

Plenary Session of the 41th Annual Sea Turtle Symposium

March 24, 2023

Time: 3.00 pm

Meeting called by:
Diego Amorocho

Type of meeting:
Plenary Session

>100 but < 150 people

Secretary:
Manjula Tiwari

Agenda

President's welcome
ISTS Small Grants
Travel Committee's report
Student Committee's report

Diego Amorocho
Andres Estrades
Alex Gaos
Matt Ramirez & Gabriela Arango

Symposium format & frequency
Treasurer's report
ISTS 2020 Career Awards
2023 Election results
2024 Symposium
Other business

Andrea Phillott
Nicholas Blume

Mustapha Aksissou
Steve Dunbar

Additional Information

Special notes:

President's welcome**Diego Amorocho****3.10 pm**

Amorocho welcomes everyone and provides the following information:
 629 participants; largest percentage (37%) from Latin America and the Caribbean
 Welcome social: 374 people signed up
 Farewell banquet: 304 signed up
 12 Workshops
 6 Regional meetings
 464 Abstracts
 We met the hotel's room reservation block

Conclusions:

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

ISTS Small Grants**Andres Estrades****3.25 pm**

Estrades gives an overview of the ISTS Small Grants Program for active ISTS members. (The information is available on the ISTS website: <https://www.internationalseaturtlesociety.org/awards/small-grant-program/>)

Projects funded to date include:

- ORP Vaavoshi Turtle Festival 2022, Olive Ridley Project, Maldives
- Using Virtual Reality for Training of Tour Guides on Turtle Watching Best Practices, Associação Projecto Biodiversidade, Cabo Verde
- Rescue of sea turtle nests in Pongara National Park, Gabon
- Sea turtle population monitoring using facial ID & enabling citizen scientists, Watamu Kenya
- Local Communities Fighting Plastic and Light Pollution. Conducted by OSA Conservation, in Osa Peninsula in Costa Rica
- Improving the Community Economy through knitting token for Local Community to Support Leatherback Sea turtle Conservation Effort at the Jeen Womom Coastal Park, Tambrau, West Papua, Indonesia

Conclusions:

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Travel Committee Report**Alex Gaos****3.34 pm**

Gaos goes through the Travel Committee allocations below:

Chairs	Region	Applications received		Original bed allocations		Final bed allocations	
		# ISTS41 applicants	% of applicants	# beds Allocated	% of applicants	# beds applicants supported	% rooms by region
Angela Formia	Africa	5	3.0%	5	6.6%	2	2.7%
Kelly Stewart	US/Canada	34	20.5%	11	14.5%	13	17.6%
Karen Eckert	Caribbean	3	1.8%	3	3.9%	0	0.0%
Andrea Phillott	Asia	7	4.2%	6	7.9%	5	6.8%
Mark Hamman	Oceania/Polynesia	4	2.4%	3	3.9%	3	4.1%
ALan Rees	Middle East/No. Africa	3	1.8%	2	2.6%	2	2.7%
Alejandro Fallabrino	So. America	41	24.7%	18	23.7%	17	23.0%
Aliki Panagopoulou	Europe	19	11.4%	6	7.9%	6	8.1%
Jose Urteaga	MX/CA America	50	30.1%	22	28.9%	26	35.1%
		166	100.0%	76	100.0%	74	100.0%

Room type	Bed nights	Cost/night	Total
Double	78	162	\$12,636
Triple (rollaway)	139	192	\$26,688
GRAND TOTAL			\$39,324

LaudOPO 20 beds

Gaos adds that Aliki Panagopoulou will be stepping down as Regional Travel Chair and will be replaced by Daniela Freggi. He thanks Panagopoulou for all her hard work.

Motion to accept Travel Chair's report: Ana Barragan

Second: Nick Pilcher

Motion passes unanimously

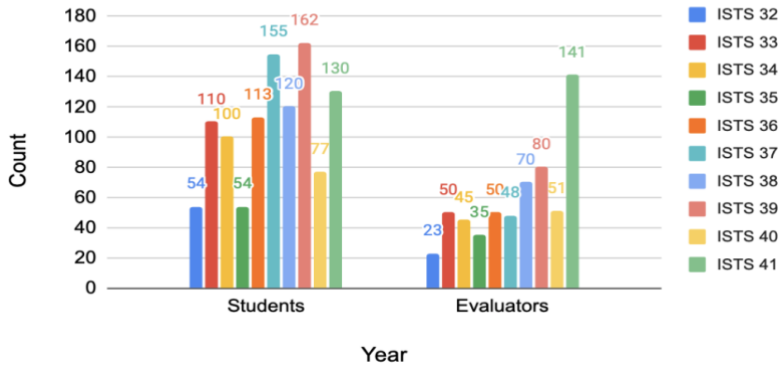
Student Committee Report

Matt Ramirez & Gabriela Arango

3.42 pm

- (1) Workshop organized: Career Paths and Key Approaches to Prepare and Succeed in the Sea Turtle World.
Had 8 speakers representing government, academia, non-profit, and for profit.
Attendees = 52.
- (2) Speed chatting: 13 experts; 72 students

Student Evaluations Summary



Students are invited to participate in the Student Committee as help is always needed and welcome.

