

## **International Association of Butterfly Exhibitions – Board Meeting January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007 via Microsoft Messenger**

Present at the meeting – Mary Babcock (Executive Director), Andrea Schepmann, Caspar Bijleveld, Enzo Moretto, Gerlinde Blaese, Hazel Davies, Joris Brinckerhoff and Martin Feather.

### **Mary brings the meeting to order at 9:55 AM EST.**

The first order of business is to nominate and elect officers for 2007.

Andrea nominates of Martin for president.

Enzo, Gerlinde and Hazel all vote for Martin.

Joris and Caspar do not vote.

Martin accepts, “thank you, I'll do my best”.

### **Martin Feather is elected president.**

Andrea nominates Gerlinde.

Caspar, Enzo, Hazel and Martin all vote for Gerlinde as vice president.

Gerlinde: I pass

Joris likes president and vice president on both sides of the Atlantic, votes for Gerlinde.

### **Gerlinde Blaese is unanimously elected vice president.**

Joris nominates Caspar for Treasurer.

Martin, Enzo, Hazel, Gerlinde and Andrea all vote for Caspar.

### **Caspar enthusiastically accepts the position of treasurer.**

Andrea I nominate Joris for secretary

Caspar and Enzo agree on Joris.

Joris nominates Hazel

Martin votes for Hazel, “I believe she offered”

Gerlinde votes Hazel

Hazel votes for Joris

Joris would rather decline the position.

Martin suggests, “given Joris is declining, looks like Hazel”.

Caspar, Enzo and Andrea change their vote to Hazel.

### **Hazel Davies is elected secretary.**

**Next on the agenda is to discuss or approve end of year financial statement.**

### **Funds Available as of January 26, 2007**

Checking Account: \$7491.86

Money Market Acct: \$5120.42

Euros Account: 2224.06 (conversion rate on Jan. 26=1.2927)=\$2875.04

Total Funds in Bank: \$15,487.32

Submitted by Mary Babcock

### **Membership Committee (Mary)**

- Number of Members for 2006 :

|             | US Members  | Intern'l Members | Total       |
|-------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| Regular     | 44          | 26               | 70          |
| Individual  | 11          | 8                | 19          |
| Flagship    | 5           | 3                | 8           |
| Sponsorship | 14 (\$1825) | 11 (\$1350)      | 25 (\$3175) |

Andrea, Caspar, Enzo, Gerlinde, Hazel and Joris all approve the financial statement.

Martin, "As long as we present a balanced budget initially, thinking it will be fluid during the year, it is ok by me."

Caspar comments on budget. The euro/dollar, as you can see in the budget makes things complicated and we always depend on currency rates. I would like to propose we try to get all accounts in USD wherever they are so it will make our work much easier.

Enzo and Martin agree, but suggest we can work this out over the next few weeks to ensure all is satisfactory, and then get an e-vote on it.

**The end of year financial statement and proposed budget for 2007 is approved.** (See the website for the approved 2007 budget.

Caspar will notify the board of details on the transaction process with the German account.

### **Conference Committee Report from Joris.**

#### **What are the current deadlines or concerns?**

Being an odd-numbered year, 2007, IABE is involved with only one conference which is the worldwide ICBES to be held in Ecuador in November. The conference dates have been set for 13-17 November with pre and post conference tours organized by the hosts, Jacob Olander and Rosie Gómez. The Ecuador ICBES was formally announced at SASI last summer as well as ECBES in the Netherlands in October. The information has been posted on the IABE website, [www.butterflyexhibitions.org](http://www.butterflyexhibitions.org) for many months now and has received extensive and front-page exposure in the current issue of the *Flutterings*. It's my impression that the conference announcement has made it to all the people that it intends to serve. Whether it is foremost on people's minds is another matter. The Conference Committee would be well served in sending out a reminder both in March and June on the ICBES Yahoo Listserv. Would someone like to assume responsibility for seeing that this is done?

At this stage in the preparation of ICBES there is only one deadline that is of concern to IABE and that is the paper presentation proposals. These are to be submitted to Michael Weissmann at [AskArtie@aol.com](mailto:AskArtie@aol.com) by 28 February. An interesting question to be posed now, one month short of this deadline, is if there have been any submissions. If necessary, we should think about how to put the word out and encourage more papers. This should probably be posted on the ICBES Yahoo listserv this coming week... and the week after that too.

Otherwise, I think that the Conference Committee is on track for a great gathering in Ecuador in November.

