

Fish Health Section



FHS NEWS – August 2024

Fish Health Section website: <https://units.fisheries.org/fhs/>

Fish Health Section Facebook Site: <https://facebook.com/FishHealthSectionAFS>

Fish Health Section on LinkedIn: Please join our newest social media network at LinkedIn Login, Sign in or search for us and ask to join.

Fish Health Section Twitter feed: @AFSFishHealth

2023-2024 FHS Committee updates

See attached .pdf with all the committee updates including the newly elected positions announced at the annual meeting. The Secretary/Treasurer tie has been decided in favor of Taylor Heckman – Congratulations!

MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & COURSES

**73rd Annual Northwest Fish Culture Concepts
December 10 – 12, 2024
Seaside Civic and Convention Center - Seaside, Oregon**



This is your invitation to attend the 73rd Annual Northwest Fish Culture Concepts (NWFC) event in Seaside, Oregon, December 10 – 12, 2024. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is pleased to be hosting this event at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center.

This event promises to be extremely educational and beneficial for everyone attending, presenting, and exhibiting fish culture products. Registration is now open; go to the following link to register online with secure credit card payment options:

<https://17958.ezfacility.com/login?SmuFormId=4E301E30-F0F4-4AB7-BB3A-C8122FE14981>

See attached .pdf for more information.

American Board of
Veterinary Practitioners

FISH PRACTICE SPECIALTY

GET RECONGNIZED

For excellence and
distinction in the art and
science of fish medicine
and surgery.

DEADLINE JAN 15



VETERINARIANS WITH THE FOLLOWING CAN APPLY

- Work with pet fish, zebrafish, aquaculture, aquarium fish and more
- 4.5-5 years experience
- 15% or more total case load

LEARN MORE



JOBS/GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

Clinical Assistant/Associate/Full Professor of Aquatic Diseases

University of Florida

Kissimmee, FL

Closes 9/8/24

Link: <https://explore.jobs.ufl.edu/en-us/job/532605/clinical-assistantassociatefull-professor-of-aquatic-disease-diagnosis>

The Bronson Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (BADDL) and the Department of Comparative, Diagnostic, and Population Medicine (CDPM) at the University of Florida-College of Veterinary Medicine (UF-CVM) invite applications for a full time, Clinical Assistant/Associate/Full Professor of Aquatic Diseases to serve as the Aquatic Disease Diagnosis Section Head at BADDL. This position is a multi-mission non-tenure track position in the Department of Comparative, Diagnostic, and Population Medicine (CDPM) that is promotable following UF and CVM guidelines.

The position will be headquartered in Kissimmee, Florida and will perform clinical (80%) and extension (20%) duties at the BADDL. The candidate will function primarily as a diagnostic pathologist at BADDL. The diagnostic caseload includes a variety of aquatic animals and USDA regulatory export testing of all sectors of aquaculture, including food fish, ornamental fish, shrimp, and bivalves. Interaction with veterinarians, and aquaculture owners and producers are an integral part of this position. Creative use of diagnostic case material including publication of results in appropriate journals is encouraged. Additionally, the candidate may have limited opportunities to teach DVM and/or graduate students or engage in research at UF-CVM depending on the candidate's qualifications and interests. University and public service through departmental, college and university committee work, participation in professional organizations, continuing education and other appropriate activities is expected.

Fish Health Biologist

USFWS

Bozeman, MT

Closes 9/5/24

Link: <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/805921300>

As a Fish and Wildlife Biologist (Fish Health Biologist) your duties will include but are not limited to the following:

- Conducts parasitological, bacterial, virological, and molecular assays at the Center by processing aquatic species tissue samples collected from cultured species at hatcheries and propagation facilities for infectious agents. Analyzes and interprets assay results for Region 6, other regional fish and aquatic programs, and various Federal, State, Tribal, academic, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Conducts comprehensive health inspections and certifications of federal hatchery facilities, performing necropsy, tissue sample collection, laboratory pathogen screening, and approved confirmatory assays under the guidance of the American Fisheries Society-Fish Health Section Suggested Procedures for the Detection of Pathogens in Finfish, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Aquatic Animal Health Policy (713 FW 1-2) and State or Tribal policies or regulations.
- Coordinates sampling of aquatic species health samples with federal culture facilities or partnering agencies. Maintains chain of custody (COC) records and accurate laboratory case histories for each case submission.
- Independently conducts specialized analysis of aquatic species samples to detect parasites and other pathogens of concern.
- Examines moribund fish, tissues, and blood samples submitted to the Center for analysis and interpretation by biologists, fishery managers and other partners. Diagnostic work includes: 1) Diagnosis of etiologies for the disorders or diseases found; and 2) Confirmatory examinations of parasitic or other diseases. Performs extremely delicate, exact, and technical diagnostic procedures utilizing appropriate tissue collection, processing, testing and interpretation. These techniques are unique, highly technical laboratory procedures used to provide comprehensive analysis on a variety of freshwater fish species.

- Communicates closely with Federal, State, Tribal and NGO partners to plan and coordinate wild fish health survey collections throughout USFWS Region 6.

Aquatic Health Veterinarian – Epidemiologist 3, 2 positions

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

One position located in Spokane Valley, WA

One position located in Wenatchee, WA

Closes 9/30/24

Link: [https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washington/jobs/4589165/aquatic-health-veterinarian-epidemiologist-3-non-medical-permanent-2-posi?department\[0\]=Dept.%20of%20Fish%20and%20Wildlife&sort=PostingDate%7CDescending&pageType=jobOpportunitiesJobs](https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washington/jobs/4589165/aquatic-health-veterinarian-epidemiologist-3-non-medical-permanent-2-posi?department[0]=Dept.%20of%20Fish%20and%20Wildlife&sort=PostingDate%7CDescending&pageType=jobOpportunitiesJobs)

This position, reporting to the Supervisor of the Fish Health Unit in the Fish Program, is responsible for maintaining fish and public health as a licensed veterinarian. The role involves compiling, maintaining, planning, conducting, analyzing, interpreting, and reporting on issues related to fish health, including zoonotic and non-zoonotic pathogens, antibiotic resistance, and conducting epidemiological investigations at fish hatcheries and natural fish populations. It addresses risks associated with fish diseases, pathogen prevalence, immunological changes, environmental variables, and zoonotic impacts on human health.

Zebrafish Related Job Announcements

<https://wiki.zfin.org/display/jobs/Zebrafish-Related+Job+Announcements>

RESOURCES/NEWS

Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership (AADAP) Updates are available by request:

The AADAP Updates feature news on aquaculture drugs currently in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval process, AADAP programmatic updates, and aquaculture drug use guidance information. If you would like to sign up to receive the AADAP Update, please email to be paige_maskill@fws.gov added to our email listserv.



