

**Conchologists of America
Annual Business Meeting
Crowne Plaza Hotel O'Hare, O'Hare Ballroom 1 in Rosemont, IL
July 29, 2016**

The annual business meeting was called to order in the O'Hare I ballroom at 3:43 P.M. by President José Leal, who welcomed all in attendance. He then recognized the 2016 Convention in Chicago organizers, Lee and Jan Kremer. Lee and Jan then thanked the 2016 Committee, which included Amanda Lawless, Ken Mattes, Stephanie Clark, Dave Matusik, Mary and Chuck Owen, Jochen Gerber, Zhigang Pen, Rebecca Gray Smith, Theresa Jaffe, Linda Young, Katarina Frost, Michael Cavallini, Margaret and Les Eastwood, Lynn Funkhouser, and Carole Marshall.

President Leal then introduced the COA Board, as follows:

Harry G. Lee, Vice President; Steven Coker, Treasurer; Phyllis Gray, Secretary; Bill Lyons, Trustee; Membership Director, Debbie Freeman (*in absentia* as she resigned for health reasons); Donald Dan, COA Awards; Marcus and José Coltro, Website Administrators; Dr. Jann Vendetti *in absentia*, Academic Grants Director; Anne Joffe, Convention Coordinator; Members at Large, Doug Wolfe, Jim Brunner, and Wayne Humbird. He then thanked each for their service to COA.

Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting at the 2015 COA Convention in Weston, Florida had been posted at the door of the meeting room. Doug Wolfe moved, and Karlynn Morgan seconded, a motion to accept the minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

Steven Coker, Treasurer, presented the 2016 Financial Report and the 2017 Budget. He noted in 2015 Receipts of \$44,666; disbursements of \$57,892.71; for a net loss of \$13,227. However, that year included payment for five issues of *American Conchologist*, and that proceeds of the 2015 Convention were not received until calendar year 2016. The preliminary accounting placed the proceeds of the 2015 Convention oral auctions at \$13,255.

Steven stated he will entertain a revision to the Convention Guidelines regarding financial reporting aspects, to make reporting simple, more structured, and in a more timely manner. Accounting for donations will be included in this financial template. Tom Eichhorst moved, and Jim Brunner seconded, a motion to accept the Financial Reports. Motion carried.

The 2016 Grant Awards report was sent by Dr. Jann Vendetti, Academic Grants Director. In her absence, Dr. Leal made a PowerPoint presentation slides noting the grants total of \$20,793.04. He reminded attendees that buying at the oral auction is ensuring the future of professional conchologists.

Donald Dan, Awards and Endowment Committee Chair, reported that the COA Award had been presented at ten domestic and four overseas shells shows. In the last two years, eight sizeable donations had been received. As an ancillary function, he coordinated printing of the COA Grant Donation brochure, listing ten recipients. He acknowledged John Timmerman for the design and composition of the Convention Oral Auction catalogue. Donald also assisted in printing the trifold brochure for the 2017 Convention. He also releases dates of shell shows and events twice a year.

Anne Joffe, Convention Coordinator, announced we would hear the presentation for the Key West 2017 Convention later in the day's program. The 2018 Convention in San Diego will be chaired by David Waller. The 2019 Convention will be in the Sanibel-Captiva area and timed as the 100th Anniversary of the birth date of Dr. R. Tucker Abbott. She is working on 2020 and 2021. The 2017 Convention team includes past successful convention leaders. Also, 2019 will need other team members, as the Sanibel-Captiva is a winter club. Anne welcomes suggestions and critiques.

Debbie Freeman, Membership Chair resigned as of this convention. Her report noted about 5% drop on membership and random fluctuation and encouraged that members invite friends and, especially young people, to join COA.

At the 2015 meeting, the President appointed a Nominating Committee composed of Alan Gettleman (Chair), Doris Underwood and Everett Long to present a slate of officers for the 2016-2018 cycle. The slate was published in the *American Conchologist* as mandated in the Constitution and Bylaws, and reads as follows:

President – Harry Lee

Vice President – Wayne Humbird

Treasurer – Steven Coker

Secretary – Phyllis Gray

Trustee – Everett Long

Jim Brunner moved to approve by acclamation. The vote was unanimous, and all were elected.

Harry Lee then rose, as the newly elected President, to announce two appointments to take effect immediately, as follows:

Membership – Karlynn Morgan

Member at Large – Ed Shuller

Russell Renka made, and David Waller seconded, a motion to adjourn. The annual meeting was adjourned at 4:11 P.M.

Greg Curry blew a conch horn to begin the preview of the 2017 COA Convention in Key West, FL. Ed Shuller, co-chairman, moderated the presentation. Key West also hosted the 1980 convention, which was the fifth in COA's rich history. The location is the Doubletree Grand Key Resort at 3990 S. Roosevelt Boulevard. Reservations open October 1 at www.doubletreekeywest.com with Group Code: COA. There followed announcements of field trips, the usual auctions, bourse, and programs. The presentation concluded at 4:31 P.M., and brochures were made available for clubs.

Phyllis Gray, COA Secretary (3-22-17)