WSWS Officer and Committee Report

Office or Committee Name: President
Officer or Chairperson Name: Tim Prather
Date of Preparation (include year): 3/7/2025

Activities during the year:

1. Dan Tekiela requested me to present what takes place during our annual meeting for members of the Western Weed Coordinating Committee. I attended their meeting in Boise and presented examples of the types of presentations made and opportunities for agencies to participate in our meetings and to attach workshops for agencies to our program.
2. Committees were filled; our members are willing participants in governance of our society. The legislative committee and the Sustaining Member committee are still short of a member.
3. I continued to participate in Science Policy Committee meetings. There were decisions I needed to make related to letters to have WSWS sign off on. When the timeline was long enough, I routed them for approval to the board. I would like the board to determine if there are limits to unilateral decision making by the president. As is, I am uncomfortable with the number of times I made decisions on behalf of society.
4. I spent time discussing with other regional presidents and past presidents on how they adjusted to changes in membership. Working towards smaller, cheaper venues in central California, for our 2027 meeting, we found that the only venues still open were near Newport Beach CA. We need to work now for 2028. Once we adjust to working with Tina Nebuloni and become quicker to respond to her requests, we should operate smoothly and site selection will be an enjoyable committee to be part of. Working with Tina was one outcome of my discussions with other presidents.
5. The WSSA and regional presidents participated in a search for an alternative to the software used for our program development and we chose ConFex. The company did not provide the services they contracted for. The regional societies and national society will evaluate next steps at a meeting at the end of March. Carl Coburn was at least as challenged by the new process as I was with the old one. All our associated societies are very frustrated and will look at how to move forward for next year.

Recommendations for Board Action:
Address limits to the president's ability to make unilateral decisions for the WSWS.
Consider joining WSSA for 2027 or deciding to go to Newport Beach CA

Consider creating a position of Program Chair Elect to share program duties with the President Elect, the Research Chair and the Education Regulatory Chair. Rational is to provide some training prior to moving into the president elect position, in charge of the program. Having experience would also allow the program chair to pay greater attention to presidential duties rather than being solely focused on program. Impact would be to create a 4 year rather than 3 year obligation.

Ask for board members to volunteer to evaluate duties of President Elect, President and Past President to see if there are duties that the Past President could assume.

Budget Needs: None

Name of Person Preparing This Report: Tim Prather