**73rd Annual Northwest Fish Culture Concepts
December 10 – 12, 2024
Seaside Civic and Convention Center - Seaside, Oregon**

Dear Fish Culture Associates:

This is your invitation to attend the 73rd Annual Northwest Fish Culture Concepts (NWFC) event in Seaside, Oregon, December 10 – 12, 2024. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is pleased to be hosting this event at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center.

This event promises to be extremely educational and beneficial for everyone attending, presenting, and exhibiting fish culture products. Registration is now open; go to the following link to register online with secure credit card payment options:

<https://17958.ezfacility.com/login?SmuFormId=4E301E30-F0F4-4AB7-BB3A-C8122FE14981>

We strongly encourage registration and payment online but will also accept mail-in registrations; please contact us for mail-in registration details.

We recommend early registration as strong attendance is expected. The fee for early registration is \$175.00. Registration and payment must be made (or postmarked) by Friday, November 1, 2024. After this date, registration fees increase to \$200.00. Fees include lunch on December 11.

Registration is also available for students and retirees at \$75.00 each. Guest registration for the Tuesday evening social only is \$50.00.

There are several options for Hotel Reservations below government rates. Please click on this link (https://registrationfiles.ezfacility.com/20088_NWFC_Hotel_Links_FINAL.docx) to view the three hotels recommended.

NWFC 2024 Vendor Registration Information:

Vendors have a great opportunity to interact with attendees as all breaks and socials will be held in vendor display areas. The Seaside Civic and Convention Center has exceptional display space reserved for manufacturers and suppliers of fish culture related products and services. Exhibitors are encouraged to register and receive all the necessary information online at the event website.

Registration is open for vendors at this link:

<https://17958.ezfacility.com/login?SmuFormId=3099CC11-4414-4D69-98DB-D7F938EDD215>

Hotel Registration:

https://registrationfiles.ezfacility.com/20088_NWFCC_Hotel_Links_FINAL.docx

Additional questions about vendor registration:

Contact Dan Green at 541-374-8393 or daniel.g.green@odfw.oregon.gov.

Overall questions about Registration or Special Requests:

Please contact Shari Beals at:

503-947-6243 or shari.r.beals@odfw.oregon.gov

Mail: ATTN: Shari Beals
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr. SE
Salem, OR 97302-1142

We look forward to seeing you at this exciting fish culture event! This year we are especially looking forward to presentations highlighting our 73rd Annual NWFCC theme: **Enhancing Northwest Fisheries**.

NWFCC 2024 - FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS:

Included in this letter of invitation is our **First Call for Papers** which describes paper submission procedures for either oral or poster presentations. Early submission of abstracts and papers is requested.

Abstracts for Oral and Poster Presentations:

Oral Presentations: Please submit to Brent Hinners brent.a.hinners@odfw.oregon.gov

If you have questions, you can call Brent at 971-673-6006.

You may also send to shari.r.beals@odfw.oregon.gov.

Poster Presentations: Please submit to Andrew Gibbs andrew.j.gibbs@odfw.oregon.gov

If you have questions, you can call Andrew at 541-786-3114.

The deadline for submitting abstracts for the 73rd Annual NWFCC is **November 1, 2024**. Preference will be given to submissions that pertain to the NWFCC 2024 theme of "Enhancing NW Fisheries." However, all topics relevant to aquaculture in North America will be considered. Session topics will be determined based on the abstracts submitted.

The following are ideas for presentation or poster topics:

- Reintroduction programs
- Hatchery science
- Climate change and hatchery resilience
- Fish Health
- Hatchery gadgets (smarter not harder)

Guidelines for submissions (please use MS Word):

- 1) TITLE – **Bold title in Arial, 11 point font**, at top of abstract
- 2) PRESENTER – list authors and designate presenter by a * , employer or affiliation, mailing address, city, state, zip, phone and email should be included, superscript numbers can be used for authors with alternate contact information
- 3) POSTER or ORAL – Please indicate presentation type before the abstract
- 4) ABSTRACT – (500 word limit) – Use Arial, 11 point font
- 5) TABLES – A table or figure can be included with the abstract, but the entire abstract (abstract plus table or figure) is restricted to one page total
- 6) SUBMISSIONS – Please submit **by November 1, 2024** to the following people:
 - Oral Presentations to brent.a.hinners@odfw.oregon.gov or shari.r.beals@odfw.oregon.gov
 - Poster Presentations to andrew.j.gibbs@odfw.oregon.gov.
- 7) EXAMPLE – Please see following page for an example abstract
- 8) PRESENTATIONS – All presentations must be in PowerPoint, 15 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for questions
- 9) POSTERS – Posters need to fit in a 4'x4' space

Example Abstract:

NWFCC 2021: Recruiting the Next Generation of Fish Culturists

Marc Garst* and Cassie Sundquist¹

* Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Headquarters, 600 S. Walnut, Boise, Idaho, 83712. 208-287-1234, marc.garst@idfg.idaho.gov

¹ Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Fisheries Bureau, 3101 Powerline Road, Nampa, Idaho, 83686. 208-287-5678, cassie.sundquist@idfg.idaho.gov

ORAL PRESENTATION

Fish culture has a long and diverse history in the Pacific Northwest and will continue to play a major role in fisheries management, species preservation, food production, and economics, as well as social and political change in the future. The 71st Annual Northwest Fish Culture Concepts is the place to learn about progressive fish culture techniques and programs as well as gain a better understanding of our historical role in the region over the last 100+ years. Meeting participants will have the opportunity to attend presentations about advancements and observations in aquaculture.

Along with great presentations, attendees will be able to visit with vendors and exhibitors during breaks and socials to ensure great information and products are taken back to each operation. Through these multiple inputs of knowledge and equipment, participants will increase their relative understanding of aquaculture principles and procedures, which may contribute to attainment of desirable fish culture outcomes upon return to their home stations.

2023-2024 Committee Reports

Professional Standards Committee

Members: Matt Stinson (Chair), Nora Hickey, Megan Shavalier and Joe Marcino)

Our main priority is to improve the efficiency of the application process and shorten the turnaround time for all certifications. We are demoing an online submission system for the Aquatic Animal Health Inspector (AAHI) certification (see links below). It works through the Google Forms App and answers all the questions that are currently on the AAHI application. Documents can be easily uploaded to cover school transcripts and work experience or be filled out via a Google Sheet. Once this application is finished testing, we can develop options for the Fish Pathologist (FP) certification and recertification for both the AAHI and FP. In order to set up this system a Google account for the Professional Standards Committee (PSC) was created, AFS.FHS.PSC@gmail.com. The intent is for this Google account to be freely accessed by all three PSC members and Executive Secretary each year. For applicants without access to Google features, the traditional submission system will be maintained. However, the forms will be updated to present a clear and professional image. In an effort to move entirely away from “paper” forms in the future, alternative online platforms may be considered that do not require the creation of a Google account.

