

**Minutes of NEERS Business meeting**  
**May 3, 1996, 1710-1800**  
**Vassar College Alumnae House, Poughkeepsie, NY**  
**Wendy Smith Leo, Secretary**

1. The meeting was called to order by President Franz. The Secretary's report was read by Wendy Leo and the Treasurer's report by Robert Buchsbaum and approved.
2. The **Fall 1996 meeting** was discussed by Past-President Berounsky. The meeting will be held October 24-26, 1996, on Block Island, Rhode Island. The site will be the Hotel Manassis/1661 House, and a special rate of \$100 for the hotel and three meals per day has been arranged. There may be a special symposium on oil spills. Local organizers are V. Berounsky of URI and Walter Berry of EPA. The meeting will be cosponsored by URI/GSO, EPA, and Rhode Island Sea Grant. The local organizing committee is looking for volunteers, and is holding a planning meeting on 5/13/96. One reaches Block Island by ferry from Point Judith, or via a scheduled or charter flight. This will be an election meeting.
3. The **ERF '97 meeting** was also discussed by V. Berounsky. It will be held Sunday through Thursday, October 13-17, at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence. A thousand attendees are expected. Pat Kremer is the chair of the thematic sessions committee, and wants each affiliate to give a session and prepare a manuscript for a "geographic signatures" session. Charlie Roman is heading a committee to put NEERS' submission together. Some ideas were discussed. Charlie Roman is researching possible field trips, and Charlene D'Avanzo is putting together a session on education. The steering committee seeks local members to help with fundraising and with coordinating volunteers. The meeting abstract deadline is April 1, 1997, "no fooling".
4. **ERF News.** Joy Bartholemew seeks newsletter articles enticing people to come to New England for the Providence meeting.
5. The **Spring 1996 meeting**, which Michelle Dionne is organizing, will probably be in Wells, ME.
6. **New business.**
  - A. Alan Young suggested a new student award, for the best poster, to be named in honor of the late David Dean. Some students are not ready or willing to give oral presentations, and there are sometimes too many oral presentations, so this should not result in siphoning off Ketchum and Rankin Prize candidates. The Program Chair can encourage the types of presentations needed. Discussion of the amount was deferred until later in the meeting (see below). The motion establishing the **Dave Dean Prize** for the best student poster was passed.
  - B. Dave Franz brought up the need to do more to support student travel, and recommended building up the endowment for student prizes to \$26,000. This would allow six travel awards (to NEERS and ERF meetings) every two years, as AERS does. This will be accomplished by **raising dues for regular members to \$15**. (Having a separate category for emeritus members, with lower dues, was mentioned.) The motion passed.
  - C. The membership decided to make all three student awards (Ketchum, Rankin, and Dean) **\$100**.
  - D. In view of the New York venue and geographic distribution of NEERS membership, Julie Rankin suggested changing the name of the society to the **Northeast Estuarine Research Society**. Discussion ensued. Since this would be a constitutional change, the membership needs to be notified before it can be voted on. It will be decided at the Block Island meeting.

**Notes from NEERS banquet**

Marshall Pregnell was thanked for organizing the meeting and presented with a certificate of appreciation for his outstanding service to NEERS. It was noted that this meeting was historic as the first New York NEERS meeting.

Kevin Scheirer received the Rankin award for his paper "Fish use of four New England salt marshes following tidal restoration." Steven Litvin received the Ketchum award for his paper "Habitat utilization by juvenile winter flounder and tautog as indicated by stable isotope ratios."

NEERS Secretary's Report  
Spring 1996 Meeting, 3 May 1996  
Poughkeepsie, NY, Vassar College Alumnae House  
Submitted by Wendy Smith Leo, Secretary

1. Read minutes of Spring 1995 meeting (Portsmouth)

2. Membership (as of 5/3/96)

A. Database

|                     |     |                             |
|---------------------|-----|-----------------------------|
| Total entries       | 396 |                             |
| Regular             | 283 | (16 joined at this meeting) |
| Students            | 98  | (15 joined at this meeting) |
| Honorary            | 4   |                             |
| Total NEERS members | 385 |                             |
| ERF, etc. officers  | 11  |                             |

We have 34 fewer members since the last meeting (380 memb at last mtg)  
(50 delinquent memb. dropped)

B. Status of dues payment (as of 4/28/96)

|                    |                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Paid through 1996: | 16 reg + 1 student = 17    |
| Paid through 1995: | 97 reg + 27 student = 124  |
| Paid through 1994: | 106 reg + 45 student = 122 |
| Paid through 1993: | 64 reg + 15 student = 79   |

C. Geographical Distribution of membership

|       |     |
|-------|-----|
| NS    | 4   |
| NB    | 1   |
| ME    | 30  |
| NH    | 32  |
| VT    | 1   |
| MA    | 125 |
| RI    | 48  |
| CT    | 87  |
| NY    | 28  |
| NJ    | 15  |
| Other | 14  |