

# Plenary Session of the 38th Annual Sea Turtle Symposium

February 23, 2018  
Time: 4.13 pm

Meeting called by:  
Yoshi Matsuzawa

Type of meeting: ~ 106 - 152 people  
Plenary Session

Secretary:  
Manjula Tiwari

## Agenda

President's welcome	Yoshi Matsuzawa
Treasurer's Report	George Balazs
Travel Committee Report	Alex Gaos
Student Committee Report	Itzel Sifuentes
ISTS Code of Ethical Conduct	Andrea Phillott
Election results	Kate Mansfield
2019 Symposium Overview	Ken Lohmann
Other business:	
-Post-Symposium survey	
-Kobe Declaration	

## Additional Information

Special notes:

## Agenda

**President's welcome****Yoshi Matsuzawa****4.17 pm**

Thanked everyone for attending. 600 participants at the Symposium. Posters and presentations were all very good. Very few complained to him. This Symposium made history in Kobe, and had an impact in Kobe.

Conclusions:

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

**Treasurer's report****George Balazs****4.19 pm**

Balazs: Last night showed we are a happy society. Feel the sisterhood and brotherhood. Only 3 Treasurers to date for the Society: Ed Drane, Terry Meyer (12 years), and me after 5 years on the Board. I have had this position for 9 months. I am dedicated to carrying on that fiscal responsibility. Terry Meyer has been my rock– she is committed until May 2018 to advise the Treasurer.

## Revenues

Registration & Membership Income	\$193,745
Donations and Grants	57,613
Auction Income	22,665
Investment and Interest Income	<u>3,492</u>

**Total Revenues****277,514**

## Expenses

Accommodations & Facility Exp	10,202
Accommodations - Room Grants	36,074
Food and Beverage	103,319
Audio Visual Expense	49,754
Poster Displays	5,261
Student Awards	2,481
Participant Gifts	7,029
T Shirts	3,091
Entertainment	2,541
Travel Grants	677
Symposium Coordination	9,573
Credit Card Fees	9,061
Supplies Expense	821
Insurance - Venue	1,403

Contingency Expense	0	
<b>SUBTOTAL - SYMPOSIUM EXPENSE</b>		241,287
Accounting Fees	8,000	
Bank Fees	45	
BOD Retreat	24,515	
Insurance - D & O and Fidelity	1,484	
Investment Advisory Fee	1,805	
Office Expense	113	
Treasurer Support	2,000	
Secretary Support	2,000	
Program Officer	1,000	
Web Site Expense	2,945	
<b>SUBTOTAL - OPERATING EXPENSE</b>		<u>43,907</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<u><b>285,194</b></u>
<b>Net Income</b>		<u><b>\$(7,680)</b></u>

Balazs goes through report and points out 7.6 K in the loss, and that we renewed policy for Board of Directors to protect the Board. Auction last night brought in approximately 17K.

Discussion:

Jeff Seminoff: Was 10 years on the Board. 24K for the Board retreat is a large cost. Do we need it?

Balazs: Society is not in the red. Last year was in the red. It is needed and will discuss at the retreat.

Jack Frazier: I thought Broadbent didn't charge for anything, but received commission from hotel.

Balazs: She does.

Jack Frazier: Why 100K + for food and beverage?

Aliki Panagopoulou: In the US we have to have a minimum expense for food and beverage. With taxes and fees. Contractual obligation. Coffee breaks, banquet, bar, minimum consumptions. In red because during auction night we did not make the needed amount.

Jack Frazier: Has the Board looked at this Symposium and how the registration fees helped the Symposium?

Aliki Panagopoulou: Board lowered registration fees to allow students and developing country participants to attend.

Jack Frazier: Can we get in the future a trend of how we are doing financially?

Balazs: Gone from huge loss in Baltimore to huge gains.

Jack Frazier: Look at where are the losses and gains.

Nick Pilcher: 1) is there a legal reason why we contract Donna Broadbent? Takes away personality of the Symposium. 2) Given that the Society just a Symposium, I would like to see accounts broken down as profits and losses.

