

Report on National SAF Activities from District 3 Board Representative Nick Dennis

National convention Louisville, KY October 30 – November 3

Forest Ed program gaining momentum; several universities have expressed interest in having their on-line courses accessible on the Forest Ed platform; CE credits received are automatically recorded, thus reducing staff effort; half of CFEs are still processed by submission through US mail, requiring more staff time

Publications--A “state society corner” has been added to the Forestry Source. Publishing arrangement with Oxford University Press is paying substantial dividends, with a guarantee of \$290,000 for 2019, and for annual increases of \$70,000 during 7-year contract period; academic libraries and “consortia” pay high rates for access to journals, and are our largest source of publishing revenue; reflects very positively on the editorial quality of the JF and FS, but less positively on how the journals were marketed
Reviewing applicants/candidates for FS editor in chief

Committee on Forest Policy--National SAF recently adopted revised positions statements on clearcutting, wildfire management, biological diversity, and utilization of biomass

SAF has ad hoc committees on CF, CFE, student retention, and leadership development, and young professionals, and all are active and energized

National Headquarters Sale--Little interest has been expressed in purchasing headquarters building; although it encompasses 12,000 square feet and is on the local register of historic places, because of its severe deterioration and maintenance backlog, it’s probably not worth more than a nice 3-bedroom home in Bethesda (~\$2 million)

Student executive committee--chair is currently vacant; seeking a qualified candidate; Student executive committee is working on a quarterly student newsletter to accompany eForester; **suggestion to include student chapter faculty advisors on state society executive committees**

FSTB--SAF working groups are under auspices of the Forest Science and Technology Board; efforts being made to re-invigorate working groups, for example by merging some working groups FSTB also manages the university/junior college accreditation programs; accreditation reviews evaluate four separate standards: forestry, urban forestry, natural resources and ecosystem management, and forest technology

Young Professionals--Immediate Past President Dave Lewis is heading the young professionals focus group; has 26 participants; seeking others to fill some unrepresented geographic areas; conducted a survey of participants, which found that the number 1 reason young professionals participate in SAF is for networking opportunities

Terry Baker and John McNulty are leading an effort looking into the relationship between graduation from an accredited university and qualification as certified foresters; consensus is that CE exam is focused on a graduate with 3-5 years professional experience; working on best ways to retain student members after they graduate; considering making graduates “conditional certified foresters”;

Monetizing CFEs is still a hot topic; many non-members who are CFS are able to obtain CEs for free simply by attending chapter meetings and workshops

An anti-harassment statement was adopted and is being rolled out

Membership structure has been simplified; the old platinum/gold/silver options are being phased out; now have 3 categories: student, transitional (out of school less than 5 years), and full; membership is open to all students and graduates of forestry or natural resource management programs, although “natural resource management” is defined narrowly to be part of the broad field of forestry, and to exclude other areas such as hydrology, atmospheric sciences, fisheries, etc.; baccalaureate and associate degree programs are treated equally

Audit Committee—Board member Tom Hanson is leading a review of the CF program; planning to conduct a survey of CFs and non-CFs to learn about motivations vs. disincentives toward becoming a CF; number of CFs has declined from ~4,000 in 2004 (when ‘grandfathers’ were discontinued) to 1,500 in 2018; an original premise of the CF program was that “all foresters should aspire to become CFs”; however, it appears that the CF is geared toward foresters who work primarily in forest operations (what is referred in the CA Professional Foresters Law as “the practice of forestry”), as opposed to the broad field of forestry, which suggests that this premise is not valid

Finance Committee—SAF’s investment portfolio rises and falls with the stock market because it’s heavily weighted toward stock index funds; working toward developing a 5-year budget outlook that would represent a baseline financial projection; a major concern on the part of CEO Baker is the lack of financial flexibility to take advantage of opportunities to grow SAF without need to receive approval for expenditures from finance committee or BOD; we’re working on a solution