Conclusions:

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Symposium format & frequency

Andrea Phillott

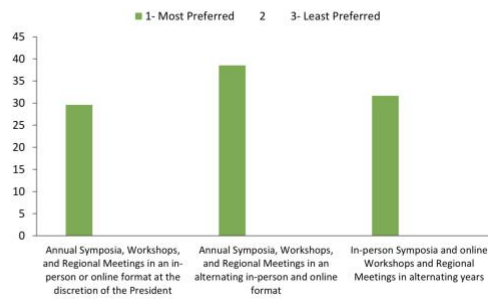
3.50 pm

Survey was conducted 28th Nov 2022 to 03rd Mar 2023. Members had to indicate their preference from 1 (Most Preferred) to 3 (Least Preferred):

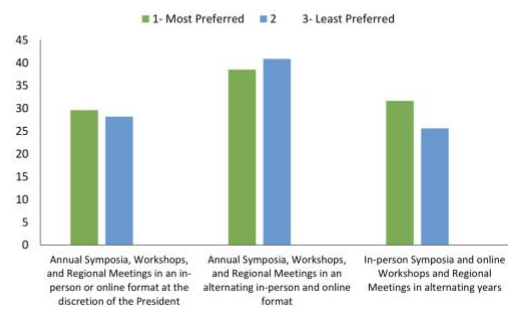
- Annual Symposia, Workshops, and Regional Meetings in an in-person or online format at the discretion of the President
- Annual Symposia, Workshops, and Regional Meetings in an alternating in- person and online format
- In-person Symposia and online Workshops and Regional Meetings in alternating years

Results:

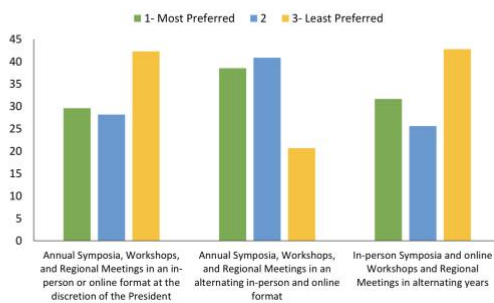
Responses (n=215)



Responses (n=215)



Responses (n=215)



Responses

	1- Most Preferred	2	3- Least Preferred
Annual Symposia, Workshops, and Regional Meetings in an in-person or online format at the discretion of the President (n = 213)	29.6%	28.2%	42.3%
Annual Symposia, Workshops, and Regional Meetings in an alternating in-person and online format (n = 213)	38.5%	40.8%	20.7%
In-person Symposia and online Workshops and Regional Meetings in alternating years (n = 215)	31.6%	25.6%	42.8%

Next steps

- Examine preferences of different demographics among those respondents
- Assess interest in being President of an online symposium
- The earliest a change (if any) in symposium format would occur is 2027
- Financial projections for Society with any change in format

Discussion:

Brad Nahill: Thank you for such a thorough process by the Board. Can we look at diversity representation?

Phillott: Yes.

Nick Pilcher: Made a comment online to open this to non-members. This is a survey not a vote so why exclude them when they could add value. At this point just canvassing people and the larger group is being ignored. When it comes to voting then it can be restricted to members of the Society.

Phillott: It is common among Societies to enhance the value of being a member if only they can contribute. It is open to everyone, they can become members.

Nick Pilcher: Unfair to ask people to become a member to do a survey.

Phillott: Will take into consideration.

Phillott: After the August Board retreat, an update will be provided to members.

Natalie Wildermann: There is value in doing it every 2 years in-person.

Phillott: So far we are not seeing a decrease in quality of presentations, there are still Presidents every year, and still interest in doing it annually.

Zoe Meletis: What about the carbon footprint?

Phillott: Yes will look into it.

Gaos: Sample size of 215 respondents so small for such an important decision.

Hannah Vander Zanden: Is there a sense of what the financial impacts would be? Are some options better money savers?

