

PROCEEDINGS OF AOSA/SCST



2025

114th Annual Meeting of the Association of Official
Seed Analysts, Inc.
and
101st Annual Meeting of the Society of Commercial
Seed Technologists, Inc.

Missoula, Montana

June 7, 2025 – June 12, 2025



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

2024 - 2025 AOSA Executive Board.....	2
2024 - 2025 SCST Executive Board.....	3
Proceedings of the 2025 Annual Meeting.....	6
Board and Business Meeting Minutes	6
SCST Executive Board Meeting Minutes	6
AOSA Executive Board Meeting Minutes.....	12
Joint AOSA/SCST Executive Board Meeting – Session 1	18
Joint AOSA/SCST Executive Board Meeting – Session 2	22
Joint SCST-AOSA Long Range Planning Meeting	29
Joint AOSA/SCST Business Meeting.....	36
114 th Annual Business Meeting of AOSA	37
101 st Annual Business Meeting of SCST.....	39
Executive Board Reports	42
AOSA Rules Voting Results.....	47
Final Vote Tabulation	48
Committee Reports	49
Advanced Technology Committee.....	49
Communications and Publications.....	49
Continuing Education Committee.....	50
Document Control.....	51
Examination Committees.....	52
Genetic Technology Committee	53
Handbook Committee	54
Historian/Necrology Committees – AOSA and SCST	54
Legislative Committee	59
Liaison/Affiliates Committee.....	59
Proficiency Testing Committee.....	60
Referee Committee	61
Research Committee	62
Resolutions Committee	63
Rules Committee.....	64
Teaching and Training Committee.....	65
Research Subcommittee Reports	66
Conservation, Reclamation, Tree and Shrub Subcommittee.....	66
Cultivar Purity Subcommittee.....	67
Flower Seed Subcommittee	67
Germination and Dormancy Subcommittee.....	67
Purity Subcommittee.....	69
Seed Moisture Subcommittee	70
Statistics Subcommittee	71
Tetrazolium Subcommittee	72
Vigor Testing Subcommittee	72



SCST Committee Reports.....	73
Audit Committee.....	73
Ethics Committee.....	73
SCST Nominations Committee.....	74
AOSA Committee Reports	75
By-Laws Committee	75
AOSA Nominations Committee	75
Meeting Attendees	76
Awards and Honorary Memberships	80
SCST Honorary Member: Pat Miller	80
Recipients of the SCST Meritorious Service Award	80
Recipients of the AOSA Merit Award.....	83
SCST Honorary Members.....	85
AOSA Honorary Members	87
SCST Gavel Club & E.H. Jenkins Past Presidents Club.....	89
SCST Gavel Club.....	89
E.H. Jenkins Past Presidents Club	92



PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

BOARD AND BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

SCST EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 7, 2025

Call meeting to order: President Melissa Phillips at 8:17 am MDT.

Meeting In Person Roll Call: Melissa Phillips, Quinn Gillespie, Kathy Mathiason, Desirae Jones, Marija Topic, Molly Richeson, Nicolette Rusch, Jess Peterson, Kelly Polzin, Vivian Winston

Meeting Virtually Roll Call: Board Member-Elect Emily Morrison, and Morgan Webb

- 1) Anti-Trust Policy
- 2) Additions to and approval of the agenda
 - a) Kathy Mathiason moved to approve the agenda.
 - b) Desirae Jones seconded the motion.
 - c) The SCST Board unanimously voted to approve the agenda.
- 3) Additions to and approval of April 15th, 2025, minutes
 - a) Quinn Gillespie moved to approve the April 15th, 2025, minutes.
 - b) Molly Richeson seconded the motion.
 - c) The SCST Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes.
- 4) Financial Report & Budget (Vivian Winston)
 - a) Bank Balances
 - i) Wells Fargo Checking Acct: \$263,387.87
 - ii) Wells Fargo CD Acct: \$27,709.77
 - b) Accounts Receivable: Presented through the financial packet. Just a few people that have not paid dues. Vivian will email the leadership the list of members that are delinquent. Melissa noted that it is getting close to the deadline and will have Vivian send one more email reminder before they are inactive.
 - c) Accounts Payable: was presented through the financial packet. It is all paid up.
 - d) Year to date, net income is at a loss because of the dues landing in this fiscal year and is in compliance with the Constitution and Bylaws.
 - e) Other
 - i) SCST Accounting Processes – document was presented on the SCST Teams files to review.
 - ii) Fiscal year 2026 Budget
 - (1) The leadership asked for a few adjustments such as legal up and travel down. Sponsorship was close to over budget. Looking to consolidate for savings. Added the Seedling Image Database, QuestionMark, and Journal royalty.
 - (a) One thing that was forgotten last year was that \$1,700 which is our portion of QuestionMark of which is the online system that we're using with the Seed Control Officials to do the online exams. We will need to keep an eye this to make sure that the exam fees are covered by the expense.
 - (b) The Seedling Image Database is up and running so there is income from that. This will be discussed in more detail in the Joint Board meeting. One other subject will be copyrights, and user guides.
 - (2) The \$25,000 will be coming out of savings for the Database Portal so it is not on here.
 - (a) Jess mentioned that it is allocated in the 2026 budget and for best business practices we will not be billed until the portal is delivered. We will ask for a review and then ask for the first payment.



(3) Molly Richeson moved to approve the 2026 budget

(4) Quinn Gillespie seconded the motion

(5) The SCST Board unanimously voted to approve the 2026 budget

5) Reports/Updates

a) Presidents Report (Melissa Phillips)

- i) Since the last board meeting, I have responded to organization emails. The consolidation working group met twice to finalize the draft for legal review. I have twice met with the attorney regarding the next steps and completed his final edit recommendations. Items have been prepared and printed for membership review at this meeting. I have prepared the submitted logos for member review during the poster session. This is where members can indicate favorites and provide suggestions for final versions for member selection.
- ii) I have reviewed and edited the 25-26 budget and reviewed with Quinn. As both AOSA and SCST completed their proposed budgets, with the help of Vivian, have prepared a proposed combined budget of what the 1 organization may look like. This will be shared with members at the LRP meeting.
- iii) I attended the OECD Seed Schemes pre-meeting meeting. There is a need to increase awareness of the role of AOSA rules in this space and our continued need to promote use/awareness and availability of the Rules in the global space.
- iv) As this is my last board meeting, I will say this has been an amazing experience and I appreciate the trust and partnership of my fellow board members. I will also say the prospect of a reduction in responsibilities is not undervalued.

b) Vice Presidents Report (Quinn Gillespie)