We are also exploring an online payment option to avoid the necessity of mailing paper checks from the applicant to the PSC Executive Secretary who then sends the checks to the FHS Treasurer. As there are additional fees involved with online payments, we suggest introducing new language in the AAHI and FP Standards and Procedure. Google Docs of the AAHI and FP Standards and Procedure have been created to make suggested edits that the ExCom can review. The PSC would also like clarification on the reasoning for the difference in fees between the AAHI (\$10 +\$50, \$15 for Recert) and FP (\$50 +\$100, \$50 for Recert).

Within the AAHI and FP Standards and Procedure there is a clause that states the PSC has 15 days to review any completed application. To improve and solidify this deadline, we would like to have an application due date be the 14th of each month. This way the PSC can be held to completing their reviews by the end of the month. However, the holdup is often on the letters for recommendation. Potential proposed wording would be “all complete applications submitted by the 14th of the month (including all 3 letters of recommendation) will be reviewed by the PSC by the end of the month.”

As part of the proposed streamlining and increased efficiency of the application process, the review process, and the fee collection process, the PSC would also like to propose discussing changes to the role of the PSC Executive Secretary position. As a non-voted position, the PSC feels the Executive Secretary position would be better served in different role moving forward. With an updated and streamlined system for application and fee submission, there will no longer be a need for a non-committee member to gather the materials prior to submission to the committee as the application materials will go directly to the PSC itself, and payment will go directly to the FHS treasurer. There is however a large amount of historic data that needs to be organized and retained for section records. This task, as well as items such as keeping the active lists updated may be a better use of an appointed secretary than the way that position has been utilized in the past. An alternative idea that has also been suggested would be for the PSC Executive Secretary position to function similarly to the FHS Past-President role with the PSC chair serving as the Executive Secretary in their 4th year on the committee, which would allow for this position to be part of the section-wide annual voting system.

As for the AAHI and FP testing, we would like to propose the following: 1) Offer testing at FHS meetings; 2) Implement a six-month waiting period for retesting after a failed test; and 3) Make significant updates and improvements to the test study guides in order to bring them more in line with those provided for other professional examinations (e.g., NAVLE veterinary board exam). In the future, there are ideas to add in new test questions on a rotational schedule. One idea is to request that newly accepted AAHI and FP provide a specified number of questions upon receipt of their certification.

Lastly, the list of current AAHI and FP requires updating both on the FHS website as well as within the dataset that the PSC has access to. We propose dates of certification could be added to the list on the

website as well in order to aid in recertification. Below is a table with best estimates for the number of applications the PSC has received since 2020.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
New AAHI	5	3	5	4	2
Recert AAHI	4	7	5	5	1
New FP	0	0	0	0	0
Recert FP	2	2	2	2	1
Total	11	12	12	11	4

Summary of PSC goals and aims moving forward:

1. High priority (implement within the next 6-12 months)
 - a. Updates to application process – online option and modernized “paper” option
 - i. To include updated monthly deadlines
 - b. Online fee submission process
 - c. Updates to Standards and Procedures documents to improve clarity and functionality
 - d. Restructuring of PSC Executive Secretary role to better assist new format moving forward
 - e. Access to current list of certified members (AAHI and FP) along with dates of expiration (currently PSC members do not have access to this full list)
 - f. Creation of a PSC Workflow document that clearly outlines the duties of the committee members
2. Lower priority (implement within the next 1-3 years)
 - a. Fully online application process
 - b. Updates to testing process
 - i. Testing opportunities
 - ii. Study materials
 - iii. New/rotating test questions
 - iv. Defining the term “Fish Health Professional” in order to determine what is an acceptable Letter of Recommendation.

Links to Demo Forms:

AAHI initial application: <https://forms.gle/5rt8C9cYdLBDonuq6>

AAHI LOR (initial): <https://forms.gle/4uZ3YSEG9HbhALQr5>

Policy/Position Development Committee

Members: Sascha Hallett (Chair), Jesse Trushenski, Janet Whaley, Myron Kebus, Jayden Ferguson

AFS/FHS animal welfare factsheet

1. Draft animal welfare poster has been developed and reviewed by the PPDC committee.
2. Draft document was presented during the Aquatic Veterinary Medicine Committee (AqVMC). The presentation received a positive response with participants requesting permission to provide edits so their agencies could promote the factsheet.
3. ExCom currently reviewing for approval and distribution

FHS Procedural Manual

1. Procedural manual has been updated based on recent bylaw changes
2. ExCom currently reviewing for approval and distribution

Archives Committee

Members: Matt Stinson (Chair), Beth Peterman, Sue Marcquenski

Our primary goal is to collect programs from past fish health meetings. We currently stand at 43/49 for the Eastern, thanks to a large contribution from Rocco Cipriano, and 11/65 for the Western. For each program collected, we are removing personal notes written on the programs. We plan on listing the available programs under the AFS FHS Meeting's tab in a table format that allows users to download a program by clicking on the year. We hope to gather more Western programs and finish cleaning up the programs we have before building our meetings page and uploading the programs. In the meantime, we are using the past FHS newsletter to fill in past meeting locations. We will also make a request for select programs through the current FHS newsletter.

Our second goal is to provide the Bios for new Snieszko Distinguished Service Awards. We were unaware until recently that it is the duty of the Archive Committee to provide these and there are few missing Bios that we need to write.

2020 Bruce Stewart and Gael Kurath

2019 Masahiro Sakai

2017 Mohamed Faisal

The Archive Committee has also been in contact with the DC Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives to potentially send items/documents there for storage or display. If the ExComm has anything to send, or has interest in obtaining fish health items to send, we can help arrange for this to happen.

