

President Message for Spring, 2009

The pieces are coming together quite well for our upcoming Conference. Details of the schedule are in a separate article. We have a good idea of what the Conference costs will be, but it always is a gamble to try to distribute those costs over an unknown number of participants to determine the registration fees. With people watching their budgets more closely, perhaps they will forgo their fancy vacations and decide to take a relaxing “staycation” in Wine Country and take in a top-notch bee meeting. There are very significant financial incentives for preregistering (before July 15th) for the Conference, even if you wish to pay only on a day by day basis. If BBQ and Banquet reservations are not made by July 15th, it is likely there will not be a later opportunity. You can download and print different registration forms from the Web site: groups.ucanr.org/WAS/ or copy them from this issue of the Journal.

This is the time to consider nominating individuals for our two categories of awards. The Outstanding Service to Beekeeping Award "shall be presented at the annual banquet to a person, normally from the West, who has made outstanding contributions to beekeeping. These contributions may be in such areas as research, teaching, public relations, publishing, service to WAS or other beekeeper organizations, or any other creative activity that contributes to the art and science of beekeeping and the enjoyment of beekeeping as a hobby." This award actually can be given to anyone in the US or Canada. The second award, the Thurber Award for Inventiveness, "may be presented at the annual banquet to a person, normally from the local area, who has demonstrated abnormal creativity in inventing beekeeping devices or practices." There is no need to limit this award by locality, since we tend to circulate among a very few states and provinces. We will accept candidates for these awards from any western states or provinces. No formal application process is involved. Just submit the name of the nominee with adequate justification for the nomination to Eric Mussen, Entomology, University of California, Davis, CA 95616 by June 15th, 2009.

Two matters that will come up for a vote at the Annual Business Meeting are amendments to the Bylaws (thank you, Jim Bach, for the excellent update) that include increases in membership rates. The Bylaws require some fine tuning so that our current practices match the criteria listed in the Bylaws. The Bylaws amendments have to be distributed to the membership before the vote, so they are included in this Journal issue. Our membership rates require a boost since the cost of publishing and mailing the Journal exceeds the income generated annually by our current membership fees.

Here is another gentle reminder about door prizes. If you appreciate the chance to acquire some little token for arriving at the sessions on time, then please keep your eyes peeled for a few things that might be fun to receive. We will distribute those items throughout the meeting in a very quick manner preceding the first speaker as sessions open. Silent auction items can be anything. They will be on display for days during the Conference. We will be accumulating door prizes and silent auction items in the Conference area of the Krug Event Center on Monday afternoon, August 17th. You are likely to find Vice-president Helen coordinating those events.

Don't forget to bring a jar of honey for the Honey and Wine Tasting event on Monday evening. Bring along a few extra jars or bears for trading with other honey producers.