price** \$25.00 plus postage; \$29.00 postpaid in the U.S. (book rate). [= \$60 off original price!]

Items 2 and 3 (Official lists) are offered as a unit: **Sale price** \$40.00 plus postage; \$45.00 postpaid in the U.S. (book rate). [= \$100 off original price!]

Terms: Please send a check or money order made out to the **American Association for Zoological Nomenclature** to:

Dr. Alfred Gardner
USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center
Smithsonian Institution, MRC 111
National Museum of Natural History
P.O. Box 37012
Washington DC, 20013-7012
gardnera@si.edu, (202) 633-1276

**AAZN - NOTICE OF DUES 2017
FOR INDIVIDUALS**

Name: _____ Regular (\$20.00)* _____

Address (corrections only) _____
Sustaining (\$25.00)* _____

_____ Gift* _____

e-mail: _____

(please provide your most recent e-mail address)

***NOTICE:** Dues and contributions are deductible for income tax purposes. If you itemize deductions and require a receipt, please check here _____.

I would like to purchase to following books:

International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, 4th Edition _____
(\$19.00 for AAZN members postpaid in U.S.)

Official Lists and Indexes of Names in Zoology, 1987 _____
(\$25.00 for AAZN members) [\$29.00 postpaid in U.S.]

Official Lists and Indexes of Names in Zoology, Supplement, 2001 _____
(\$25.00 for AAZN members) [\$29.00 postpaid in U.S.]

TOTAL enclosed _____

Make checks payable to AAZN and mail to:

Dr. Alfred Gardner
Smithsonian Institution
P.O. Box 37012
National Museum of Natural History
MRC-111
Washington, DC 20013-7012