WSWS Officer and Committee Report
Annual Board Meeting – March 10, 2013

Office or Committee Name: President

Officer or Chairperson Name: Roger Gast

Date of Preparation (include year): March 1, 2013

Officer Activities during the Year:

Conducted post-meeting BOD meeting in San Diego Thursday, March 14, 2013; and conducted the summer BOD meeting in Colorado Springs, August 5-6, 2013.

Appointed new committee members and notified all committee members and chairpersons of assignments and responsibilities as posted in the WSWS Operating Guide. The Public Relations committee chair remains vacant until we set the new charter and find someone who is willing to lead this committee.

Signed and accepted a meeting contract on behalf of the WSWS with the Hyatt Regency Albuquerque for 2016 meeting in Albuquerque, NM.

Accepted Tony White's resignation as our WSWS webmaster. Tony had always done an excellent job in this role. New and more demanding job responsibilities were cited as the main reason for his resignation.

Worked with Phil Banks to solicit a proposal from David Krueger at "Apex Web Studio" to provide a onetime redesign of the website and become our webmaster, providing annual website support. The proposal was presented to the BOD via email. An on-line BOD vote was conducted, and the BOD approved the bid (recorded on July 9th) that consisted of a development cost of $6500, and annual website support cost of $4000.

A proposal from Jill Schroeder was received on June 18th with a request of $2000 in financial support from the WSWS to provide partial support a "Herbicide Resistance Management Workshop" to be held in Washington D.C. September, 2013. The proposal was presented to the BOD and the BOD approved the support expenditure via an on-line vote (recorded July, 9th).

Communicated with Lee VanWychen, WSSA Director of Science Policy, on behalf of WSWS to support the following:

1) Signed on behalf of WSWS, along with other weed science presidents, letter of support to Edward B. Knipling, Administrator, USDA ARS, to refill John Lyndon's position as "National Program Leader for Weed Science". The agency announced they had decided to refill position on July 15th.
2) A WSSA (Science Policy Committee) project proposal to create a Weed Science Fellow at USDA-NIFA.

3) WSSA comments on the "NOI to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for determination of Nonregulated Status for 2,4-D resistant corn and soybeans and for dicamba resistant cotton and soybeans".
4) Signed on behalf of WSWS, along with all other weed science society presidents, a letter to Dr. Stephen Bradbury, EPA Director of the Office of Pesticide Programs outlining specific recommendations for adoption of accepted BMPs for managing herbicide resistance.
5) Signed on behalf of WSWS, along with all other weed science society presidents, a letter to Dr. Rosalind James USDA, ARS, Office of National Programs, recommending an increase in funding within their upcoming 5 year budget planning in various areas of basic and applied weed science research.

Attended WSSA Science Policy Committee quarterly meetings via conference call and in person at the February Vancouver WSSA meeting. Along with Julie Kraft represented WSWS interests on various policy issues.

Attended WSSA president's breakfast meeting at the February Vancouver meeting.

Sent congratulatory letters to 3 student scholarship winners - Halley Berg, Montana State University; Ashley Cunningham, New Mexico State University; Krista Ehlert, Montana State University; and 2 acknowledgement letters to applicants.

Sent congratulatory letters to new elected officers – Joe Yenish, President-elect; Jane Mangold, Research Chair-elect; Sandra McDonald, Education and Regulatory Chair-elect; and Curtis Rainbolt, Secretary. Sent acknowledgement letters to candidates Chad Cummings, Stephen Colbert, Greg Dahl and Lars Baker, respectively.

Sent congratulatory letters to new Fellows – Robert Norris and Bob Stougaard.

Sent congratulatory letter to Honorary Member – Dave Armstrong

Sent congratulatory letters to Charlie Hicks, Distinguished Achievement Award for Outstanding Weed Scientist - Private Sector; Ed Davis, Professional Staff; and Rita Beard, Weed Manager of the Year.

Recommendations for Board Action:

See March 2014 board meeting agenda and Minutes of August 5-6, 2013 summer meeting for current business activities and projects of WSWS for 2013-14.

Budget Needs: None

Suggestions for the Future:
Suggest adding a web-based committee sign-up system to the WSWS website, similar to the WSSA, working as a limited time tool during a two month window before the annual meeting.

Name of Person Preparing This Report: Roger Gast