- i) Since the last board meeting, I have helped to review financial statements and attended Principals meetings. I also worked with committee chairs to collect agendas for the annual meeting and worked with the Communications and Publications Committee to assemble our second “special” edition of the Newsletter, focused specifically on the Annual Meeting. The Committee will discuss continuing this in the future, as it was well received.
- ii) The digital sign-in slides are completed and distributed to committee chairs.
- iii) I attended the virtual Open Rules meeting and have been responding to emails with the Rules Committee and Purity committee regarding inconsistencies in common names used throughout the Rules. I am also working with Nish to help draft a “common name change rule proposal” template to help ensure that members suggesting common name changes address all instances of the usage throughout the Rules.
- iv) I sent welcome letters to newly elected board members to outline responsibilities and expectations for the coming year.
- v) I was also able to stop in person at the Washington State Seed Lab to solicit their feedback regarding consolidation, as their lab in particular has many dual members of both organizations, and their view is that consolidation is necessary for the continuation of both organizations.
- vi) Other than that, I have been busy conducting training in my lab and preparing for the Annual meeting.

c) Board Members Report

i) Kathy Mathiason

- (1) Since the last SCST Board meeting, I have participated in Consolidation working group #27, 28, and 29 meetings. I reviewed an RGT reinstatement application. I completed my SCST proficiency tests. I have been responding to numerous emails regarding CE points, and I followed up with shortages to get everyone caught up by May 31st. I had meetings and emails with the Rules chair, the Teaching & Training chairs and the Continuing Education points co-chair to prepare for the annual meeting. I attended the virtual committee meetings for Conservation & Reclamation/Tree & Shrub, AOSA Bylaws, and the first Open Rules Discussion held prior to the in-person annual meeting.



ii) Desirae Jones

- (1) Since the last meeting I have responded to board emails, attended planning for the annual meeting, attended the open Rules discussion, and reviewed the SCST monthly financial reports.

iii) Marija Topic

- (1) Since our last meeting, I have participated in several meetings and discussions with:
 - (a) Consolidation Working Group.
 - (b) Referee Committee Meeting: Recommended to find ways to record and organize smaller lab research projects that don't reach the scale of PhD-level. These findings could support future research and be included in newsletter articles. Discussions will continue at the Annual Meeting.
 - (c) My lab worked on detecting damage in onion seeds and submitted a brief presentation to Quinn. Additional work is required, and the next steps will be discussed at the Annual Meeting.
 - (d) Foreign Seed Testing Lab Program Q&A: Attended a session to learn about recent program updates and engaged in discussions on challenges U.S. labs face when issuing Canadian ROAs.
 - (e) Referee Committee Submission: Submitted a presentation for review on sweet corn short roots in lab and field studies. If approved, I will present it at the annual meeting.
 - (f) STRF Silent Auction: Donated a basket to support fundraising efforts.
 - (g) Analyst Training: Focused on preparing two analysts for the Purity exam in August to become Registered Seed Technologists (RST).
 - (h) Continually focused on daily lab management and seed testing operations.

iv) Molly Richeson

- (1) Since our last meeting I have done the following:
 - (a) Added a question about whether accommodations are needed to each of the RGT exam applications
 - (b) Voted in SCST elections
 - (c) Wrote agendas for both the RGT BOE annual meeting and Genetic Technology annual meeting while coordinating with Cultivar Purity and submitted them to the newsletter
 - (d) Updated list of topics to be rewritten for the RGT Study Guide
 - (e) Processed a reinstatement application with the RGT BOE
 - (f) Reviewed the final edits on the Genetics Superworkshop Presenter's Guide
 - (g) Reviewed the final draft of New Member Welcome Guide for Genetic Technology
 - (h) Completed a bioinformatics course
 - (i) I am currently guiding a member through the reinstatement process
 - (j) Reviewed Genetic Proficiency test results
 - (k) Participated in board emails

v) Nicolette Rusch

- (1) Since the last BOD Meeting, I have done the following items:
 - (a) Finalized my Basil Referee and submitted it for data analysis. Will be initiating a Rules Proposal for this new methodology.
 - (b) I have pulled several other species in my department to initiate more comparison testing and future referee projects.
 - (c) Reviewed the minutes from the last BOD Meeting.
 - (d) Submitted all data for the Illinois Seed Trade Association.
 - (e) Completed two ISTA Proficiencies (Beta and Lactuca).
 - (f) Responded to several emails between BOD Members.
 - (g) Working on continuously improving the world of seed testing.



vi) Executive Office Report (Jess Peterson)

(1) Annual Meetings

(a) 2025 AOSA/SCST Annual Meeting update

(i) Registration:

1. 127 total registrants (including staff, affiliates, and vendors). However, we did have 3 refunds, bringing us down to an even 124. The Federal Labs really took a hit with travel restrictions, making our attendance lower this year.
2. The majority utilized online registration, however there were several that chose to go the invoice route. The payment system was a big determining factor because we were able to take American Express and Discover whereas before we were limited to Visa and Mastercard only.

(ii) Vendors:

1. 5 Vendors this year--about our average

(iii) Sponsors:

- (i) 5 Sponsors, \$3K (Bayer), \$1K (Montana Seed Trade Assoc.), \$1K (Crookham Co.), \$500 (Harold Armstrong), Bean Buddy Walk (SoDak), Hospitality Suite \$500 (NST Labs) and \$250 (Western Skies Strategies)

(iv) Workshops:

1. 4 workshops were submitted this year with great participation in 3. We had a few participants reach out after the deadline to register specifically for the workshop.

(v) Committees:

1. Most of the Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs opted for the in-person meetings.
2. There was 1 hybrid meeting with the Open Rules Discussion. We had the Open Rules Discussion twice due to participation numbers being low on the first call. Long-Range Planning will be the only session scheduled as hybrid.
3. AOSA Bylaws, Statistics, and Seed Moisture Committees were all held virtually before the in-person meetings.

(vi) Meeting logistics:

1. The office sent out a Save-the-Date at the beginning of February with registration opening on March 17th. This was later than past years due to the new Annual Meeting Registration processing system completion. We did not get any feedback on the new registration form and processing, but we considered that a good response. The only issues we ran into were folks registering as a guest instead of a full participant and a few missing receipts. Overall, I think it went over well.

(2) AOSA/SCST Website

- (a) The new website is going to be presented to the Joint AOSA-SCST Boards with a mockup of the homepage then the JTech developers will join us at the Long-Range Planning for a question-and-answer session. They will also give a tour of what has been built in terms of the website and the database portal.
- (b) The Seedling Image Database is live! We had about 15 orders before the end of the fiscal year with more coming in after. We will discuss it in more detail at the Joint Board meeting.



