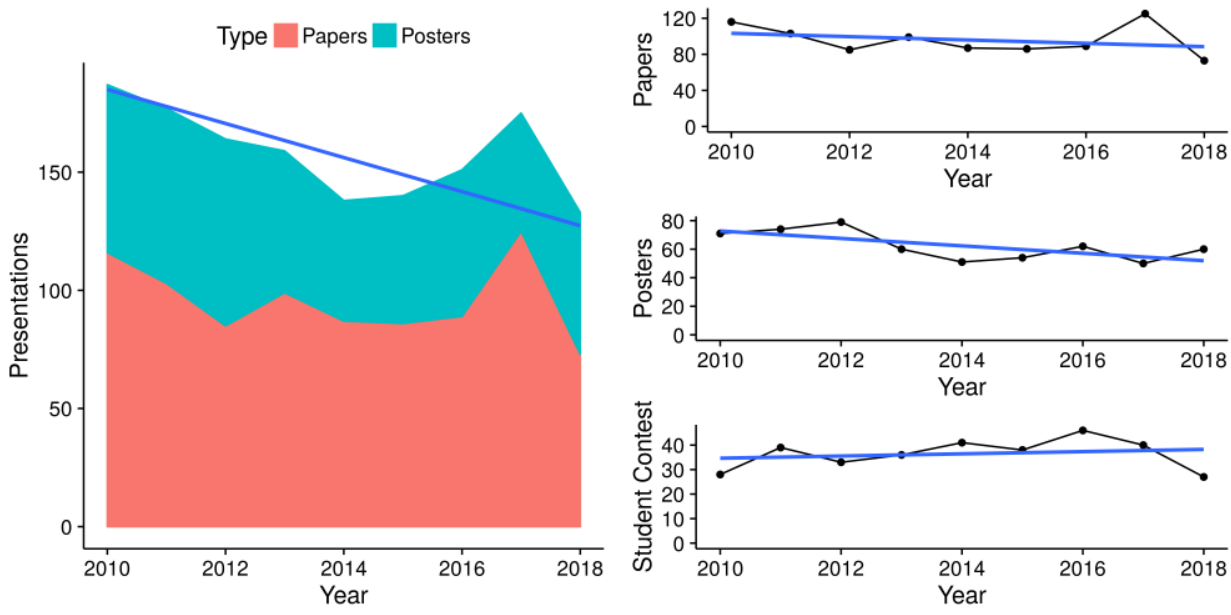
WSWS Officer and Committee Report
2018 Garden Grove, CA

Office or Committee Name: Program Chair, Pres-Elect
Officer or Chairperson Name: Andrew Kniss
Date of Preparation (include year): March 9, 2018

Committee Activities during the Year:
The 2018 program for the Garden Grove meeting included 133 volunteer submissions; 73 oral papers and 60 poster presentations. There were 4 talks in the General Session, for a total of 137 titles in this year's program. The student competition included 10 graduate student posters, 2 undergraduate posters, and 15 graduate student papers.

The total numbers are substantially below 2017, which is expected since 2017 was a joint meeting with the WAPMS (which contributed ~38 additional papers). However, even excluding 2017, the number of presentations at WSWS has been declining by about 7 papers per year, on average, since 2010. Before 2018, student contest numbers had actually been increasing, but we saw a substantial drop in student contest participation in 2018. Only 28 student contest papers + posters were submitted in 2018, compared to an average of 37 from the previous 5 year period. Hopefully this is a temporary lull and student numbers are back up in 2019.



The General Session will have General Announcements (Andrew Kniss) and a Presidential Addresses (Monte Anderson). Lee Van Wychen will provide an update for the goings-on in DC, and we have two invited guest speakers. Lydia Jennings from the University of Arizona will be giving a talk on issues related to science and land management faced by contemporary

indiginous peoples. Finally, David Marley from Cal State Fullerton will entertain us with some information on the history of Disneyland.

The following discussion topics were developed by the various projects chairs and chairs-elect:

- Basic Biology and Ecology: *How Will Climate Instability Impact Crop Competition, Weed Communities, and Weed Biology in the Short Term?*
- Weeds of Range and Natural Areas: *Implementing a Collaborative Approach to Restoring Sites Dominated by Invasive Annual Grasses*
- Weeds of Agronomic Crops: *State of Weed Resistance in the West*
- Weeds of Horticultural Crops: *Environmental Factors and Herbicide Performance*
- Teaching and Technology Transfer: *Who Ya Gonna Call? Extension?*

I participated in several Science Policy Committee conference calls and attended the committee and regional president's breakfast at the WSSA annual meeting in Arlington. There was some discussion of the joint WSSA/WSWS meeting in Hawaii in 2020, but our Site Selection committee and Tara have done a great job representing WSWS interests in that matter.

I have not made as much progress developing the committee on Diversity and Inclusion as I would have liked, owing to some unforseen circumstances this past Fall. This will be a priority going forward into the spring.

Recommendations for Board Action:
No action recommended at this time.

Budget Needs: Travel costs for two General Session speakers (hotel + airfare for Jennings, mileage & possibly a meal for Marley). We should know actual costs by Thursday board meeting.

Suggestions for the Future:

- Keep an eye on the decreasing trends in paper & poster submissions. This could affect future contracts and meeting room needs. 2018 program has only 3 concurrent sessions, whereas previous meetings have required 4.
- Discuss whether there are any reasons behind low student contest participation numbers in 2018, or if this is just a demographic 'blip'.
- Pursue discussions with WAPMS for a joint meeting in 2021.

Current Committee Members: Brad Hanson & Dirk Baker

Name of Person Preparing This Report: Andrew Kniss