Balazs: We are getting there.

Alex Gaos: What does Broadbent get paid?

Ken Lohmann: Basically she charges a set fee. Some years we have her do more so she charges more.

Paid a commission by the hotel, but when we have her do more then we have to pay it. That is what happened in Las Vegas.

Ken Lohmann: A Symposium in the US makes contracts very complicated. Need to address regulations from flammability of poster boards and kinds of coverings so that no one will slip. Almost a lawyer's document. Need a professional.

Hector Barrios: In Venezuela, I have to save 4 months of my salary to pay \$25 in membership fee. How do we pay for it?

Tiwari: It is on the Board agenda to discuss at the retreat.

Kartik Shanker: We need to go back to why we do this? 10K on Broadbent. We have been an inclusive Society and we trust Board to balance the budget, but we do want to get away from the core to support people to come to the Symposium.

Motion to accept Treasurer's report: Jack Frazier

Aliki Panagopoulou: Second

Passes unanimously.

Conclusions:		
Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
Present financial trend	Board	2019 Symposium

**Travel Committee Report**

**Alex Gaos**

**5.03 pm**

Gaos goes through the Travel Committee allocations below:

Chairs	Region	# ISTS38 applicants	% of applicants	# bed grants by region	% bed grants by region	Bed/room costs	Cash awards	Bed + cash awards
Angela Formia	Africa	12	8.0%	9	7.1%	\$881.47	\$0.00	\$881.47
Kelly Stewart	US/Canada	29	19.3%	27	21.3%	\$2,379.98	\$0.00	\$2,379.98
Karen Eckert	Caribbean	3	2.0%	3	2.4%	\$323.21	\$0.00	\$323.21
Andrea Phillot	So. Asia SE	11	7.3%	9	7.1%	\$920.65	\$2,448.54	\$3,369.18
Andrea/ALan	Asia/Pacific	27	18.0%	25	19.7%	\$2,203.68	\$5,441.19	\$7,644.87
ALan Rees	Middle East/No. Africa	5	3.3%	4	3.1%	\$391.77	\$0.00	\$391.77
Alejandro Fallabrino	So. America	15	10.0%	12	9.4%	\$1,204.68	\$0.00	\$1,204.68
Aliki Panagopolou	Europe	29	19.3%	21	16.5%	\$1,851.09	\$0.00	\$1,851.09
Emma Harrison	MX/CA America	19	12.7%	17	13.4%	\$1,498.50	\$0.00	\$1,498.50
		<b>150</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$11,655.03</b>	<b>\$7,889.73</b>	<b>\$19,544.75</b>

Japan	Amount
50	\$2,950

Total beds	Total value
177	\$22,495

Gaos: This is right around what was generated at the auction last year.

Discussion:

Jeff Seminoff: Is that beds or bed nights?

Gaos: Beds.

Kartik Shanker: Trend question. Travel budget has gone down significantly. Does that indicate inability to raise funds?

Gaos: Have raised the question. Minimum amount is what the auction raises.

Aliki Panagopolou: Financial crisis. Had to tighten the belt.

Gaos: If auction money, then why put all the logos on presentations? Board will discuss.

Jack Frazier: Could I ask that next time a comparison over the years be presented?

Motion to accept Travel Chair's report: Jack Frazier

Second: Matthew Godfrey

Motion passes unanimously

Conclusions:

Action items:

Present trend in Travels Grants over the years

Person responsible:

Board

Deadline:

2019  
Symposium

## Student Committee Report

Itzel Sifuentes

5.11 pm

### 1) Workshop:

Title: Art of Writing Science

Date: Sunday, 18th from 9 am to 3 pm.