- (3) Job Postings
 - (a) There was a large decrease in job postings at 7 as opposed to 28 in 2024. We dabbled in a few ads with lab equipment and herbariums for members only and nonprofit.
 - (i) 6 Job Opportunities at \$130 each for \$780.00 split profit
 - (ii) 1 Rush post at \$180 split profit
- (4) Consolidated Exam Committee
 - (a) The office just received the exam results from Iowa State University, and it produced 8 CVT's from an Associate and 2 RST's from CVT. That's out of 15 candidates. These analysts will be recognized at the Awards Banquet on Wednesday evening.
 - (b) The USDA SRTD will again hold its annual Seed School on August 11-13th. The Purity Practical in person exams will be held on August 14th at both Gastonia, NC and the California Department of Food & Agriculture lab. Of which is full as of June 2nd. And new this year is the Virtual Purity, written only and Germination, written and practical, occurring on August 18th and 19th. Currently, there are 8 SCST candidates with 3 of those being Virtual.
- (5) Membership Numbers
 - (a) There is a total of 271 SCST members. Of those, 6 have dual membership. That's down 10 from last year. KP received the exam results 3 days ago and has incorporated all the candidates that passed.
 - (i) 104 RST's
 - (ii) 30 CVT's
 - (iii) 1 CPT
 - (iv) 15 RGT's
 - (v) 6 CGT's
 - (vi) 107 Associate members
 - (vii) 3 Professional Members
 - (viii) 5 Research Members
- (6) SCST Publication and Seedling Database Sales
 - (a) There was a total profit of \$2,512.50 with a total of 5 handbooks sold (\$1,400.00) and 16 Seedling Database subscriptions (\$2,225.00 split 50% with AOSA is \$1,112.50). Down 5 handbooks from last year.
 - (i) 4 - 2018 Seed Technologists Training Manual
 - (ii) 0 - 2018 Seed Technologists Training Manual in Spanish
 - (iii) 1 - 2016 Chapter 14 only
 - (iv) 0 - What is Seed Vigor CD
 - (v) 16 - Seedling Image Database Annual Subscriptions
- vii) Approval of Reports
 - (1) Kathy Mathiason moved to approve the reports as given.
 - (2) Nicolette Rusch seconded the motion.
 - (3) The SCST Board unanimously voted to approve the motion.
- 6) Old Business
 - a) There is no Old Business to be discussed.
- 7) Unfinished Business
 - a) AOSA-SCST Consolidation-Merger update (Melissa Phillips)
 - i) We met with the attorney and went through the process and reviewed the bylaws. There are a few rearrangements and new stand-alone documents from the Bylaws. He gave us two examples of mergers. Recommended SCST stay intact because of Wisconsin. Kathy asked why Wisconsin is the second-best state to incorporate? Melissa answered because of the ease of documentation and virtual meetings. The final bylaws/contract will be delivered to



Analyzeseeds.com

- the membership once agreed/voted on. SCST would adopt the merger. It could be completed by the end of 2025. Quinn asked what the AOSA Rules and the copyright would look like. Will it cause issues with state and federal laws? Melissa: Regardless of survivor and dissolution it would remain the same. We maintain autonomy.
- ii) Official Vote for Merger with AOSA
 - (1) Molly Richeson moved to move forward with the merger
 - (2) Nicolette Rusch seconded the motion
 - (3) The SCST Board unanimously voted to approve the motion
 - b) Analyzeseeds.com
 - i) The website/portal, Seedling Image Database and the Consolidated Exam online platform will all be discussed in the AOSA-SCST Joint Board meeting.
 - (1) Quinn appreciates the update in the Executive Director report and is happy to help when needed. Please keep giving feedback.
 - c) Committee Updates (Melissa Phillips)
 - i) Purity Committee Chair Needed
 - (1) Please let us know if you have any ideas and have this done before the end of the meeting.
 - ii) Moisture Committee Chair Needed
 - (1) The same comments were noted for this committee by President Phillips.
 - iii) Designate an SCST Board Member to serve on the Research Committee per the Bylaws.
 - (1) Nicolette Rusch volunteered.
 - d) Publication Updates (Melissa Phillips)
 - i) Tetrazolium Handbook
 - (1) Quinn thought it was about to be done as they were just finalizing the details.
 - e) Industry Meeting Attendance, past & future (Melissa Phillips)
 - i) I attended the OECD pre-meeting. Brent Turnipseed is the AOSA representative but was unable to attend in India this year. You will see that AOSA's travel budget is significantly higher than ours for this reason.
 - ii) Quinn will be at both ASTA's, both grass and vegetables. ASTA wants our participation with speaking/reporting roles.
 - f) SOP for SCST Business Meeting in absence of a quorum (Quinn Gillespie)
 - i) We have had two years in a row without a quorum. This so we are not scrambling to follow Roberts Rules of Order. The document was discussed as posted on the SCST Board Teams channel. This will help with the merger bylaws to where not everything is in the bylaws but rather a document or SOP.
 - g) AOSA/SCST Joint Board of Directors meeting agenda items
 - i) AOSA-SCST Merger (James Smith & Melissa Phillips)
 - ii) Long Range Planning Agenda (Quinn Gillespie)
 - (1) Melissa is building a Menti slide deck where we can ask for feedback from everyone for free and at one time.
 - iii) Schedule Leadership Calls (Kelly Polzin)
 - 8) New Business
 - a) Welcome Newly Elected Board Members
 - i) Brad, Morgan and Emily
 - b) Plan future SCST Board calls and frequency.
 - i) Every other month starts August 6th, but second Wednesday at 10:00 Central time. Next would be October 8th.
 - 9) Adjourn
 - a) Molly Richeson moved to adjourn.
 - b) Desirae Jones seconded the motion.
 - c) The SCST Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:50 am MDT.



AOSA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 7, 2025

Call meeting to order: President James Smith at 10:10 am MDT.

Meeting In Person Roll Call: James Smith, Diandra Viner, Nish Patel, Emily Lapinel, Chase MacPherran, Leanna Leach, Jess Peterson, Kelly Polzin, Vivian Winston, Board Member – Elect Leann Duncan

Meeting Virtually Roll Call: Victor Vankus, Lan Chi Trinh, Board Member – Elect Jenny Hall and Kathy Mathiason (completing the SCST Board of Directors term)

- 2) Additions to and approval of the agenda
 - a) Nish Patel moved to approve the agenda.
 - b) Chase MacPherran seconded the motion.
 - c) The AOSA Board unanimously voted to approve the agenda.
- 3) Additions to and approval of April 8th, 2025, call minutes
 - a) Nish Patel moved to approve April 8th, 2025, call minutes.
 - b) Leanna Leach seconded the motion.
 - c) The AOSA Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes.
- 4) Financial Report (Vivian Winston)
 - a) Bank Balances
 - i) Wells Fargo Checking Acct: \$172,620.23
 - ii) Wells Fargo CD Acct: \$27,370.17
 - b) Accounts Receivable: was presented through the financial packet and are equated to outstanding dues for this fiscal year. I did follow up with those members earlier this week and some of the checks are being sent to KP and BDO. I will give it another couple of weeks and send out another email.
 - c) Accounts Payable: is at a zero balance and was presented through the financial packet.
 - d) Other
 - i) AOSA Accounting Processes – document was provided to the AOSA Board for review.
 - ii) Year-to-date review through the financial packet and how we ended.
 - (1) We ended in a negative balance but that was due to the membership dues taking a hit on when they are reported. In the past years, they have not moved them as fiscal year revenue since we are invoicing in May. We have now moved those back to show the when the revenue should fiscally show up in June. So, for the 2025-2026 fiscal year we will see the revenue hit when it should.
 - iii) Fiscal year 2026 Budget
 - (1) The first iteration of this budget that we made back in March, we made a couple of adjustments.
 - (a) We added the Database Portal and fiscal year 2018
 - (2) The last version we reviewed we added the AOSA Rules for Testing Seeds. Since we had already incurred this, it was decided to remove it from this year.
 - (3) If you look at the overall budget on the first tab, including the USDA funds and membership dues shift, we are showing a negative loss of \$11,080
 - (a) The second tab is the same but does not include the USDA funds
 - (b) The third tab is the USDA available funds. If we are not anticipating any for the next fiscal year, our budget is \$16,070.