Awards Committee

Members: Ben LaFrentz (Chair), Heather Walsh, Danielle Van Vliet

The Awards Committee has been active this year with maintaining the awards program as well as several different initiatives:

1. The Committee announced the call for nominations for the Snieszko Distinguished Service Award (SDSA) on January 24, 2024, with a deadline of March 15, 2024.
 - a. Only one nomination for the SDSA was submitted, so the deadline was extended to April 1, 2024, and then extended again to April 29, 2024.
 - b. Extension of the deadline resulted in one additional nomination for the SDSA.
 - c. Heather Walsh coordinated the voting for the SDSA, and the packets were sent to EXCOM and all living former recipients of the SDSA for voting with a deadline of June 7, 2024.
 - i. Contact information for previous recipients was updated as best as possible.
 - ii. 21/28 (75%) of the EXCOM and previous recipients voted.
 - iii. Of the two nominations, one nominee received greater than 80% votes in favor and will be presented the SDSA at the FHS meeting in Boise.
2. The Committee announced the call for nominations for the Special Achievement Award on January 24, 2024, with a deadline of March 15, 2024.
 - a. No nominations were received, so the deadline was extended to April 1, 2024, and then extended again to April 29, 2024.
 - b. No nominations were received.
3. The Committee announced the call for applications for the Snieszko Student Travel Awards in mid-March along with the formal announcement of the FHS Annual Meeting, with a deadline of May 3, 2024. The committee also contacted EXCOM to request funds to provide four awards of \$2,000 each for a total of \$8,000, which was granted.
 - a. Only 2 application packets were received, so the deadline was extended to June 3, 2024.
 - b. Extension of the deadline resulted in 7 additional applications.
 - c. The Committee deemed it favorable to provide travel support for all students who applied to support the new initiative to get more students involved in the FHS (see below).
 - d. One application was a post-doc, and since the Committee did not specifically state that the travel awards are only for students, an additional \$1,000 was requested from EXCOM. This request was granted. There has been a precedent for early career members to receive travel awards,

- typically during ISAAH meetings when there has been more funding for this. The Committee needs to specifically state that the award is only for students in the future, when that is the case.
- e. Nine Snieszko Student Travel Awards were awarded (\$1,000 each) to support the following students travel to the FHS meeting:
 - i. Chandler Schneider of Auburn University
 - ii. Divya Rose of Mississippi State University
 - iii. Hayden Krause of Oregon State University
 - iv. Jamison Semla of Auburn University
 - v. Kim Jacobsen of UC-Davis
 - vi. Lindsey Hartzell of West Virginia University
 - vii. Nilanjana Das of Oregon State University
 - viii. Noor-ul-Huda of Mississippi State University
 - ix. Owen Ledford of Auburn University
 4. The Committee worked with the Recruitment and Student Involvement Committee to coordinate judging of the student and early career member presentations during the Summer Seminar Series.
 - a. To accomplish this, the Committee asked Matt Griffin to send out a call for judges through the SSS listserv. At least ten individuals volunteered to serve as judges, and 5 were selected to the judging panel based on no conflicts of interest with any of the presenters.
 - b. The judging is ongoing, and the four best student and early career member presentation winners will be decided following the completion of the SSS.
 5. The Committee announced the Best Student Presentation Awards for the FHS meeting along with a formal FHS meeting announcement at the beginning of May. The Committee will work with the meeting organizers to assist them with this process.
 - a. The Committee has tentatively decided to have only two awards: the best MS student presentation and the best PhD student presentation.
 - b. The winners of these awards will be announced during the FHS meeting.
 6. The Committee has begun to try to figure out who all past award winners are for the FHS as there are gaps on the FHS website. Danielle is leading this project and will work with past Award Committee Chairs and the Archives Committee to try to fill in some of these gaps.
 7. Following a review of the Awards Committee duties in the FHS Procedures Manual, it was discovered that recipients of the SDSA award may be awarded an honorary life membership in the AFS if a petition is signed by 100 current members of the AFS and submitted by the Awards Committee along with a preamble from the membership to the parent Society before the annual AFS meeting is held.
 - a. The Committee contacted the parent Society to get more information on how this process would work as the Committee was unsure if this had ever been attempted.
 - b. Upon discussion with the Executive Director of the AFS, there is no precedent for this in other sections of the AFS and is more complicated than listed in the FHS Procedures Manual.
 - c. To do this, a petition of 100 active AFS members would need to be signed, and approval is subject to a vote by the AFS membership in which 2/3 majority is required. This is a high bar to attain, and no honorary memberships have been proposed in many years.
 - d. Given these difficulties and no precedent for this, the Committee decided to remove this language from the Procedures Manual.
 8. The Committee believes that some of the awards provided by the FHS should have certificates and/or plaques provided to the recipients. Based on this belief, the Committee requested funding from EXCOM to provide certificates for recipients of the Snieszko Student Travel Awards and certificates/plaques for recipients of the Best MS and PhD Presentation Awards.
 - a. This request was granted by EXCOM, and the Committee plans to continue this in the future.
 9. Given a need to engage students and early career members in the FHS, an idea was brought forward to find a way to engage younger members through the Snieszko Student Travel Awards. The idea would be to provide recipients of the Snieszko Student Travel Awards with the opportunity to serve

in the FHS in some capacity such as listed below. Ben LaFrentz met with Nick Phelps, Sascha Hallet, and Jesse Trushenski to discuss this idea and it was implemented as a trial run for this year.

- a. Serving as an external observer of any FHS Committee they may be interested in
- b. Volunteer to serve on a FHS Committee
- c. Volunteer to assist with helping at the FHS Annual meeting
- d. Invitation to sit in the EXCOM and Business meetings at the FHS annual meeting.
- e. These opportunities were provided to all 9 recipients of the Snieszko Student Travel Awards this year, and the Committee chair will coordinate this for the FHS meeting in Boise.

10. Goals for 2024-2025:

- a. Revise the Procedures Manual, which is coordinated yearly by the President-Elect.
- b. Figure out all past winners and update on website.
- c. Develop a rubric for Snieszko Student Travel Award judging process
 - i. Change to only 2 letters of reference.
 - ii. Perhaps have applicants write a one-pager on how they believe the FHS can impact their education and career?
- d. Propose a change to the Procedures Manual to EXCOM, in which recipients of the SDSA will have 100% of their travel covered to attend the FHS Annual Meeting.
- e. Ensure proper rotation of members on this Committee, such that the newly inducted President appoints a new member each year to maintain the 3-year rotation.

Inspection Standards Committee

Members: Linda Rhodes (Chair), Nicholas Phelps, Trista Becker, Myron Kibus, Esteban Soto, Thomas Loch

1. Five (5) members to the Inspection Standards Committee were elected in a special FHS election in April 2024. The committee members & their positions are in Table 1.

Table 1. Inspection Standards Committee members (elected April 2024)

Committee member	Committee position
Trista Becker	Veterinarian
Myron Kibus	Veterinarian
Thomas Loch	Fish health inspector
Nick Phelps	Epidemiologist or statistician/modeler
Esteban Soto	Fish pathologist
Linda Rhodes	Administrative chair designated by FHS President

2. Nine (9) members to the Inspection Standards Stakeholder Advisory Panel were established in the same April election. Panel members & the represented stakeholder group are in Table 2.

