NEERS Business Meeting minutes (April 26, 2019, York, ME)

* Minutes of last meeting approved
* President’s Report (Susan Adamowicz)
  + Autumn is new Program Chair (replacing Cathy Wigand); Claudia Mazur (PhD student, BU) new student rep
  + 50th Anniversary Committee only has 3 members (Robert Buchsbaum, Cindy Delpapa, Allen Young (partial)
    - We need more volunteers
    - The festivities will encompass 3 NEERS meetings – Salem Spring 2020 (1st NEERS meeting), Block Island Fall 2020, and Long Island Spring 2021 (NEERS + AERS = ERF) and 1 CERF Meeting Fall 2010 in Richmond, VA
  + If you would like to be more active in CERF leadership, a call for nominations for elected Governing Board positions will go out in Fall 2020 for the 2021 elections – contact Hilary Neckles or NEERS representatives to the CERF Governing Board for more information
  + For the next CERF election, we have some candidates from the New England area
    - Jamie Vaudrey, Secretary candidate
    - Neil Ganju, Member-at-large candidate
  + CERF 2021 in Richmond, VA will be co-chaired by our (formally) own Mark Brush/Lora Harris
* Past President’s Report (Sara Grady)
  + Sara is responsible for the Awards Committee
  + NEERS float in the Mardi Gras Parade at this Fall’s CERF meeting – contact Sara with any ideas
* President-Elect (Brett Branco)
  + Not able to attend this meeting
  + Responsible for Communication’s committee
* Treasurer (Courtney Schmidt)
  + Mid-year financial statement
    - NEERS Checking: $21,262
    - NEERS CD : $20,482
    - Student Endowment CD: $32,756
    - Savings Account: $3,863
  + Fall 2018 meeting, New Bedford, MA
    - Thanks to our sponsors (Our co-host: NERRS, Sponsors: SMAST, Xylem/YSI, ONSET, Normandeau, CERF, Boston Malacological Club
    - We made a $1,642.53 PROFIT
  + Potential shift to Wild Apricot Payments (Affinipay) from PayPal
    - Wild Apricot will not store credit card info; sent to Affinipay who handles the $$
    - Seamless to us (similar readers, acceptance of credit cards)
    - If we don’t switch, the cost of Wild Apricot will increase 20%
    - Membership approved this move
  + We have 3 new Awards that provide funding to support meeting attendance
    - Storer Award (lottery)
      * Sponsored by the Boston Malacological Club
      * $100 per student; 2-4 awards per meeting
      * MA students only – studying and working in MA primarily
    - Early Professional Funds (lottery)
      * Members within 2 years of most recent degree
      * $100 per member; 1-2 awards per meeting
    - Stuck Boot Fund (lottery)
      * For all members; support travel when folks get stuck
      * $200 per member; 1-2 awards per meeting
      * Can receive both student travel award and Stuck Book Award
* Secretary (Peg Pelletier)
  + Fall 2018 meeting
    - Most rated good to above average
      * Attendees especially liked the meeting room and venue
      * There were a few comments that because the meeting announcement was late, that it made things difficult to juggle
      * A few people commented that if the meeting was truncated, that it would be preferable to remove Saturday rather than Thursday
    - People thought that the meeting provided good information and networking opportunities.
    - There were many complementary comments about the citizen science symposium
  + Preliminary exploration of moving from 2 meeting a year to 1 meeting a year with a workshop, training or symposium every other Fall
    - Based on Fall 2018 SurveyMonkey results, most people (73%) supported this
      * Resources to travel to meetings is limited; might increase participation
      * 23% were ambivalent, but suggested that we see how it works
    - Most people (71%) responded favorably to remote access of Fall workshops
      * Someone suggested that we need to think about how to charge for these workshops (remote vs. in-person; member vs. non-member vs. student)
      * 18% were not negative, but had some concerns about loss of in-person effectiveness and social interaction
    - More thorough exploration of this topic will continue over the next year
    - We will continue with 2 meetings a year through at least Spring 2021, as these meetings are already in planning stages
* Committee Reports
  + Meeting Planning (Tay Evans)
    - NEERS Spring 2020 will be in Salem, MA
    - This is one of the 50th Anniversary meetings
    - We need help – Please contact Tay
      * Tristen Taber volunteered
      * We need Sponsorship
  + Awards Committee (Sara Grady)
    - Honorary Membership awarded to Robert Buchsbaum
  + Newsletter (Sara Grady)
    - Sara looking for help with newsletter
* New Business
  + Hilary Neckles gave an update from the CERF Board
    - The Board is talking about sponsoring workshops with a priority given to Regional affiliate proposals
    - Ashley Bulseco-McKim (Student Rep to CERF Board), as chair of the CERF Membership Committee, is working with the Career Development and Education Committee on developing Regional meet-ups for all career stages, but with emphasis on students and early carer professionals
    - The webinar team (Susan Adamowicz, chair) has been working on developing 5-6/year based on the theme “Beyond the Books” (e.g., career options, creating a more diverse and inclusive workforce, traditional ecological knowledge, working with journalists, navigating the scientific publishing world, citizen science, etc.). This was initiated 3 years ago, and they are archived and available to CERF members (<https://cerf.memberclicks.net/webinars>)
    - Board is working to combat sexual harassment (grew out of the #MeToo movement and efforts in science leadership, such as the National Academies and AAAS). See the updated Event Code of Conduct and the new Safe and Welcoming Plan on the conference web site <https://www.cerf.science/cerf-2019>
    - Board is also working to provide enhanced resources to underrepresented minorities and hopefully change the demography of our society; see Rising TIDES (Toward and Inclusive, Diverse, and Enriched Society) at <https://cerf.memberclicks.net/risingtides>

Awards (after Business meeting):

Ketchum (Grad oral): Claudia Mazur

Rankin (Undergrad oral): Gretchen McCarthy

Dean (Grad poster) Laura Fallon

Warren (Undergrad poster) - 2: Mara McDonough

Alyson Augenstein