- (c) James reiterated with the overall budget loss, we went with the worst-case scenario. We just wanted to be prepared.
 - (4) The legal fees were discussed and how they are probably over budgeted considering most of the work has been done and will be split with SCST.
 - (5) Travel was also discussed with \$7,200 spent with \$10,000 budget this year. We left it at 10K for this year and anticipate being well under that mark since Brent Turnipseed is not able to attend the OECD meeting.
 - (a) Vivian will be sure to keep up with the monthly budget versus actual with the hope of coming in under budget in terms of expenses and over in revenue.
 - (6) Questions:
 - (a) Victor questioned line 39 for advertising and marketing at 3K.
 - (i) James it was put aside for marketing the Spanish Rules.
 - (7) Diandra Viner moved to approve the budget as amended.
 - (8) Nish Patel seconded the motion.
 - (9) The AOSA Board unanimously voted to approve the budget.
- 5) Reports/Updates
 - a) Presidents Report (James Smith)
 - i) Since the last board meeting, I have attended AOSA Board and principal meetings, merger/consolidation and legal or attorney meetings of which will be discussed during the AOSA-SCST Joint Board meeting.
 - b) Vice Presidents Report (Diandra Viner)
 - i) The Minnesota State Seed Lab is through the bulk of our regulatory seed samples for the season. I have been helping with some TZ handbook updates but most credit goes to Vic, Heidi and Elizabeth, and working through some Lolium testing questions with the germination and research committee folks, which is leading to surveys, referees or rules proposals. I'm glad to have participated in the meeting planning group and other committees and am excited to participate in some other new and ongoing things.
 - c) Secretary/Treasurers Report (Nish Patel)
 - i) Nothing to report
 - d) Board Members Report
 - i) Jeanna Mueller
 - (1) Not present due to travel issues
 - ii) Emily Lapinel
 - (1) Nothing to report
 - iii) Chase MacPherran
 - (1) Nothing to report
 - iv) Victor Vankus
 - (1) Nothing much since April. We will talk about the TZ handbook further down in the agenda. I did reach out to the vigor and moisture committees regarding updates on those handbooks since they are at least 10 years old at this point.
 - (2) Dues payment has been delayed due to DOGE review
 - v) Leanna Leach
 - (1) Passed purity exam
 - (2) Met with the Exam and Teaching & Training committee on education
 - vi) Lan Chi Trinh
 - (1) Referee committee: we were talking about looking for a new Chair, so I reached out to Michael Kelley from Florida for interest. I sent him the SOP for the Referee committee and the responsibility of being a chair or co-chair. He is currently sending it up chain for approval.
 - (2) Rule Committee: we did two open-rule discussions with a possible update/amendment to one proposal, but I have not heard back from the author.



- e) Executive Office Report (Jess Peterson)
 - i) Annual Meetings
 - (1) 2025 AOSA/SCST Annual Meeting update
 - (a) Registration:
 - (i) 127 total registrants (including staff, affiliates, and vendors). However, we did have 3 refunds, bringing us down to an even 124. The Federal Labs really took a hit with travel restrictions, making our attendance lower this year.
 - (ii) The majority utilized online registration, however there were several that chose to go the invoice route. The payment system was a big determining factor because we were able to take American Express and Discover whereas before we were limited to Visa and Mastercard only.
 - (b) Vendors:
 - (i) 5 Vendors this year--about our average
 - (c) Sponsors:
 - (i) 5 Sponsors, \$3K (Bayer), \$1K (Montana Seed Trade Assoc.), \$1K (Crookham Co.), \$500 (Harold Armstrong), Bean Buddy Walk (SoDak), Hospitality Suite \$500 (NST Labs) and \$250 (Western Skies Strategies)
 - (d) Workshops:
 - (i) 4 workshops were submitted this year with great participation in 3. We had a few participants reach out after the deadline to register specifically for the workshop.
 - (e) Committees:
 - (i) Most of the Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs opted for the in-person meetings.
 - (ii) There was 1 hybrid meeting with the Open Rules Discussion. We had the Open Rules Discussion twice due to participation numbers being low on the first call. Long-Range Planning will be the only session scheduled as hybrid.
 - (iii) AOSA Bylaws, Statistics, and Seed Moisture Committees were all held virtually before the in-person meetings.
 - (f) Meeting logistics:
 - (i) The office sent out a Save-the-Date at the beginning of February with registration opening on March 17th. This was later than past years due to the new Annual Meeting Registration processing system completion. We did not get any feedback on the new registration form and processing, but we considered that a good response. The only issues we ran into were folks registering as a guest instead of a full participant and a few missing receipts. Overall, I think it went over well.
 - ii) AOSA/SCST Website
 - (1) The new website is going to be presented to the Joint AOSA-SCST Boards with a mockup of the homepage then the JTech developers will join us at the Long-Range Planning for a question-and-answer session. They will also give a tour of what has been built in terms of the website and the database portal.
 - (2) The Seedling Image Database is live! We had about 15 orders before the end of the fiscal year with more coming in after. We will discuss it in more detail at the Joint Board meeting.
 - iii) Job Postings
 - (1) There was a large decrease in job postings at 7 as opposed to 28 in 2024. We dabbled in a few ads with lab equipment and herbariums for members only and nonprofit.
 - (a) 6 Job Opportunities at \$130 each for \$780.00 split profit



- (b) 1 Rush post at \$180 split profit
- iv) Consolidated Exam Committee
 - (1) The office just received the exam results from Iowa State University, and it produced 3 CSA's, and 5 CSA-G's. That's out of 9 candidates. These analysts will be recognized at the Awards Banquet on Wednesday evening.
 - (2) The USDA SRTD will again hold its annual Seed School on August 11-13th. The Purity Practical in person exams will be held on August 14th at both Gastonia, NC and the California Department of Food & Agriculture lab. Of which is full as of June 2nd. And new this year is the Virtual Purity, written only and Germination, written and practical, occurring on August 18th and 19th. Currently, there are AOSA 14 candidates with 11 of those being Virtual.
- v) Membership Numbers
 - (1) 36 Official State Labs
 - (a) We have several labs that do not have a CSA or RST on staff. At last year's meeting, we discussed how we need to give them time to be compliant with the Bylaws as an Official Lab. When I list out the states out of compliance the year they were first tagged follows. What might be the biggest determining factor is whether they have paid their dues for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.
 - (i) Connecticut – 2024
 - (ii) Illinois – 2024, they possibly were contracted for the state, but James will check on this.
 - (iii) Kentucky - 2025
 - (iv) Nebraska - 2025
 - (v) New Jersey - 2024
 - (vi) New Mexico - 2024
 - (2) 4 USDA Official Labs
 - (3) 1 Canadian Official Lab
 - (4) 3 Allied Labs
 - (5) 6 Associate Members
- vi) AOSA Publication Sales
 - (1) There was a total profit of \$17,012.10. We sold 60 Handbooks, 79 additional copy/network licenses, and 16 Seedling Database subscriptions (\$2,225.00 split 50% with SCST is \$1,112.50). That is down 32 Handbooks and up 19 in additional copy/network licenses from 2024.
 - (a) 25 - AOSA Rules Complete Set
 - (b) 6 - AOSA Rules Volume 1
 - (c) 0 - AOSA Rules Volume 2
 - (d) 0 - AOSA Rules Volume 3
 - (e) 1 - AOSA Rules Volume 4
 - (f) 1 – 2023 AOSA Rules Complete Set & Individual Volumes in Spanish
 - (g) 12 – 2024 Cultivar Purity Handbook
 - (h) 3 – 2020 Purity Testing Handbook
 - (i) 5 – 2009 Seed Vigor Handbook
 - (j) 0 – 2018 Seed Moisture Handbook
 - (k) 7 – 2010 Tetrazolium Testing Handbook
- f) Approval of Reports
 - i) Leanna Leach moved to approve the Board member reports as given.
 - ii) Diandra Viner seconded the motion.
 - iii) The AOSA Board unanimously voted to approve the motion.
- 6) Old Business
 - a) Publication Updates



