

2026 AAS Business Meeting – Lincoln, Nebraska

- The President, Jason Bond, summarized the Executive Committee reports.
- Announced that at the Mexico meeting, Eileen agreed to host by Zoom. In a 30 – 45 min time period, he managed to line up multiple future meetings.
- Jason mentioned that years ago, at the Business Meeting, Don Cameron, an AAS member and classics professor used to give an eloquent thank-you and motion to thank the current meeting host. Jason took over this task and thanked Eileen and her team for a wonderful meeting; wonderful and generous hosts; amazing 3 plenary speakers; early career panel; first ever araneomorph vs mygalomorph soccer game; and first outreach panel. Motion was seconded by many and all gave a standing ovation of thanks.
- Jason formally thanked Linda for providing extraordinary service as our outgoing President. Linda also retired this year.
- Jason also went over the EC meeting members. Jason also called out the thanks to the EC members who were particularly helpful behind-the-scenes helping w/ meeting planning and publically called out a thanks to Nina as Treasurer/Webmaster and to Paula Cushing as society secretary.
- Jason presented a list of the reports that came in. He mentioned the following high points of these reports. All will be shared on the website.
 - Financials and membership: to Nina's credit and Deb Smith's efforts w/ the JoA, we currently have 319 members: 116 regular, 93 student, 41 retired, 7 sponsored, and 62 lifetime.
 - Total assets: 2024 was \$117,322 and 2025 was \$148,730. One of the things that has improved financials is transition from primarily printed journal to primarily electronically distributed journal. Making that change was important for our financial health.
 - Financials were also impacted in a positive way to the migration to the Stripe membership system (more automated). Nina is working on a handbook to outline the complexity and process for the AAS treasurer.
 - Journal of Arachnology (JoA): there are challenges facing journal that really need to evolve. Deb Smith (Editor in Chief) and Rick Vetter (Managing Editor) have put in herculean effort for many years to keep JoA going. Deb plans to step down as EiC. Some of challenges include production lags, low impact factor, drop off in submissions. EC has a "concept of a plan" to get JoA on a different tract. The JoA is an important part of the society so the EC will meet soon to come up with a plan of action moving forward.
- Student research grant summary was presented. 23 proposals, \$15,330 available, 17 proposals fully or partially funded with an overall funding rate of about 74%. About ½ of awardees were from the US and about ½ from international students. Arachnological Research Fund awarded 9 projects; Vincent Roth Fund awarded 8 awards.
- There is typically an announcement about the Norman Platnick award winner but there was no winner this coming year.
- EC Motions Announced:
 - Minutes from 2025 approved.
 - EC clarified student membership and travel grant eligibility to include current students plus up to two years post-enrollment.
 - EC set aside \$2,500 annually for the DEI Committee and \$2,500 annually for the Engagement & Outreach Committee.
 - We approved a formal role and duties for the DEI committee chair.

- We approved voting on proposed honorary members – Deborah Smith and Ann Rypstra were approved as new Honorary Members.
 - We also agreed to develop a policy on generative AI.
- Honorary Members - Jason read AAS definition of Honorary Membership from the Constitution. The EC discussed and approved a group of proposed new Honorary Members. Two who are attending and approved by the EC were recognized: Deb Smith and Ann Rypstra.
- Jason also indicated that the society may re-define a mechanism for recognizing contributions from members. We (EC) will revise definition of Honorary Membership.
- Jason provided a re-cap of EC meeting and decisions.
- Future meetings: 2027 Indianapolis; 2028 San Diego; 2029 Baltimore; 2030 Charlotte; 2031 Moscow Idaho; 2032 Chattanooga; 2033 Bethlehem.
- Paula announced that the election results. Saoirse Foley and Rebecca Godwin were running for Junior Director and Saoirse won with just a handful of votes.
- Questions from members: Brian Patrick asked who the other honorary members are. Jason said that these will be announced later. We just wanted to recognize the two honorary members who were present. Patrick Casto asked if there were plans to increase \$ for student research. There are always plans if donations and money comes in. Ryan Jones asked if another DEI chair has been appointed since Mercedes Burns has stepped down. Jason indicated that the EC will work on finding a new Chair for this committee.
- Finally, Marc Milne, gave a presentation about the 2027 AAS meeting. The 2027 meeting will be at the University of Indianapolis in Indianapolis, Indiana from June 14 – 18th.