4 Speakers:

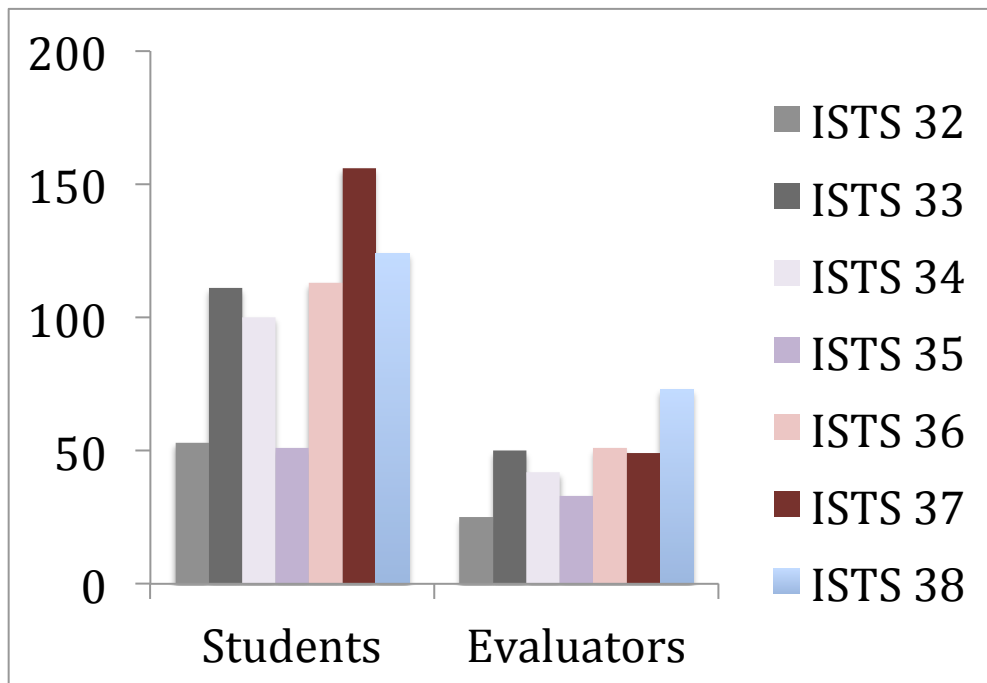
- Richard Reina (Associate Professor at Monash University, Australia)
- Jeff Seminoff (NOAA-Southwest Fisheries Science Center; Editor of the journals Chelonian Conservation and Biology and Endangered Species Research)
- Kate Mansfield (Assistant Professor, University of Central Florida)
- Sean Williamson (Research School of Biology, Australian National University)

Attendees: 24

### 2) Student Social Mixer & Speed Chatting

The overall aim is to enhance participation of students in our society, and let them know that they are important for all of us, because after all, students are a fundamental part of the Society.

2) Student feedback: 124 students and 70 evaluators



Sifuentes indicated that this was her last year and 2 new students would be taking over the Committee. Aliko Panagoulou thanked her for the work done.

Conclusions:		
Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:

**Ethics Code**

**Andrea Phillott**

**5.15 pm**

Overview from Phillott:

Context and Timeline for the Proposed ISTS Code of Ethical Conduct (CoC):

- Previously- Formal and informal reports of issues to past Presidents and Board members
- Apr 2016- President of ISTS36 in Peru formally identified need for CoC
- Aug 2016- Draft CoC presented to Board for feedback; revised
- Apr 2017- Proposed CoC v1 presented to Board and approved  
     Proposed CoC v1 presented to Membership for feedback
- Aug 2017- Proposed CoC v2 presented to Board and approved
- Feb 2018- Proposed CoC v2 presented to Membership for feedback

Next Steps to Revise the Proposed ISTS Code of Ethical Conduct:

- All feedback submitted through CTURTLE, email, and in person in Feb 2018 will be considered
- The proposed CoC v2 will be revised to create a proposed CoC v3 for ISTS Events and Business
- The proposed CoC v3 and a summary of all feedback received will be shared with the Board for discussion and approval in Aug 2018
- The proposed CoC v3 (4?) and a summary of all feedback received will be shared with the ISTS Membership in late 2018
- The proposed CoC v3 (4? 5?) will be shared with the ISTS Membership in ISTS39

Discussion:

Jack Frazier: Can this be shared widely with everyone?