- i) AOSA Spanish Rules and the Marketing Working Group (Victor Vankus)
 - (1) Has not had time to commit to any real extent
- ii) Tetrazolium Handbook (Victor Vankus)
 - (1) It is done and ready to go out for sale after the Annual Meeting. We might consider giving this addition to those that have purchased 2010 at no cost
 - (2) .
 - (a) Victor Vankus moved that we provide the new TZ Handbook to anyone who purchased a copy of the 2010 version over the past year, at no charge.
 - (b) Diandra Viner seconded the motion
 - (c) The AOSA Board unanimously voted to approve the motion
- b) Consolidation-Merger Update (James Smith)
 - i) Will take care a lot of this in our Joint Board Meeting. We are going with the merger instead of the consolidation because it is simpler and cheaper. Consolidation would require going back to the IRS getting approval for nonprofit status. At the attorney's suggestion, Wisconsin is more favorable over North Carolina for simplicity and friendliness for nonprofits. As a working group, we have decided that AOSA will dissolve, and everything will move to SCST as the surviving entity. It should be a simple transition with the possibility of doing this in this calendar year. That is assuming everybody approves and we do not have a lot of concerns or must go back and revise the Bylaws. The attorney has reviewed our bylaws with corrections, additions and revisions. As mentioned earlier, we will talk in more detail in the Joint Board Meeting.
 - (1) Nish Patel moved to move forward with the proposed merger of AOSA and SCST.
 - (2) Victor Vankus seconded the motion
 - (3) The AOSA Board unanimously voted to approve the motion
 - ii) AOSA Dues Structure (James Smith)
 - (1) Consolidated budget and due's structure might change. Keep in mind that it must be at an affordable price point. Any changes are going to require time for people to adjust and accept. This is due to the way budgets work within state governments. We are proposing to have government labs pay as they have historically but also have individuals within that lab pay dues for their membership categories such as CSA's will become RST's. This is due to the current structure/requirement of voting on the AOSA Rules
 - (a) Leanna asked what the structure of SCST independent vs AOSA labs. James: We would more than likely to move to a more individual basis as analysts using the RST insignia. More worldwide recognizable since we are looking for more international members. Victor: suggested that we need volunteers for committees to help move forward as one organization.
 - (b) Victor praised President Smith, SCST President Phillips, and the working group for all the time and effort to get us to this point.
 - (2) 5-year plan: I encourage members to work together in developing this plan of business and we need to operate as such.
- c) Committee Updates
 - i) Continuing Education Committee (Leanna Leach)
 - (1) Everyone is in compliance with their points and has done a much better job.
- d) Analyzeseeds.com
 - i) The website/portal, Seedling Image Database and the Consolidated Exam online platform will all be discussed in the AOSA-SCST Joint Board meeting.
- e) Industry Meeting Attendance (James Smith)
 - i) Number one recognition, so people know who we are and what we do.
 - ii) The second reason is national and international meetings. Attendance is like a two-way street with assistance. Not only for increasing sponsorship but also for developing



- relationships that benefit the organization. This also helps with education and knowledge or help fill the gaps. Of course, this all depends on the budgets of the states, but we will be hopeful the funding continues.
- iii) Diandra asked about a list of meetings
 - (1) ASTA Flower in Orlando, FL and the Vegetable Seed conference
 - (2) ASTA in conjunction with the Western Seed Association in Kansa City, MO.
 - (3) National Native Seed Conference
 - (a) Victor mentioned that our publications are advertised at these meetings
 - (4) Belt-Wide Cotton conference – James has been invited to attend
 - f) Laboratories membership application update (Kelly Polzin)
 - i) MNT Seed Testing Lab in Bangladesh
 - (1) They have paid their Allied Membership dues.
 - ii) BLM National Seed Warehouse Program
 - (1) I did reach out to them, and they responded not having the ability to pay the AOSA Associate dues. I offered them the opportunity to utilize the SCST Associate dues, but I have not received a response. I will check back with them after the meeting.
 - iii) Edwin Unord in Nepal
 - (1) The application came in as a different language/dialect that could not be translated. I did email them back to reapply in English with no response.
 - (2) I received another membership request from India that was in a totally different language and from a strange email. I am not sure, but these might have been phishing emails and irrelevant.
 - iv) James mentioned that one of our potential markets is going to be Africa. Some African countries are getting serious about establishing seed programs.
 - g) Reference AASCO in the 2025 AOSA Rules update (Nish Patel)
 - i) There are eight or nine additions or corrections. I will present this at the purity meeting. I will then send it out to the committee for comments or concerns. I am not sure if we can combine them, but I will reach out to Chi Trinh once it is approved.
- 7) New Business
- a) Official AOSA Laboratory in Good Standing stamp/seal on ROA proposal (Leanna Leach)
 - i) Had the idea along the same lines of the RST seal but for AOSA on the ROA reports. This is due to not having anything saying AOSA on our reports.
 - ii) The board liked the idea.
 - iii) Nish mentioned that it would have to work with current programs
 - iv) Chi questioned as a CSA and liability. To where there is an issue or misunderstanding that a lab does not have a CSA/RST on staff but is using the seal.
 - v) Chase related to the dues and the merger. Pay your dues and receive the stamp/seal.
 - vi) Leanna cautioned AOSA endorsement. Chi also cautioned from a legal standpoint, the question is, will AOSA have any liability as an organization if their seal is under this report?
 - vii) Will check into things and bring back to the next Board meeting.
 - b) AOSA/SCST Joint Board of Directors meeting agenda items
 - i) AOSA-SCST Merger
 - ii) Long Range Planning session agenda items
 - iii) Increase Sponsorship
 - iv) Schedule Leadership Calls (Kelly Polzin)
 - c) Streamlining AOSA Business meeting format (Nish Patel)
 - i) Remove the reports
 - (1) James suggested emailing the reports to the membership
 - ii) James would like to revisit this with the possibility of the merger by the end of year and incorporate for next year's meeting.
 - iii) Place this on the Joint Board meeting agenda for discussion and implementation.