Table 2. Inspection Standards Stakeholder Advisory Panel members (elected April 2024)

Panel member	Stakeholder represented
Charles Conklin	Industry (Big Brown Hatchery)
Erin Ewald	Industry (Taylor Shellfish)
Jesse Trushenski	Industry (Riverence)
Wade Cavender	State (Utah Wildlife Resources)
David Russell	State (Maine Inland Fisheries & Wildlife)
Brandon Taro	State (Idaho Fish & Game)
Lori Gustafson	Federal (USDA -Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service)
Ken Phillips	Federal (US Fish & Wildlife Service)
Janet Whaley	Federal (NOAA - National Marine Fisheries Service)

3. The Inspection Standards Committee held three (3) meetings since election, focusing on defining the objectives & application of the Blue Book.
 - a. Reviewed frameworks for the revised sections of the Blue Book (e.g., respective areas for applying the Inspection Section vs the Diagnostic Section)
 - b. Established the need to utilize the principles & concepts of existing health programs, but not explicitly citing or incorporating health inspection programs & regulations that are beyond the control of the FHS.
 - c. Examined a dataset of reporting & notification to U.S. state authorities for aquatic pathogens & diseases, which could serve as a basis for a list of agents of concern.
 - d. Developed a basic risk evaluation draft document for a new chapter in the Inspection Section.

Testing Standards Committee

Members: Amy Long (Chair), Christopher Whipps, Janet Warg, Jayde Ferguson, Mark Polinski, Nora Hickey

Preliminary Discussion Points

1. Detailed discussion about terminology used in describing & talking about testing.
2. Blue Book should be explicit about the purpose of a test & should convey how to use the protocols.
3. Organizational approach to sections has not been decided upon
 - a. There is a need for a template for information in the Section. A Case Definition Template was proposed by Janet Warg.
 - b. A copy of the current template was provided by Janet Warg.
 - c. Linda Rhodes will put together several options before the next meeting on June 28th.

Main Points

1. Both the scope & the specific tasks assigned to this committee are still unclear & needs more discussion. Much of the fuzziness stems from whether the Testing Standards Committee is charged with addressing the application of a test or assay, i.e. use for surveillance or diagnosis. There was no consensus on this particular point.
2. Working with other committees (Professional Standards, Inspection Standards) will be necessary to determine respective arenas of responsibility for test or assay use & how that guidance is conveyed.
3. Tasks clearly within the purview of this committee include defining criteria for including a test or assay in the Blue Book, and soliciting & evaluating input from subject matter experts.

Section Communications Committee

Members: Stacy Strickland (Chair), Hayden Krouse, Amber Johnson

Goals and progress:

1. Maintain and update FHS website and post FHS newsletters to the website.

We have continued to manage and update the FHS website. We have a new web manager, welcome Hayden Krause! Recently a new ExCom page was developed, and committees have been updated. Meeting programs provided by the archived committee are currently being uploaded and FHS banners and website announcements are constantly being updated.
2. Continue to publish member newsletter monthly, or more often as needed.

Newsletters are now posted on the website a month after sending to the listserv. Newsletters are now only sent to FHS section members starting in March of 2023.
3. Spread FHS announcements/meetings to greater AFS membership.

In the last year, The AFS website hosted pages for one meeting (AFS Annual Meeting and WFDW) and advertised for one other (Online Seminar Series).
4. Maintain and update FHS Facebook page and Twitter/X feed.

The AFS-FHS Facebook page has 887 followers. Transitioning from X (formerly Twitter) to LinkedIn. Here are some early LinkedIn Stats:

Group Created: July 11th

Data collection range: July 11th-July 17th

47 total users

43 active members (defined as having visited the page within the last 6 days)

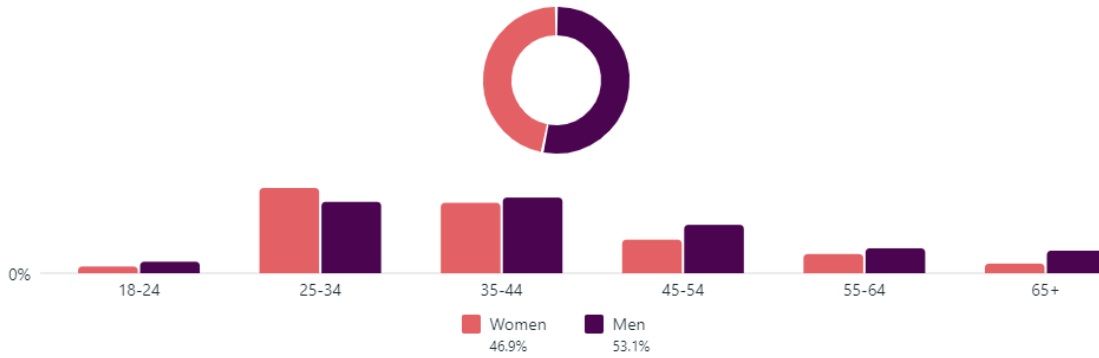
5 posts made

414 impressions across all posts

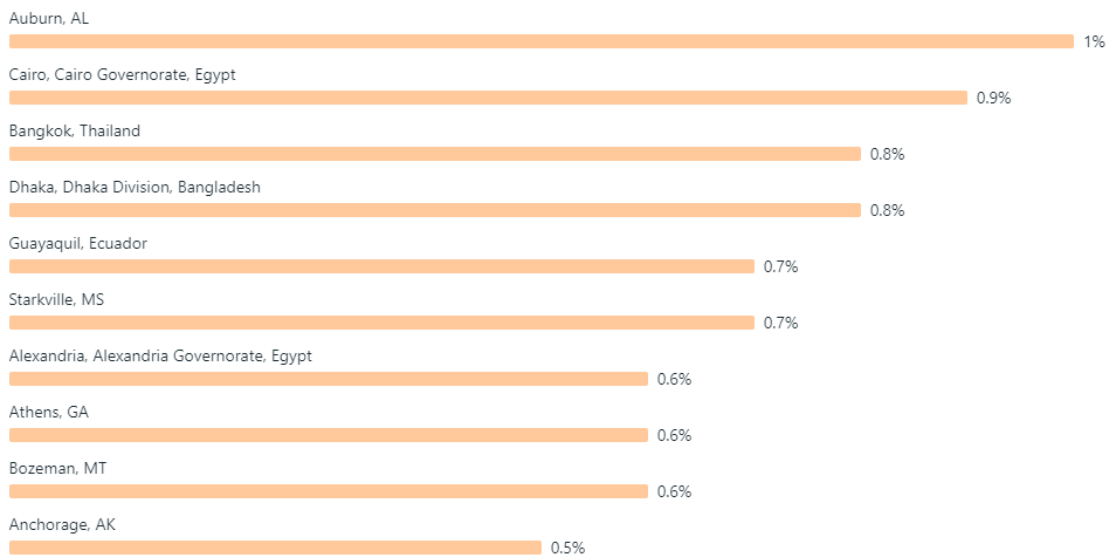
Unfortunately for Twitter/X, we no longer have access to an analytics feature without subscribing to X premium (not worth it in my opinion). At a glance, though, we have maintained the same number of followers as we had last year.