Phillott: Yes

Alex Gaos: ISTS39 will we have an opinion?

Phillott: Received equal responses across the full spectrum. This is safety behavior and need membership buy-in, and will do as many drafts as needed and then will be put to a vote eventually.

Robert's rules say that said it could be established by policy, but we need membership say and vote.

**ISTS Elections****Kate Mansfield****5.27 pm**

Thanks Nominations Committee members and Yoshi Matsuzawa for facilitating Japanese voting at Symposium. Plus for the online voting system thanked Aliko Panagopoulou, and those who Requested responses and notations for the next elections.

238 votes in total (bit of improvement from last year but still a low % voting)  
 President-Elect: Diego Amorocho— 225 votes  
 Board: Richard Reina (138 votes) and Andy Estrades (108 votes)  
 Awards Committee: Sheryan Epperly (187 votes) and Irene Kelly (207 votes)

Other received:  
 Marco Garcia: 88 votes  
 Lalith Ekanayake 90 votes

Discussion:  
 Jack Frazier: Can Japanese members vote again?  
 Mansfield: 2 separate registration system set up. And need to take this into consideration.

Conclusions:

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

**2019 Symposium overview****Ken Lohmann****5.35 pm**

Gives a thorough overview of the Symposium in the USA.

- Theme: Navigating the Future. Not only what my lab does, but also anticipate future conservation problems and frontiers of sea turtle biology.
- Location: Charleston, South Carolina
- Dates: Feb 2-6 ,2019
- Hotel: Marriott Charleston
- \$145/night for single, double, triple or quadruple occupancy
- Free internet
- Grocery store close by
- Direct flights to Charleston
- Also connecting flights from major US cities
- Taxi to hotel: \$25 each way
- Downtown shuttle \$14
- Free onsite parking

Conclusions:

Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:

**Other business**

**5.45 pm**

- We should work towards a plastic-free Symposium
- Post-Symposium survey: Andrea Phillott will send out a survey through Google forms. Results will be summarized for the membership.
- Kobe Declaration: Yoshi Matsuzawa reads through it:

**The Kobe Declaration: Beyond Protection of Sea Turtles**

“At the 38<sup>th</sup> International Sea Turtle Symposium in Kobe, Japan, on 20 February 2018, a panel of international sea turtle experts have taken an important step forward in discussing issues surrounding the idea of moving beyond protection. The panel members encourage further dialogue on the need for flexible and diverse conservation and management strategies in accordance with sea turtle population status, management context, scientific knowledge, local and traditional knowledge, socioeconomic needs, and cultural considerations. In doing so, we commit to respecting the diversity in conservation and management strategies and recognize that the path to thriving sea turtle populations may differ with each community, culture, country, and region that have shared populations of sea turtles. As the President of the 38<sup>th</sup> International Sea Turtle Symposium, I declare this moment as the start of a new conversation to take us beyond protection of sea turtles.”

Discussion:

Aliki Panagopoulou: What is the role of this document?

Matsuzawa: Presidential, personal declaration. No pressure.

Rebecca Regnery: Confusing document. Not a resolution.

Matsuzawa: Just my style; personal and statement as President.

More detailed document will be published. A start for more dialogue.

Nick Pilcher: Supportive, but reads in different forms: Press, Society, and personal. I can help tweak it.

Tony Nalovic: Like details on what are the sustainable uses.

Heidi Frisch-Nwakanma: Communicated as a personal declaration or as joint outcome of the Symposium? If so not appropriate to adopt it.

Matsuzawa: As a President’s statement.

Andrea Phillott: Is this for sharing with Society? Or share outside the ISTS?

Matsuzawa: Put it in the President’s report and media release.

Andrea Phillott: Not a perspective the Society has taken.

Matsuzawa: Tell media what happened at session. Not a resolution, and declare the statement as a personal statement.

Conclusions:		
Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
<b>Additional Information</b>		
Yoshi Matsuzawa: Motion to adjourn Yakup Kaska: Second Adjourned at 5.55 pm.		