Analyzeseeds.com

- d) Plan future AOSA Board calls and frequency. (Kelly Polzin)
 - i) Third Wednesday every other month starting in August at 10:00 am Central time. James mentioned that we will have to be flexible because conflicts do happen.
- 8) Adjourn
 - a) Nish Patel motioned to adjourn.
 - b) Diandra Viner seconded the motion.
 - c) The AOSA Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 11:41 am MDT.

JOINT AOSA/SCST EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING – SESSION 1

June 7, 2025

Call meeting to order: AOSA President James Smith and SCST President Melissa Phillips at 1:06 pm MDT.

Meeting in Person Roll Call: AOSA Board James Smith, Diandra Viner, Nish Patel, Jeanna Mueller, Emily Lapinel, Chase MacPherran, Leanna Leach, AOSA Board Member – Elect Leann Duncan, and Kathy Mathiason, SCST Board Melissa Phillips, Quinn Gillespie, Kathy Mathiason, Desirae Jones, Marija Topic, Molly Richeson, Nicolette Rusch, SCST Board Member-Elect Emily Morrison, Executive Office Jess Peterson, Kelly Polzin, Vivian Winston

Meeting Virtually Roll Call: AOSA Board member Victor Vankus, Lan Chi Trinh, AOSA Board Member – Elect Jenny Hall, SCST Board Member – Elect Morgan Webb

- 9) Anti-Trust Policy
- 10) Additions to and approval of agenda
 - a) Quinn Gillespie moved to approve the agenda.
 - b) Nicolette Rusch seconded the motion.
 - c) The AOSA-SCST Board unanimously voted to approve the agenda.
- 11) Additions to and approval of June 6th, 2024, Annual Meeting minutes.
 - a) Desirae Jones moved to approve June 6th, 2024, Annual Meeting minutes.
 - b) Kathy Mathiason seconded the motion.
 - c) The AOSA-SCST Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes.

The reports will be omitted from today's session and moved to June 8th session 2.

12) Old Business

- a) Analyzeseeds.com
 - i) Website/Portal (Jess Peterson & Kelly Polzin)
 - (1) To not be redundant, I will keep it brief. Three highlights you will see is the new website, Analyzeseeds.com, of which we are integrating everything into it. There are various functions like the Seedling Image Database, the Database Portal, and Annual Meeting Registration. The Seedling Image Database and the Annual Meeting Registration are currently functioning on the current website. Talking to the JTech developers, the new website will not be up and running until late fall or early 2026. That is when you'll see the Database Portal in action. The developers really want all the functionality working before the website goes live.
 - (2) Melissa asked how much time JTech will need for their presentation of the new website for LRP? Kelly answered with 30-45 minutes. Jess suggested that we have JTech present with a short Q&A with as appetizer for membership. This way they have time to think about it and then give their feedback. When the website and database go live, we will have an informational webinar.



- (a) Melissa mentioned that she is building an interactive slide deck for LRP to where we can poll those that are present through a log-in. We can also have open questions. The program is Menti.
- ii) Seedling Image Database (Melissa Phillips & James Smith)
 - (1) Marketing
 - (a) Nicolette suggested asking ASTA, OECD, ISTA, AASCO, AOSCA etc. to post an advertisement. Also, a clip or short webinar/YouTube to send to those organizations as well.
 - (b) Quinn has a good relationship with these organizations through the newsletter. I can solicit updates for the newsletter, and in turn, I can send them information for theirs.
 - (c) The Executive Office can take the raw information for the demo video and create something beautiful on YouTube/Canva.
 - (d) Melissa mentioned that David Johnston and herself are on the ISTA Germination Committee of which is on the agenda for the next meeting.
 - (e) Molly suggested a QR code.
 - (f) A good question for the membership, where should we be marketing?
 - (2) Copyright (Quinn Gillespie)
 - (a) To pursue (If you make a document by all written laws, it does have some copyright protection)
 - (i) Update the language on the page (all rights reserved etc.)
 - 1. User Guide/Terms and Conditions
 - a. Steel the images, password sharing etc.
 - b. We will need to run this through the attorney.
 - c. Quinn volunteered to head this project. In the meantime, Kelly Polzin will place the copyright language from the AOSA Rules and add to the Seedling Image Database. Replace 'Rules' with 'database'.
 - 2. We could also file a formal copyright with the US Copyright Office as a database.
 - (3) In the event Riad Baalbaki decides to retire, who can replace him?
 - (a) Use of the program with possible multiple users
 - (b) James mentioned that we need to know what the plans are for adding more families.
 - (c) Spread it out amongst a working group, committee or as a backup, the Executive Office.
 - (4) Proceeds
 - (a) Covering the monthly service fee of \$135.00
 - (b) Split 50% with AOSA, monthly, quarterly, yearly?
 - (i) Quinn suggested that since it is annually and 12 subscriptions will cover the service fee, let's split it annually on May 31st. For the 2024-2025 May revenue, it split 50% and restarted on June 1 for the fiscal year 2025-2026.
 - (5) Future Expansion with new species/families or TZ?
 - (a) James said that there is interest in cotton seed with monetary support.
 - (b) Nicolette thought TZ is a great avenue for expansion
 - (c) Member questions: What families would you like to add or what would you pay to see
 - (i) Marjia has a subscription and thinks that it is not enough at \$135. 2 to 250 would be more appropriate.
 - (ii) Molly suggested that you lock in a contract for 5 years and the cost will not go up. Sign up, don't wait or the cost will go up.
 - (d) Molly suggested Herbicide Bio-assay pictures
 - (e) Chi suggested state noxious weed seed
- b) AOSA-SCST Merger (Melissa Phillips & James Smith)