887

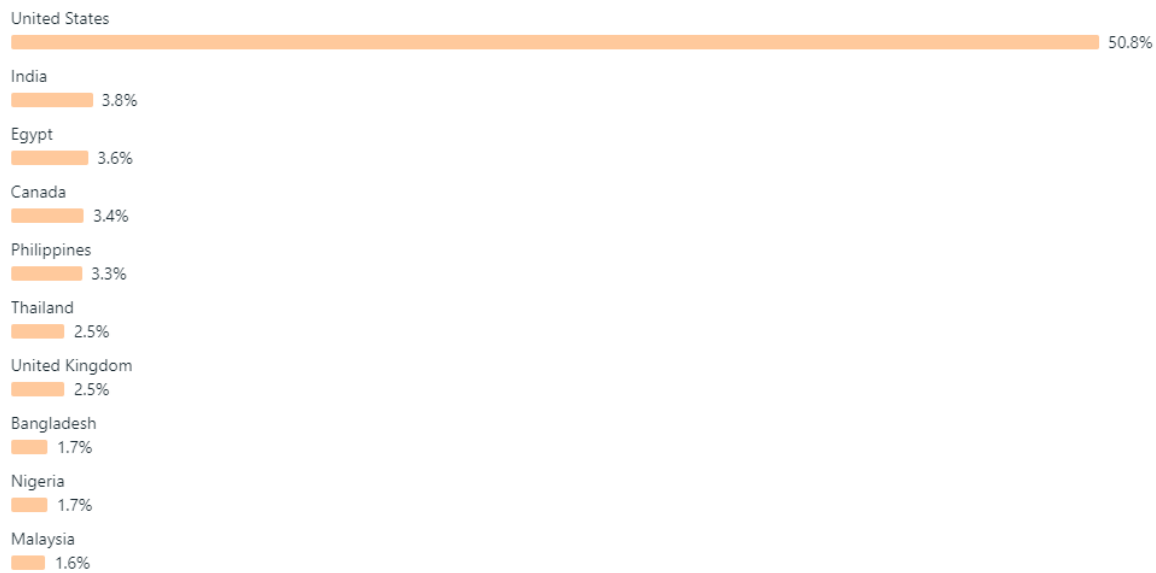
Age & gender ⓘ



Top cities



Top countries



5. Encourage section members to submit research/publications to be shared in listserv newsletters, Facebook, Twitter/X, and now LinkedIn.

Recruitment and Student Involvement Committee

Members: Nicholas Phelps (Chair), Megan Shavaliier, Matt Griffin, James Tuttle

Host the Summer Seminar Series, including student and young professional, and keynote presentations.

2024 Seminar Series (5/9/24 – 8/22/24; in progress)

The 2024 online summer seminar series has been going very well. Attendance is up significantly compared to previous years. We changed the format this year to showcase lab groups, providing an opportunity for program overviews and increasing the number of student and early career professional presentations (n=33 in 2024, compared to 18 in 2023). The revised format has been well received, with interest once again exceeding space available.

Students and early career professionals

- a. Presentations = 33
- b. Average attendance = 64.7 (as of 7/18/24)
- c. Featured lab groups = 13

Keynotes

- a. Presentations = 3
- b. Average attendance = 93.0 (as of 7/18/24)
- c. Topics: Molecular methods, immunology, sea lice

Sponsorship dollars raised for student travel awards = \$3,750

Totals since inception (2020-2024)

Students and early career professionals

- a. Presentations = 116
- b. Average attendance = 51.2

Keynotes

- a. Presentations = 18
- b. Average attendance = 66.7

Sponsorship dollars raised for student travel awards = \$15,750

Coordinate with the FHS Annual Meeting committee to host a student networking or professional development event.

- a. We have decided to pursue an informal networking approach during the 2024 FHS annual meeting. The committee will work to engage with all student participants, answer questions, and connect them with professionals in attendance outside of their immediate networks.

Provide opportunities for student and young professional to participate on FHS committees.

In coordination with the Awards Committee, we have incorporated language in the student travel award letters strongly encouraging (not required) that they volunteer for 1 year to serve as an ‘observer’ (=non-voting member) for a FHS committee of interest. Our hope is that this will increase the leadership capacity within the FHS and increase student retention. It is too early to say if/how this has worked.

Fish Health Laboratory QA/QC Committee

Members: Wade Cavender (Chair), Aimee Reed, Chris Wilson, Joe Marcino, Joel Bader, Janet Warg, Hui-Min Hsu, Victoria Vincent, Huseyin Kucuktas, Rick Cordes

Much of this year’s work was directed toward 1) continuing to improve the application submission process, 2) update application material, 3) identifying virtual QA/QC training options, 4) finalizing Tier

1 and 2 recertification material and 4) began Tier 3 development. Also reviewed and approved the following applications:

- a. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife – Tier 1
- b. USFWS Cal/Nev Fish Health Center – Tier 2
- c. Utah Division of Wildlife – Tier 1 renewal
- d. USFWS Bozeman Fish Health Center – Tier 2, pending final laboratory audit

2024-2025 Goals:

1. Review preliminary Tier 3 concepts and develop basic written guidelines that describe the process for laboratories to move from Tier 2 status to full laboratory accreditation.
2. Review Tier 1 and 2 applications

Continuing Education Committee, Fish Health Section, American Fisheries Society

Annual Report 2023-2024

Committee Members: George E. Sanders (chair), Carla Phillips Savage (next chair), Sean Roon, and Christine Parker-Graham – Committee now has a slate of new members for the upcoming 2024 – 2025 year as George Sanders will be transitioning to the “past chair” position after 18 years on the CEC, initial appointment in 2006, and being the chair since 2017. In the “past chair” position I will continue assist in the transition of the new committee members for conducting CEC activities and Google Drive based information.

