

May 24, 2008

2009 Spring AGU Joint Assembly - SPA Executive Committee Report Bob McPherron

Members Present: Peter Chi, Nancy Crooker, Larisa Goncharenko, Robert McPherron, Jan Sojka, Brenda Weaver (AGU)

Agenda: Only a few items were considered because so few members attended the committee meeting. The topics discussed included: Newsletter, Upcoming election, AGU Press Conferences and SPA Bylaws.

Peter Chi summarized the status of the SPA Newsletter. SPA membership is about 2500 members. Currently 1800 people subscribe to the Newsletter. There were 42 issues last year. Typically there are about two Newsletters per week. Special editions are prepared before major meetings. It would be a good idea to coordinate our Newsletter and Website with changes being made by the AGU.

SPA needs to encourage its members to vote for in the upcoming election to select new program secretaries for SA, SM, SH. We should place posters describing the candidates at the Town Hall Meeting and at the SPA Dinner.

Larisa reported on Joint Assembly Press Conferences. AGU held a total of 8 of which four involved SPA members. Two of these were in SA and two in SM. Larisa Goncharenko helped organize the two SA conferences. Information about these may be viewed at http://www.agu.org/sci_soc/prl/2009-15.html#one

The PressConference topics included:

- Giant atmospheric waves roll into view - **Craig Heinselman, Michael Nicolls, Sharon Vadas, Eric Donovan**
- Perplexing atmospheric connections - **Jorge Luis Chau , Larisa Goncharenko, Hanli Liu**
- Pinpointing the Epicentre of Space Storms - **David Kendall, Ian R. Mann, I. Jonathan Rae**
- How the Sun influences Earth's climate – Not listed at web site.

Nancy Crooker summarized the issues considered in the revision of SPA Bylaws.

1. Should anyone in SPA Executive Committee be considered for a named lecture?
Dedication to AGU service should not be cause for discrimination against rewarding individuals for scholarship. Only the president and president elect should be exempted.
2. Sections are supposed to hold an annual business meeting.
SPA has the Town Hall Meeting (Agency Night) that partially satisfies this issue. Also we use the SPA Dinner to present special awards.
3. Max Hammond Award
SPA needs feedback on who receives this award so we can make public

announcement. We don't know if it has been awarded. Is there an AGU policy for allocation of this award?

4. Programmatic Sessions

It is AGU policy to not dedicate a session to a particular mission. The purpose of a session is a scientific question. The question may be appropriate to a particular mission, but should not be exclusive. The Meetings Committee is given guidelines when organizing meetings.

5. Should SPA funds be used to pay Scarf award dinner ticket as we do for student papers awards?

Too few outstudents are coming to the spring meeting. Our new policy will be to invite winners to the fall meeting SPA dinner.

6. What is the minimum size of an SPA Committee?

Procedure for revision of SPA Bylaws:

1. Revise current Bylaws
2. Obtain SPA Executive committee approval of revised bylaws
3. Obtain AGU Council approval of revised bylaws
4. Inform the SPA membership of the changes