

Past President's Report

During 2004-5 I had three main responsibilities: chairing the Elections Committee, planning a Plenary Symposium for Botany 2005 in Austin, and chairing the Corresponding Members Committee. In addition, I continued to serve as a member of the team that annually reviews the BSA office and Executive Director.

The Elections Committee was able to find two very well qualified candidates for the Presidential ballot, but did not succeed in finding more than one candidate willing to serve as Program Director if elected. Approximately 10 persons were identified as good candidates for Program Director, but only one agreed to run for election. The Elections Committee functioned in a timely manner and all members contributed to the process.

For the Plenary Symposium, I chose the topic Botany in the World's Service. I surveyed the leaders of several societies that typically meet with BSA or might in the future, for speaker recommendations. Five really excellent speakers, representing the ABLs, the ASPT, the AFS, the ASPB, and the PSA agreed to present talks that will provide overviews of their fields' service contributions.

The Corresponding Members committee received two nominations for corresponding members. In addition, with Bill Dahl's help, I surveyed the sections' leadership for suggestions, but none was received. The committee did not find that either of the two nominees was suitable for this distinction. Therefore, no Corresponding Member nominees will be presented for a vote this year.

I prepared a formal procedure document to guide this year's evaluation of the BSA Executive Director.

Submitted by Linda E. Graham, Past President