On March 8, 2024 in conjunction with the 2024 Annual Eastern Fish Health Workshop in Gulfport, Mississippi, USA; this course, Complete Post-Mortem Evaluation, was presented. It was designed to provide veterinarians, veterinarian technicians and fish health professionals with a broad overview of multiple aspects of the Post-mortem Evaluation process, specifically the importance of adequate and relevant case history in post-mortem evaluation of fish specimens and discussed macroscopic and microscopic techniques for pathological assessment of bony fish and elasmobranchs. Necropsy methods, alternative tool usage, sampling strategies, photography, impression smears, squash preps and other laboratory techniques that can improve the diagnostic outcome of samples submitted for histological processing and analysis was emphasized. The sessions covered teleost and elasmobranch histopathology, as well as the use of advanced histological techniques and how they may be used for clinical case assessment and in research. The speakers/instructors were Drs. Susan Fogelson, Abigail Armwood, and Justin Stilwell. This CE Session was AAVSB RACE approved, 20-1164032, for 6.0 hours of Veterinary and Veterinary Technician CE credits at a cost of \$300.00. Forty-four individuals attend this program at a cost of ~\$76.00 per attendee. This event may or may not have generated an after expenses surplus. If so, that should be sent to the FHS Treasurer, Carolyn A. Richards, to be deposited into the FHS account.

On July 30, 2024, in conjunction with the American Fisheries Society Fish Health Section annual meeting and the 63rd Western Fish Disease Workshop in Boise, Idaho; this course, Disease Prevention – Finfish Brood and Production Strategies, will be presented. It was designed to provide veterinarians, veterinarian technicians and fish health professionals with a practical applied approach to understanding disease prevention as it relates to finfish brood management and implications for subsequent juvenile populations. In addition to general brood management strategies, topics will include biosecurity and risk management, stress management and vertical transmission, nutrition, feed supplements and gut health, broodstock genetics and genetic selection to improve disease resistance. A panel discussion to summarize presentations and share further examples and ideas for mitigation will follow. The speakers/instructors will be Myron Kibus, Christine Parker-Graham, Jesse Trushenski, James Nagler, Tim Leeds, Greg Wiens, and Jie Ma. This CE was AAVSB RACE

submitted and approved for 5.0 hours of Veterinary and Veterinary Technician CE Credits at a cost of \$660.00 (including a \$375.00 late fee). An estimated 45 individuals will attend this program at a cost of ~\$75.00 per attendee. This event may or may not generate an after expenses surplus. If so, that should be sent to the FHS Treasurer, Carolyn A. Richards, to be deposited into the FHS account.

Our AAVSB RACE Provider status (valid for two years now via CE Broker) was successfully renewed January 15, 2021 (no fee paid) and is good for an unknow date past January 16, 2024, no expiration date is listed on CE Broker portal. Renewal is online and payment must occur concurrently by credit/debit card. Status can be renewed any time prior to expiration without incurring a late fee however, **the processing date may become the new expiration/renewal date.**

Goal for this year's CEC: For this year's EFHW and the WFDW CE session the CEC in conjunction with the local CE committees started a program to "stream-line" the process of general CE session evaluation, RACE required CE session evaluation, and distribution of CE certificates. Under the leadership Carla Phillips-Savage, the use of Google forms and sheets, linked to the CEC's existing account, was incorporated into the process of facilitating the collection of required data and information from the local CE level so that it can be more easily transmitted to the CEC for the required data collection, evaluation, and archiving necessary for CE Certificate distribution while maintaining record keeping requirements. This process was successfully utilized at the EFHW and will be used during the FHS/WFDW. If all goes well as planned this new process will be successfully used going forward for future CE sessions. The CEC will create a written standard operating procedure for these processes.

[RACE Provider status (Provider Name: Fish Health Section, American Fisheries Society, CE Broker Tracking #: 50-27153) will need to be renewed on or before 1/16/2025?]

Financial Cost Estimate for CE Committee RACE Submissions 2023 & 2024 – Final Accounting

EFHW – Final cost: \$300.00 – 2024 session

RACE Standard Program Application Fee \$ **180.00**

Maximum 6 hours CE @ \$20 per unit = \$120.00

AFS-FHS Annual Meeting & WFDW – final cost: \$660.00 – 2024 session

RACE Standard Program Application Fee \$ **185.00** Maximum 5.0 hours CE @ \$20 per unit = \$100.00

Course Submission Late fee - \$375.00

Fish Health Section, American Fisheries Society

RACE Provider Renewal Fee (2-yr approval) – not due until 1/16/2025?*

*unknow date of expiration of our RACE Provider status since none is now listed in CE Broker Portal!

Fee will be \$175

Note: renewal fee for 1/16/2021 was waived due to COVID-19

GS's Debit Card linked to AFS bank account expired on 4/2024. A new card was issued to the incoming CE Committee Chair (CPS) by the FHS Treasurer and is active.

Nominating and Balloting Committee

Members: Tim Bruce (Chair), Amber Johnston, Alison Johnson and Anita Kelly

2024 FHS Blue Book Committee Elections

Due to Bylaws amendments passed in summer 2023, the Fish Health Section has two new standing committees and a stakeholder advisory panel to fill, and an off-cycle election was carried out in Spring 2024 for the following roles:

- Testing Standards Committee (TSC)
- Inspection Standards Committee (ISC)
- Inspection Standards Stakeholder Advisory Panel (ISCAP)

Nominees were confirmed in February/March and the Election ran from March 25-April 1st. There were eight TSC nominees, one ISC-Epidemiology nominee, two ISC-Veterinarian nominees, three ISC-Fish Pathologist nominees, and two ISC-Fish Health Inspector nominees. For the ISCAP, there were four nominees representing industry, three representing state/provincial/regional, and three for the federal category.

A total of 78 votes were collected for this off-cycle election.

The final committee assignments as a result of the election were:

Testing Standards Committee

Jayde Ferguson
Nora Hickey
Lacey Hopper
Amy Long
Mark Polinski
Janet Warg
Christopher Whipps

Inspection Standards Committee

Trista Becker
Myron Kebus
Nick Phelps
Esteban Soto
Thomas Loch

Inspection Standards Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Industry Stakeholders

Charles Conklin
Erin Ewald
Jesse Trushenski

State Stakeholders

Wade Cavender
David Russell
Brandon Taro

Federal Stakeholders

Lori Gustafson
Ken Phillips
Janet Whaley

2024 FHS Committee Elections

Annual elections were also held in Summer 2024. Nominations were collected until July 12th, 2024 and nominees confirmed thereafter. The election period was open from July 22nd-July 29th. There were two nominees each for: Vice President (1), Nominating and Balloting Committee (1), Secretary/Treasurer (1), Policy and Position Development Committee (1), and Professional Standard Committee (1). There were a total of 87 participants in the election and results will be announced at the WFDW/FHS Business Meeting.