#### **What are plans for ECBES 2008 and SASI 2008?**

In 2008, an even-numbered year, the IABE conferences revert to regional affairs. For North American exhibitors & suppliers we will meet in July/August at SASI.

For SASI 2008, a year and a half from now, there have been no preparations or thought given to the occasion. At this time the Conference Committee only knows the where and when. Being "only" an afternoon affair, and not requiring any special logistical considerations on our part, there are no plans to address this until early next year.

In Europe, the industry will meet at a site that is yet to be determined in October or November. The venue should be settled by the end of this summer, a year and some months in advance, so people will have plenty of time to budget. The cry went out to the ECBES participants last October that a site is required and that anyone that's interested should contact Joris at [joris@butterflyfarm.co.cr](mailto:joris@butterflyfarm.co.cr). Gerlinde will be reminding everyone in Europe in March that proposals are still welcome. Currently there are two hints for proposals though nothing concrete. The first comes from Caspar (or Chantal?) to possibly host it in Fribourg. Another whisper came from Mikhail Berezin, head of the Entomology Dept of the Moscow Zoo to hold it in Moscow.

### **Any other details to report?**

For now I think the Conference Committee is on track, on time and within its budget (\$0). Special recognition should be extended to Jacob and Rosie for their hard work in their preparations for ICBES in Ecuador this November. Also, we should recognize Enzo for his efforts in managing the ICBES website.

Submitted to the IABE board, 27 January 2007  
Joris

Martin and Enzo, both being on the conference committee and having seen the report earlier approve. Andrea and Hazel request time to read it before commenting. Mary agrees we move on now and comment on the report later when all board members have read it.

**Conservation Committee Report from Caspar.** [It is on the website as a power pt.](#) Andrea, Enzo and Gerlinde and Martin approve the report.

Conservation committee report approved so far and Caspar will keep us up to date.

### **Government Liaison Committee**

Martin has nothing specific to report, but says big thanks to Mark for past efforts.

Enzo suggests we should have one person on the board that chairs both the US and European government liaison committee.

Martin wonders if we can ask Mark Deering to continue as chair and liaise with Europe also.

Board agrees we need one chairperson to oversee both the US and EU Government liaison Committee. Martin will talk with Erik Hendricks (**please note that Erik has declined to renew his membership 3/6/07, Martin**) and Mark Deering in this regard.

Board agrees it would like Mark to be the chair, but that means revising the motion of who can chair a committee, currently it is agreed the chair is an active board member and Mark is no longer on the board since his term expired.

Mary suggests someone revise the motion for who can chair a committee.

Andrea moves to revise the motion.

Martin proposes each committee elect a chair, this person reports to board, but each committee has a board member on it also.

Andrea, Hazel and Caspar agree.

Mary summarizes for a vote: **We allow each committee to elect their own chair. However a board member must be on each committee and the chair must report to the board.** Approved?

Approved by 6 board members, Enzo passes.

### **Membership Committee Report from Mary.**

Andrea and Hazel comment they have not seen it. Martin confirms it arrived just this morning. Mary agrees to resend it and we can also comment on it in a later vote.

Caspar and Gerlinde agree to help Mary with identifying potential members and boosting membership numbers. Andrea suggests we work on a firm plan for increasing membership. This will help us with balancing the budget. This somewhat ties into a marketing strategy also.

Mary will enlist those of you who have said you could help as well as Andrea who is on marketing and see if we can come up with a plan and report back to the board.

Andrea suggests we divide this list of members and potential members and start making personal invitation calls to attend the conference.

Andrea has to leave the meeting to go to work so is asked if there is anything pressing she would like to discuss now.

Andrea asks about the name change, IABE to IABES she is not convinced that it is worth the trouble..."If someone feels strongly, convince me, please".

Joris states we must change, we are confronted with this discussion at every conference. We will continue to be so.

Enzo is not convinced either.

Martin would like to hear from the suppliers, "do they want 'official' status?"

Caspar agrees with Joris, "we can't not do it because of technicalities"

Gerlinde agrees - we must change it's not THAT expensive, though Enzo thinks it is not an expensive question, rather exhibitors and suppliers often don't share the same aims

Hazel suggests it is a good idea for visible equality, as long as it is not too costly for us

Joris states that IABE is the INDUSTRY organization, not just the exhibitors. The committees speak and act for all. The name should reflect this. IABE of today has no relation to what Dan (Dunwoody) originally envisioned.

Caspar suggests we just agree on whether we change or not? As a principle and then see later how it is possible?

