

District 3 Board Representative Report 2/21/20

At the December board meeting, SAF established an ad hoc advisory group on employer support and engagement. CEO Baker promised a follow-up report on this initiative for the May board meeting.

A revised position statement on herbicide use on forestlands was adopted in December. SAF also adopted a white paper on forest certification. Rebecca Barnard from Minnesota SAF will chair the Committee on Forest Policy in 2020. In addition to revising several expiring positions statements, the CFP plans to draft a new position statement on water resources this year. The CFP also plans to explore several emerging issues, one of which the CA SAF executive committee has also expressed interest in: rural labor capacity.

The 2020 convention will be held in Providence, RI, with the theme of “Metropolis to Wilderness: Foresters Rooted in Conservation.” The 2021 convention will be held in Sacramento, CA. The program chair for 2021 will be Damian Adams, and the convention theme will have to do with ecosystem goods and services.

SAF membership voted overwhelmingly last year to add a non-voting, at-large seat representing young professionals to the board of directors.

After approximately a year of rapid attrition of SAF staff, CEO Baker has recruited qualified individuals to fill approximately 4 key positions in recent months.

Ad hoc teams (referred to as the Three Teams) submitted final reports on three important current topics: monetizing continuing forestry education credits, increasing student retention and recruitment, and integrating the certified forester program into academic curricula. However, a motion to establish a pilot program to offer the CF exam to graduating seniors was defeated last December.

Reinvigorating the CF program remains a top priority but a big quandary for SAF. The audit committee reported the results of a survey addressing CF program issues. The survey included nearly 1,600 foresters (both SAF members and non-members), and showed that the perceived value of the program was generally insufficient. The CF program has a standing advisory committee called the Certification Review Board; unfortunately, for several years this committee has suffered from a lack of staff support, board guidance, leadership, clarity and knowledge of mission, etc. A final audit committee report on the problems besetting the CF program and recommendations to reinvigorate the program is expected from the audit committee in May.

SAF is gradually dismantling its network of state-society level Continuing Forestry Education coordinators. David Bakke has served NorCal SAF and CA SAF in this capacity for many years. A network of five national CFE coordinators will replace the old system, primarily to increase consistency across state societies in levels of credit authorized for various course formats. Naomi Marcus from Terry’s staff will continue to oversee the CFE coordinators. National coordinators will receive compensation for their work. One of the five coordinator positions remains unfilled, and Naomi is seeking a qualified member from a west coast state society to fill it. If interested in this position, please contact Naomi soon.

SAF’s Forest Ed program, which offers continuing education through online courses, continues to grow and gather momentum.

The sale of SAF's national headquarters is progressing and we are in a 45-day due-diligence period. CEO Baker anticipates that, if the sale closes as expected, SAF would be likely to move to a new office around September 2020.

A digital version of *The Forestry Source* was launched in January.

Alex Flores, a junior in Cal Poly's forestry program, represented District 3 on the SAF Student Executive committee last year; Alex has agreed to continue in that role in 2020.

Mike De Lasaux will again chair the District 3 Fellows Committee in 2020.

I am seeking from the CA SAF executive committee suggestions for the 2020 Presidential Field Forester Award recipient from District 3. Any suggestions?

Finally, on a personal note, my wife and I will be moving to central Oregon later this year. However, I will emulate Doug Piirto by retaining my membership in CA SAF while residing outside the state, and serve out my term on the SAF board. I promise to do my best to attend all CA SAF meetings and continue to represent you on the SAF board to the best of my ability.