2024 AFS-Fish Health Section Election

W

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SUMMARY | DESIGN SURVEY | COLLECT RESPONSES | **ANALYZE RESULTS** | PRESENT RESULTS

QUESTION SUMMARIES

INSIGHTS AND DATA

TRENDS

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

RESPONDENTS:
86 of 86

ADD TO
DASHBOARD

SAVE
AS

Page 1: Instructions for Voting:

Q1

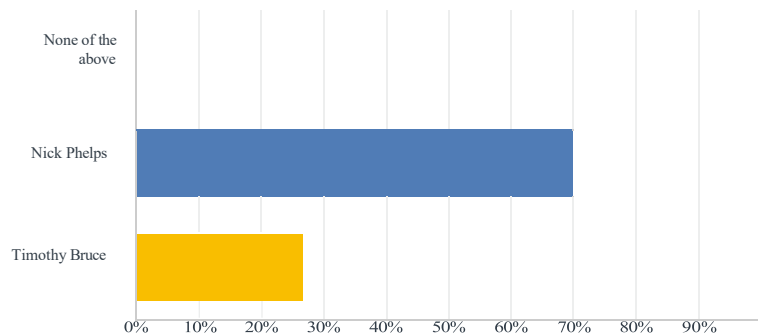


Customize

Save as

Vice President (Select One)

Answered: 86 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

– None of the above

2.33%

2

– Nick Phelps

70.93%

61

– Timothy Bruce

26.74%

23

TOTAL

86

Q2



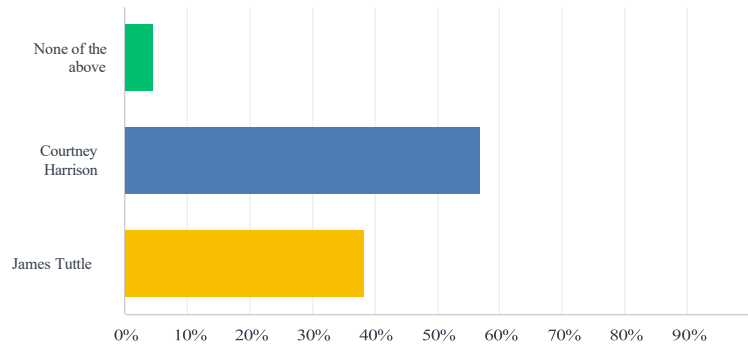
Customize

Save as—

Policy and Position Development Committee (Select One)


Answered: 86 Skipped: 0





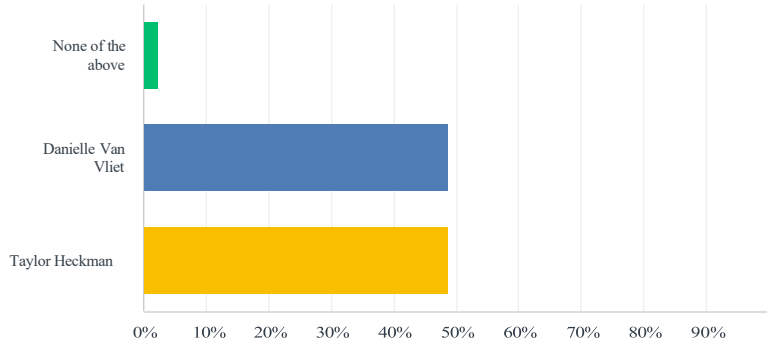
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
– None of the above	4.65%	4
– Courtney Harrison	56.98%	49
– James Tuttle	38.37%	33
TOTAL		86

Q3




Secretary-Treasurer (Select One)

Answered: 86 Skipped: 0



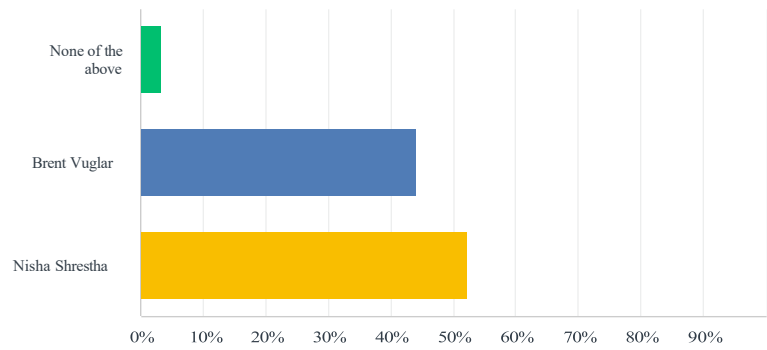
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
– None of the above	2.33%	2
– Danielle Van Vliet	48.84%	42
– Taylor Heckman	48.84%	42
TOTAL		86

Q4




Nominating and Balloting Committee (Select One)

Answered: 86 Skipped: 0



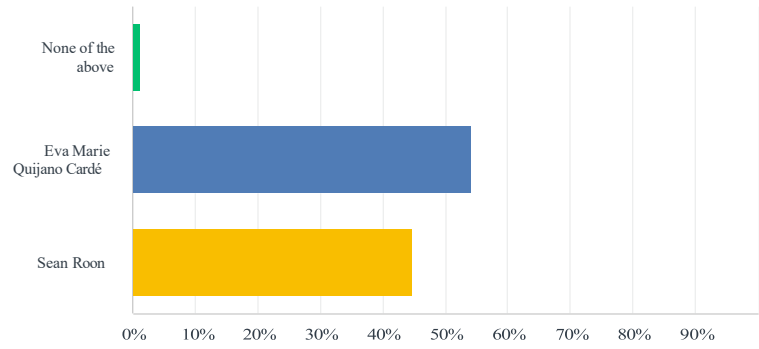
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	3.49%	3
Brent Vuglar	44.19%	38
Nisha Shrestha	52.33%	45
TOTAL		86

Q5



Professional Standards Committee (Select One)

Answered: 85 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	1.18%	1
Eva Marie Quijano Cardé	54.12%	46
Sean Roon	44.71%	38
TOTAL		85

Q6

Address - answers are voluntary and will be kept confidential

Answered: 47 Skipped: 39

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
		47

Company	Responses	76.60%	36
Address	Responses	82.98%	39
Address 2	Responses	19.15%	9
City/Town	Responses	87.23%	41
State/Province	Responses	89.36%	42
ZIP/Postal Code	Responses	82.98%	39
Country	Responses	82.98%	39
Email Address	Responses	91.49%	43
Phone Number	Responses	74.47%	35