- i) Dues
 - (1) This subject was not discussed
- ii) Member Feedback
 - (1) Melissa discussed the document of Bylaws membership feedback
 - (a) Thoughts on the name of the organization “AOSA-SCST”
 - (i) Most members agreed with the name of the organization or neither agreed nor disagreed.
 - (b) RST vs CSA
 - (i) RST traditionally receives higher wages
 - (ii) More globally recognized
 - (c) Member categories
 - (i) AOSA folks will have a vote individually with most members agreeing
 - (ii) There was also a new category of Emeritus and members that gave feedback strongly agreed.
 - (d) Seal, seal use
 - (i) What is it and why. There were a lot of comments and questions on this subject.
 - (ii) How we vote on the Rules now is how it will stay and will not change
 - (e) Elected officers
 - (i) Designed for continuity with most members agreeing with the outcome.
 - (f) Board configuration
 - (i) Not a lot of comments except for the voting/nomination process
 - (g) Committees
 - (i) We did not want all committees permanent. They are only permanent to keep the organization running. But everything else is not in the bylaws. This way it does not take 2 years to remove or form.
 - 1. Chi asked about Technical and Working Groups? Quinn: Working groups are freely assigned and we can work on wording for the permanent committees
 - (ii) Organization Voting
 - 1. Different from Rules voting
 - 2. Added Seeds Canada
 - 3. Maintain compliance with Rules voting
 - 4. Code of ethics was provided by the attorney
 - (iii) Are you in favor of moving forward x 3 or in each section of bylaw feedback.
 - 1. Most of the members were favorable in each section
 - (iv) Communications and Publications can edit the bylaws after the attorney sends them back.
- iii) New Board Structure & Transition
 - (1) The merger would be in motion. We need to have the current board to pull from due to this. We do not want members that will lose momentum due to no knowledge.
 - (2) Presidents and Vice President and here is what you must pick from.
 - (3) Government, private and genetic to choose from.
 - (a) If the genetic box is checked, the next one with the most votes would be elected. Also, if the President or Vice President are genetic, they could also check that box. This could be a policy document and not written in the Bylaws.
 - (4) The outgoing president will become the chair of the nomination committee.
 - (5) Nicolette suggested using photos, so you know who to vote for.
- iv) Merger Plan
 - (1) The plan of the merger packet would include the name, board structure, the finalized bylaws and this will go out to the official membership for the final vote.
 - (a) Wisconsin is a better state to be a nonprofit in vs North Carolina



- (b) Both organizations must have 2/3 majority of ballots electronically cast. Must be a motion at the business meeting
 - (i) Maintain momentum and place this in the proceedings to vote within 30 days so it will overlap.
 - (c) Agreeing to the plan of merger includes dissolving AOSA, the bylaws and board integration
 - (2) This could happen in the 2025 calendar year.
 - (3) On Wednesday, we need to put the message out that you must vote on this email!
 - (a) Nicolette suggested a raffle prize
 - (b) Kathy - send the vote from Quinn and James
 - (c) Molly - maybe mention this at the chair's committee meeting on Sunday.
- v) Exit Strategy
 - (1) Quinn asked what would happen if the merger happened and the membership did not like it?
 - (a) Kathy suggested that a member could want to leave and want to form their own organization from scratch.
 - (2) This was not needed and was unanimous by both boards.
- vi) Financials
 - (1) AOSA and SCST CD and Accounts
 - (a) Close AOSA account and move the money to SCST. The CD could be renamed under SCST OR move the money to the SCST CD.
 - (i) Goal would become a market money account in the future of which that was the purpose from the beginning.
 - (b) Insurance should remain static
 - (2) Budget Comparison (Melissa Phillips)
 - (a) The combined budget was reviewed from the spreadsheet provided in the Teams file.
 - (b) What feedback do we need or want from the membership?
 - (i) James thought it was self-explanatory
 - (3) Seal Plan
 - (a) Talk about what seals are and how they are used. We would move to electronic only but apart from those labs with countries that require embossed seal.
 - (b) Kelly suggested that you try to keep the physical seals for a period then consider a different source that is more cost effective. If they are already electronic, they could keep them until we find a new source.
 - (i) It was suggested to offset the cost have the member buy the physical seal
 - (c) Leanna has volunteered to head this project.
 - (4) Logo Plan
 - (a) Three stickers in your name badge, sticker to pick your top three at the poster session. Sticky notes for feedback to authors. Members vote on survey monkey for the final logo.
 - (b) All the logos are in the Teams Consolidation group
 - (5) Streamlining Opportunities
 - (a) We need to get people thinking in a new way on Wednesday
 - (b) James suggested consolidation of committees at the Annual Meeting so the board members could attend a workshop
 - (c) Quinn – alternating tours and the structure does not have to be the same. Just the pattern.
 - (d) Strong committees made up of experts that have a strong commitment.
 - (i) Possibly terminate the Teaching and Training and put it back into the technical committees to fulfill the obligations and duties.



1. Anything produced by AI is not copyrightable.
- (ii) Molly – we need to increase the participation of the members to where there is an active member requirement to a committee.

13) Adjourn for the day

- a) Quinn Gillespie moved to adjourn.
- b) Nicolette Rusch seconded the motion.
- c) All board members unanimously voted to approve the motion at 4:32 pm MDT.

JOINT AOSA/SCST EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING – SESSION 2

June 8, 2025

Call meeting to order: AOSA President James Smith and SCST President Melissa Phillips at 9:07 am MDT.

Meeting in Person Roll Call: AOSA Board James Smith, Diandra Viner, Nish Patel, Jeanna Mueller, Emily Lapinel, Chase MacPherran, Leanna Leach, AOSA Board Member – Elect Leann Duncan, and Kathy Mathiason, SCST Board Melissa Phillips, Quinn Gillespie, Kathy Mathiason, Desirae Jones, Marija Topic, Molly Richeson, Nicolette Rusch, SCST Board Member-Elect Morgan Webb and Emily Morrison, Executive Office Jess Peterson, Kelly Polzin, Vivian Winston

Meeting Virtually Roll Call: AOSA Board member Victor Vankus, Lan Chi Trinh, AOSA Board Member – Elect Jenny Hall

14) Anti-Trust Policy

15) Additions to and approval of agenda

- a) Quinn Gillespie moved to approve the agenda with the additions.
- b) Nicolette Rusch seconded the motion.
- c) The AOSA-SCST Board unanimously voted to approve the agenda.

16) Reports

- a) AOSA President (James Smith)
 - i) This past year I participated in our monthly Principals call, board meetings, consolidation meetings, and consolidation webinars.
 - ii) After our annual meeting I was able to attend the AOSCA annual meeting where I gave an update on AOSA-SCST. I also provided an update at the AASCO annual meeting. At this meeting Melissa and I discussed the proposed merger. It was well received. In September I was invited to participate in a Cotton Seed Quality Symposium hosted by Cotton Inc. At this meeting we discussed the AOSA Rules, Vigor Testing Handbook as well as the procedure to change the Rules. I provided technical support in questions regarding seed testing. While I was in North Carolina, I visited USDA SRTD. Ernest, Todd and staff gave a tour and Ernest, and I had a discussion in areas of concern for USDA (primarily in the area of seed regulation).
 - iii) ASTA invited me to attend the Seed Relations Committee meeting in Orlando. We met and had a roundtable discussion about the need for trained, certified analysts as well as other areas of concern such as seed laws and test dates.
 - iv) In January, I attended the Beltwide Cotton Conference and the Extension Cotton Specialists meeting. There, I answered questions about the AOSA Rules and how they were applied. Also, at this meeting, we gave updates on potential research that would be started later this year.



