

## NCWSS Representative to WSSA Report

Greg Elmore and Brett Miller

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The 2020 student Weed Contest to be hosted by NDSU in Fargo in 2020 was postponed due to travel restrictions and precautions against “pandemic COVID.” The current plan is for NDSU to host the student Weed Contest in Fargo on July 28-29, 2021 if “pandemic COVID” allows.

The 2020 Annual Meeting that had been planned for Nov 30-Dec 3 in Minneapolis, MN was reorganized as a virtual meeting on a very similar schedule as “normal” in person annual meetings. This was the 75<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NCWSS so it was a significant milestone event. It was hosted on Zoom and facilitated by virtual service provider < InHouse Media > who did an excellent job with the virtual aspects of the meeting. For the 2020 meeting, the board met virtually November 30 and December 2. A total of 160 oral and poster presentations for the 2021 meeting. Seventy-five (75) posters were submitted and were available for viewing the entire week of the meeting as well as the week after (~November 30 through December 11). Of these posters 32 were graduate and 11 undergraduate posters participating in the contest. Eighty-five (85) oral papers, including 50 graduate student competition papers and not including symposia, were pre-recorded and broadcast virtually on December 1-2 with 2-3 minutes of live Q&A following each presentation. There were two symposia, application technology and training tomorrows extension leaders. The General Session, Committee Meetings, Business meetings, and Awards were live, virtual events hosted on Zoom with the awards on December 2. Total attendees in 2020 virtual NCWSS meeting: 345. Regular members: 228 (66%); Student members: 92 (27%); Honorary & Fellow members: 25 (7%). The number of registrants for the 2020 Annual Meeting was fairly consistent with 2018 and 2019 with ~ 350 members including ~ 90 students. Membership in NCWSS

seems to have stabilized around this 350. Registration fees for the 2020 Annual Meeting were only reduced only slightly (from \$325 to 300) to account for the added cost for InHouse Media. A student video contest was held and judged prior to the Annual Meeting that had 11 video submissions including the new Student Project Proposal Contest / Section.

**Other items:**

NCWSS BOD amended the code of conduct document to include language from the WSSA about harassment at meetings

NCWSS BOD approved raising dues for 2021 to \$375 for members; \$125 for students; \$225 for fellows  
NCWSS is looking into upgrading their web-site to a more user-friendly and mobile-device-friendly platform

With NIFA move the NCWSS would like to discuss a future joint meeting with WSSA in Kansas City

**Future annual meeting locations, hotels, dates:**

2021, 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Amway Grand Plaza, Grand Rapids, MI, December 13-16

2022, 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Hyatt, St. Louis, MO, dates TBD

2023, 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Hyatt, Minneapolis, MN (renegotiated venue from planned 2020 meeting cancelled by Pandemic), dates TBD

The next NCWSS BOD meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 15, 2021.