Mary notes the main thing to keep in mind is how it could affect our non-profit trade association status. "I was looking at the by-laws again this morning and the original paperwork was submitted with the purpose of our association as "to promote the international industry of live butterfly exhibition through cooperative marketing and public relations? Obviously we have branched out from there. We may need a by-laws review committee to go over all the details and then see if this changes our status and if so in what way. I do have someone who works with Lyle that has volunteered to help me research this. If I do that, I will need to turn over the newsletter chair to someone else. I like getting people to write articles though and would like to keep that part at least. By the way, although I don't have a vote...none of my comments reflect how I feel about this. I think it would be very worthwhile. The suppliers mention this at every meeting and in emails that they too want to be represented as active members of IABE."

Gerlinde confirms we NEED to go through the by-laws anyway.

It is suggested that we need to change the name, even if it means dissolving IABE and reconstituting IABES by possibly re-writing any by-laws and purposes that need to be re-written. Dan Dunwoody and Michael Weissman may be enlisted to help since they set up the original by-laws.

Andrea decides she is beginning to understand the position on this more and that if the decision is made to change the name she would support it.

Martin proposes we examine seriously the POSSIBILITY of changing from IABE to IABES, reflecting the changing nature of the organization. The board will look at the by-laws, Martin will confer with Dan and Michael, the name change issue will be thoroughly looked into.

Guidelines Committee Report submitted by Enzo.

This my agenda:

- 1) write an article for the next newsletter.  
Steps: a) submit it to board – b) board corrections and suggestions – c) Publication on the newsletter and web site;
- 2) prepare a more detailed report – submit it to the board and the to new committee members (end of March) – the report should resume what we did, results of survey and suggestions, a calendar and how we intend to proceed;
- 3) on the base of the new committee member availability just work on subjects as: guidelines main issues - comparison with other associations experiences - cross work with other committee, especially liaisons and conservation. E.g. participate to IABE conservation is guideline subject and then requirement to be IABE member?
- 4) Draft of the first final guidelines proposition for September 2007. Submit it to IABE board for approval (includes modifies)
- 5) Present first final guidelines proposition at Ecuador ICBES Nov.2007. Discuss and eventually propose there another survey.
- 6) Gen.-Feb. 2008 Submit to the board the ICBES first final guidelines proposition, as revised after ICBES experience.
- 7) Once approved, submit it to IABE members before implementation.
- 8) Continue to work on the text and try to improve it.

9) ECBES 2008 and SASI 2008, presentation of IABE guidelines and recommendations .....

Guidelines and Recommendations (G & R) are thought to improve the quality of our exhibitions and suppliers, greatly reduce the risk bad exhibitions or suppliers feed back on IABE.

G & R cannot reduce involvement but just improve it. On the base of the involvement we can measure our success. I think at least 4 main issues should address us. 1) Advantage should be greater than disadvantage. 2) respecting, laws at broad 3) Combine at the best nature conservation and sustainability. 4) improve our standards and let peoples know about.

Martin likes the outline, but many things will have to fall into place before this becomes a reality, but we are, at least, making steps in a sensible direction.

We agree to move ahead as planned focusing on the exhibitors for now as we are only IABE. If we become IABES, and have the exhibitors resolved, then we can move on to suppliers. We can discuss and move ahead with supply in an unofficial manner in the meantime.

Martin asks do we propose to move ahead with draft guidelines as outlined in Enzo'e e-mail report?

Hazel, Joris, Gerlinde and Caspar all agree.

### **Newsletter Discussion**

Enzo suggests we create a version of our newsletter for non-members, so we can get them gradually more familiar with IABE. And that we should print a Christmas newsletter that is sent by post and condenses all the main year issues.

The rest of the board agreed this would have little impact and would be a huge undertaking. Not worth the time and effort involved, far too much for Mary, who would be better spending time on other projects.

The board agrees that electronic is the way to go. We could look for more sponsors to at least advertise in the newsletter, we could find a wider target audience and thus attract more members.

Discussion confirms the newsletter consumes a lot of Mary's time. She is working about a 35-60 hr a week job just for IABE with no full days off due to meetings, membership, reports, etc. during the winter, after that it is probably closer to 25-30 hrs during the quieter summer months. It is suggested Mary look for work that can be delegated and let the board know. Perhaps help with editing the electronic newsletter might be a start.

There are no other topics for discussion.

**Mary closes the meeting at 11:47 AM EST.**