Phillott: Will speak to Presidents of other Symposia and look at what the financial impacts will be.

Hannah Vander Zanden: Would respondents have different responses if they knew about the financial impacts?

Phillott: This is not the last of the surveys. This is just a general survey.

Hannah Vander Zanden: Good to open it to the broader group.

Jeff Seminoff: The point of annual meetings is to have different representation in different regions. Reality is that if people are not at a Symposium then they are not members.

Additional comments:

Members also asked about the next steps, changes to the By-laws, and benefits to members, and encouraged the Board to have conversations with other Societies who have biennial Symposia to find out how that works. The Board was asked to share the report online along with a summary of this discussion. Phillott said the Board would be looking into all the comments from members and will keep the membership updated.

Balance Sheet Statement 2022**ASSETS**

Current Assets		
Petty Cash	\$	3,055.19
Bank of Amercia Money Market		202,494.30
Bank of America Checking Acct		154,029.69
Coastal Bank and Trust Month CD		50,000.00
Coastal Bank and Trust Year CD		100,000.00
Paypal Account		11,287.51
Other Receivables		<u>332.27</u>
Total Current Assets		521,198.96
Other Assets		
Prepaid or Deposits 2023		57,193.19
Deferred Expense 2023		<u>6,590.29</u>
Total Other Assets		<u>63,783.48</u>
Total Assets	\$	<u><u>584,982.44</u></u>

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$	7,500.00
Deferred Income - Next Year Grants		10,000.00
Deferred Income - Next Year Reg Fee		<u>118,493.00</u>
		•
Total Current Liabilities		135,993.00
Long-Term Liabilities		
Deferred Registration 2020		<u>53,703.29</u>
Total Long-Term Liabilities		<u>53,703.29</u>
Total Liabilities		189,696.29
Capital		
Retained Earnings		363,987.54
Net Income		<u>31,298.61</u>
Total Capital		<u>395,286.15</u>
Total Liabilities & Capital	\$	<u><u>584,982.44</u></u>

Income & Expense Statement 2022

	2022
Revenues	
Donations and Grants	\$ 55,687.50
Registration and Membership	85,010.00
T-Shirt sales	722.36
Interest Income	<u>31.32</u>
Total Revenues	<u>141,451.18</u>
Expenses	
Facility Expense	778.58
Audio Visual Expense	34,765.32
Student Awards	3,500.00
Artwork	3,999.01
Conferences Expense	1,869.87
Speaker Fees	2,196.62
Credit Card Fees	4,338.77
Office Expense	<u>1,314.89</u>
Symposium Expenses	<u>52,763.06</u>
Accounting Fees	10,250.00
Bank Fees	20.59
BOD Retreat	30,323.20
Insurance	1,026.00
Bookkeeper Support	5,000.00
Secretary Support	2,500.00
Web Manager Support	2,000.00
Grants Issued	4,078.00
Storage	670.00
Web Site Expense	<u>1,521.72</u>
Operating Expenses	<u>57,389.51</u>
Total Expenses	<u>110,152.57</u>
Net Revenue	<u>\$ 31,298.61</u>

Motion to accept Treasurer's report: Cynthia Lagueux

Second: Ana Barragan

Discussion:

It is clarified that this is for calendar year 2022.

Motion passes unanimously.

Conclusions:		
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Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
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2020 Awards	Board	4.25 pm
<p>The 2020 ISTS Career Awards that were not given out due to the pandemic are presented now: Lifetime Achievement Award: Barbara Schroeder, Karen Eckert, Larry Crowder Champions Award: Karumbé, Kimberley Stewart, Marine Turtle Newsletter, Pedro Vernet</p>		
Conclusions:		
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Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
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ISTS Elections	Mustapha Aksissou	4.30 pm
<p>Two open positions. The Committee received 8 nominations for the Board and 1 for President-Elect. 210 votes for the President-Elect 253 votes for the Board</p> <p>Election results: Board of Directors: Joe Pfaller and Itzel Sifuentes President-Elect: Andrews Agyekumhene (Ghana)</p>		
Conclusions:		
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Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
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2024 Symposium overview	Steve Dunbar	5.35 pm
<p>Overview of the Symposium in Thailand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First time in Thailand and second time in southeast Asia • Dates: 14–22 March 2024 • Hotel: Dusit Thani Pattaya • Room rate: \$120/night for single and double; \$170/night for triple 		
Conclusions:		
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Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
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Additional Information

Diego Amorocho: Motion to adjourn
Hector Barrios: Second
Motion passes unanimously
Adjourned at 5.55 pm.