

**Southern Division AFS Business Meeting Minutes
February 29, 2008
Wheeling, West Virginia**

The 2008 SDAFS Business Meeting was called to order at 1700 hrs by President Fred Heitman. It was determined that there was a quorum present. President Heitman introduced the current SDAFS officers; Steve McMullin, President-Elect; Cecil Jennings, Vice President; Bob Curry, Past President; and Dave Coughlan, Secretary/Treasurer. President Heitman then introduced SDAFS Past Presidents: Larry Connor, Bob Curry, Steve Filipek, William L. Fisher, Donald C. Jackson, Patricia M. Mazik, Larry L. Olmsted, and Larry J. Wilson. President Heitman then introduced AFS First Vice President, Don Jackson.

AFS First Vice President Jackson's Remarks: First Vice President Jackson thanked the West Virginia AFS Chapter for a great meeting. Don then provided some information from the parent society. AFS will be changing addresses in the near future and making some money as they sell the old offices at Grosvenor Lane. The Disaster Relief effort has been concluded and codified into an approved AFS Procedure. AFS has initiated a process to monetarily support travel of AFS officers to Governing Board and other Mid-year meetings. The marine journal will be open-access and online this year. Strategic planning will take place in 2008; AFS will mail out 1500 surveys this year and Don has respectfully asked all who receive one to fill it out and return it to AFS. The AFS will seek new ways to communicate with its youngest, and technologically savvy, members.

President Heitman's Address: Fred thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve them and the SDAFS! This year has been an active one. Through the efforts of Craig Bonds and Jerry Finke, the Southern Division conducted its first electronic ballot. Under the guidance of Greg Summers, the SDAFS will be pod casting the Plenary session and parts of the Technical sessions. The 2008 SDAFS Briefing Book was distributed in an electronic format, conserving considerable amounts of paper. Fred thanked Fred Janssen for all of his years of service to the Southern Division web site but noted that it was time for Fred to hand over the reigns as he becomes Vice-President. Jerry Finke, from North Carolina, will be taking over many of the web site responsibilities. The SDAFS Disaster Relief effort has been completed thanks to the work of Bob Curry, Greg Summers, and Danielle Pender. Fred continued to stress the value of AFS Certification and encouraged all to seek it. The SDAFS still lacks a mission statement and Fred will pursue that as Past President. And finally, Fred closed with a tribute to the memory of the late Dr. Clark Hubbs, a great ichthyologist and early mentor in his fisheries career.

Secretary-Treasurer Coughlan's Report: Minutes from the 2007 Memphis Business Meeting were published in the SDAFS Newsletter. President Heitman asked for a motion to approve. A motion was made (Rizzuto) and seconded (Filipek) and the Business Meeting minutes were approved.

President-Elect McMullin's Chapter Activity Report: Chapter reports from the EXCOM Briefing Book were summarized.

President Heitman's Technical Committee Report: The SDAFS Technical Committees have experienced various levels of activity in the last year. Notable highlights include efforts to distribute the Warmwater streams video to a wider audience and expansion of the Jimmy Pigg Award, planning for the Second International Catfish Symposium to be held in 2010 in Memphis, planning for a 2-day striped bass symposium at the 2009 National AFS meeting in Nashville, the Pollution Committee has been resurrected and is planning a half-day symposium for the 2009 SDAFS Meeting in New Orleans, and publication of the Fourth Reservoir Symposium should be complete by the end of 2008.

Ballot Committee Report: Craig Bonds, Ballot Committee Chair, thanked Jerry Finke for the internet support. The committee used a third-party ballot service and 1698 e-mail ballots were sent out. The committee also sent out 131 snail mail ballots. Voter response was 14.1 and 6.1% for the e-mail and snail mail ballots, respectively. Electronic balloting is the future for SDAFS voting, being less labor intensive and less expensive. Craig noted that Fred Janssen, and Hal Schramm received the most votes for their prospective offices – Vice President and SDAFS Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee, respectively.

SDAFS Disaster Relief Presentation: Don Jackson, AFS First Vice President, reviewed the AFS and SDAFS Disaster relief efforts that occurred since the hurricanes devastated the Gulf Coast in 2005. These efforts have finalized and codified into an AFS procedure and are detailed in:

Heitman, J.F., D.C. Jackson, D. Pender, and R. L. Curry. 2008. Development and implementation of the American Fisheries Society disaster relief program. AFS Symposium 64.

Resolution of Appreciation and Thanks: President Heitman presented a resolution of appreciation and thanks by acclamation to the West Virginia Chapter, specifically Pat Mazik, General Meeting Chair; Kyle Hartman, Program Chair; and Frank Borsuk, Arrangements Chair; for their efforts to graciously host an informative and well-planned 2008 Spring Meeting.

Presentation of Awards: President-Elect McMullin announced the following SDAFS Awards while President Heitman made the presentations:

The SDAFS Outstanding Achievement Award went to Roger Rulifson of East Carolina University.

The 2007 SEAFWA Jack Dequine Best paper award went to George C. Palmer (Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries) and numerous coauthors. The second place award went to Kyle J. Hartman (West Virginia University) and numerous coauthors.

The Outstanding Large Chapter Award went to the Louisiana AFS Chapter.

The Outstanding Small Chapter Award went to the South Carolina AFS Chapter.

The Outstanding Student Subunit Award went to North Carolina State University.

The best student paper award from the 2007 SDAFS Spring Meeting in Memphis went to Chris Green of Southern Illinois University; second and third place went to Justin Bezold (University of Georgia) and Tom Lang (University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff), respectively. Best student poster went to V. Malissa Mengel (Tennessee Tech University).

The Robert M. Jenkins Scholarships were presented by Vic DiCenzo of the Reservoir Committee to Kris Bodine (OSU), Casey Bergthold (Tenn Tech), and Corey Lee (OU).

The Jimmie Pigg Memorial Award was presented by Jeff Quinn of the Warmwater Streams Committee to Alison Price (UGA).

Old Business: Archiving of old SDAFS records and correspondence was discussed by Greg Summers. He urged all members, especially those on the verge of retirement, to forward material to him for electronic storage.

Installation of 2008 Officers: Newly installed officers, Fred Janssen, Vice President; Cecil Jennings, President-Elect; and Steve McMullin, President; were escorted to the head of the room. Fred Heitman presented the Presidential gavel to Steve McMullin.

Newly Installed President McMullin's Remarks: Outgoing Past-President Fred Heitman was recognized for his service to the SDAFS and awarded a plaque. Steve thanked all for his opportunity to serve and noted that the mission of the Society is service to its members. He challenged all units of the Division to do more (via workshops, recognition, etc.) to serve their members in 2008. Steve would also like chapters to set a goal whereby 100% of their members also hold AFS membership. Please let Steve and Cecil Jennings know your needs so that they may serve you better.

New Business: The 2009 SDAFS Spring Meeting will be held Jan. 15 – 18 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in New Orleans, LA. Quenton Fontenot of the LA Chapter described the facilities, some local attractions, and potential workshops and invited everyone to join him at next year's meeting.

President McMullin noted that pod casts made at the 2008 SDAFS Spring Meeting will soon be available on the Division web page. An Alligator Gar ad hoc Technical Committee was formed earlier in the day at the EXCOM meeting and will be chaired by Ricky Campbell from MS.

The AFS Annual Meeting will be held in Tennessee in 2009 and all were invited to join the Tennessee Chapter in Nashville.

A motion to adjourn was made (Rizzuto) and seconded (Mazik) and the meeting concluded at 1843 hrs.