

District 3 Board Representative Report 10/1/20

The 2020 SAF national convention will be held virtually on October 29-31, with the House of Society Delegates meeting on October 27-28. Brian Rueger from the Southern San Joaquin chapter will receive the Presidential Field Forester Award for District 3 at the convention. There will be no Quiz Bowl this year. Cal SAF will host the 2021 convention in Sacramento, with Keith Gilles serving as convention general chair. SAF cautions that some Covid restrictions may still be in place next fall, and that we're considering having a "hybrid" convention, with some events in-person and some virtual.

SAF has moved out of its historic office at Wild Acres in Bethesda, MD, and has relocated to 2121 K Street NW, Suite 315, Washington, DC. With the addition of Darnell Pinson as membership manager, SAF is now fully staffed.

SAF's financial position remains strong, with our general fund having fully recovered from stock market losses incurred earlier this year. Expenditures and revenues are tracking closely with their budgeted levels.

Voting for SAF elected positions will open on October 1 and remain open throughout October. Phil Bryce of New Hampshire and Chris Maisch of Alaska are running for vice president. The next District 3 board representative will be elected in 2021; please consider applying for this position!

SAF's membership stood at 9,550 as of September 1, continuing its slow decline.

At its August meeting, the board of directors approved a new national award: the Local Unit Achievement Award. The board also authorized the Committee on Forest Policy to prepare position statements on forest research and development, and on the use of prescribed in forest and natural resource management.

Elliott Smith, from Ohio State University, joined the board of directors as chair of the student executive committee in July.

ForestEd, SAF's on-line continuing education program continues to gain momentum, with 335 registrations in August.

The certified forester program, which was the subject of the SAF audit committee's program review in 2019-2020, has enrolled no new CFs so far this calendar year. The audit committee will probably review the National Science and Technology Board and its programs (including the working groups) in 2021.

At its August meeting, the Educational Policy Review Committee decided to postpone for 1 year all full reviews of academic programs.

A new non-voting member has been added to SAF's board of directors: the young professional board member. SAF members under age 40 with a college degree are eligible to apply. District representatives will solicit applications and will each select one candidate to forward to the SAF president, who will then appoint the young professional board member. So far, I've received no applications.

The next World Forestry Congress is planned for 2021 in Seoul, South Korea.

At our December 2020 meeting, the board of directors will consider a motion to dissolve Hawaii SAF and invite former members to join the Southern California chapter of Cal SAF.