- v) Part of the duties of President of AOSA is writing two articles a year for Seed Today. My first article was a review of our annual meeting. In my second article, I stressed the need for qualified seed analysts as well as the need for education within the seed industry.
- vi) At this time, I would like to thank Johnny Zook for his guidance and SCST president Melissa Phillips for her drive and determination as well as her creativity. I also want to thank our board for working with me when we had to shuffle the deck when Todd retired.
- b) SCST President (Melissa Phillips)
 - i) It has been a privilege and a pleasure to be acting SCST President.
 - ii) In the last year, I have participated in monthly principal calls and board meetings every other month. I also attended the principles monthly meeting. I have attended as able annual planning meetings. I facilitated 14 consolidation working group meetings, where the group worked through bylaws. I have had several meetings with the attorney for feedback on the logistics of being a single organization. A webinar was prepared for delivered to membership on the next steps. Several surveys were prepared for feedback and direction confirmation from membership.
 - iii) I attended the Seed Control Officials' meeting in July and ASTA in December to ensure that industry partners were informed and had an opportunity to express any concerns for consideration. This was to ensure our industry partners are on board with our proposed future state.
 - iv) I prepared 2 articles for Seed today. I attended Gen Tech and Advanced Technology committee meetings as I was able. In July, I attended the ISTA meeting as a member of the Germination committee.
 - v) As my final year comes to an end, be sure that I have a greater appreciation for those in the same position in the past. I want to say a special thank you to Quinn for keeping me straight on all of the rules that Robert has. Also, for the proactive preparation of items I didn't know I needed. Thank you to James, who has kept a positive attitude through this time. I want to thank Kelly Polzin for the pre-meeting preparations, and all of the work on behalf of the principles and organization. I also want to acknowledge that the last 2 years the organization has been led by full woman boards.
 - vi) I have gained huge awareness of how our organization fits and I have a much greater appreciation for our role in the seed industry. I thank you, the members, for allowing me this amazing opportunity.
- c) AOSA/SCST Executive Director (Jess Peterson)
 - i) You have all heard our report at your respective board meetings, so I am not going to repeat what has already been heard. Instead, I am going to give you the membership and publication sale numbers since they do differ between organizations.
 - ii) AOSA Membership Numbers
 - (1) 36 Official State Labs
 - (a) We have several labs that do not have a CSA or RST on staff. At last year's meeting, we discussed how we need to give them time to be compliant with the Bylaws as an Official Lab. When I list out the states out of compliance the year they were first tagged follows. What might be the biggest determining factor is whether they have paid their dues for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.
 - (i) Connecticut – 2024
 - (ii) Illinois - 2024
 - (iii) Kentucky - 2025
 - (iv) Nebraska - 2025
 - (v) New Jersey - 2024
 - (vi) New Mexico - 2024
 - (2) 4 USDA Official Labs
 - (3) 1 Canadian Official Lab



- (4) 3 Allied Labs
- (5) 6 Associate Members
- iii) SCST Membership Numbers
 - (1) There is a total of 271 SCST members. Of those, 6 have dual membership. That's down 10 from last year. KP received the exam results 3 days ago and has incorporated all the candidates that passed.
 - (a) 104 RST's
 - (b) 30 CVT's
 - (c) 1 CPT
 - (d) 15 RGT's
 - (e) 6 CGT's
 - (f) 107 Associate members
 - (g) 3 Professional Members
 - (h) 5 Research Members
- iv) AOSA Publication Sales
 - (1) There was a total profit of \$17,012.10. We sold 60 Handbooks, 79 additional copy/network licenses, and 16 Seedling Database subscriptions (\$2,225.00 split 50% with SCST is \$1,112.50). That is down 32 Handbooks and up 19 in additional copy/network licenses from 2024.
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 - (e) 1 - AOSA Rules Volume 4
 - (f) 1 – 2023 AOSA Rules Complete Set & Individual Volumes in Spanish
 - (g) 12 – 2024 Cultivar Purity Handbook
 - (h) 3 – 2020 Purity Testing Handbook
 - (i) 5 – 2009 Seed Vigor Handbook
 - (j) 0 – 2018 Seed Moisture Handbook
 - (k) 7 – 2010 Tetrazolium Testing Handbook
- v) SCST Publication and Seedling Database Sales
 - (1) There was a total profit of \$2,512.50 with a total of 5 handbooks sold (\$1,400.00) and 16 Seedling Database subscriptions (\$2,225.00 split 50% with AOSA is \$1,112.50). Down 5 handbooks from last year.
 - (a) 4 - 2018 Seed Technologists Training Manual
 - (b) 0 - 2018 Seed Technologists Training Manual in Spanish
 - (c) 1 – 2016 Chapter 14 only
 - (d) 0 – What is Seed Vigor CD
 - (e) 16 – Seedling Image Database Annual Subscriptions
- vi) The Seedling Image Database profit, from which was the end of the 24-25 fiscal year, was reported. However, it has not been split with AOSA yet. This will be discussed in more detail under Old Business.
- d) Approval of reports
 - i) Quinn moved to approve the reports as given.
 - ii) Molly seconded the motion.
 - iii) The AOSA-SCST Boards unanimously voted to approve the motion.
- 17) Old Business (Continuation of June 7th, 2025, Agenda)
 - a) Annual Meeting's
 - i) 2027 possible joint with ASTA
 - (1) Melissa - Will likely be in Washington DC but they have not started planning their meeting. It would be a smaller meeting as opposed to the larger.



- (2) Quinn – It would give a year for us to get the hiccups out of the new face of the organization
 - (3) Jess – just keep in mind that we would have a smaller footprint from the merger.
 - (4) Morgan – commented that the cost will be a factor with the seed analysts
- ii) Possible Future Annual Meeting Formats (Quinn Gillespie)
 - (1) Mid-week tours/alternating years – This came out of the meeting survey from 2024. The meeting is very long and can be challenging for a smaller lab or an analyst that does all the reports.
 - (a) How can we adjust or tighten up our schedule. Make it a little cheaper with the hotel with only 3 days and alternate the tour between or after the meetings. This will be presented to the membership as an option.
 - (b) Make it a little easier for people to attend and to sell to supervisors for attendance.
- iii) Increasing Sponsorship (James Smith)
 - (1) I would like to help cover costs as a scholarship
 - (2) Marija – possibly get rid of categories or decrease them so smaller companies can contribute
 - (a) Start the sponsorship at \$100 and move up.
 - (3) We welcome any contribution and will implement this at the next annual meeting.
 - (4) Molly – suggested the marketing of equipment or in other words customer relations, reverse the information to them about sponsorship.
 - (5) Talk to people in person. We are a hands-on type of organization.
 - (6) Morgan – create a competition and attach a sponsorship to an activity or event.
 - (a) The Boards would like to implement this initiative.
- iv) Streamlining the AOSA-SCST Business meeting format (Nish Patel)
 - (1) To be more efficient, get rid of the chair committee reports to shorten the business meeting. The reports are going to be in the proceedings with no need to be read during the business meeting.
 - (a) Quinn – mention this in the chair committee meeting later today. Publicize the parameters.
 - (b) Molly – is it an overview of the entire year or what was discussed at the annual meeting?
 - (i) Quinn – we need a policy document that states the report is an overview of the year. Also, what is expected from the chair. Present this in LRP
- b) Publication/Handbook Updates
 - i) Seed Technologist Training Manual including Chapter 14 (Melissa Phillips)
 - (1) Team building and revenue generator
 - (a) Each committee would take the appropriate chapter with a timeline.
 - (i) Molly - If you use AI you cannot copyright. It must be written by the individual/committee member.
 - (b) Show up as a united front with both the STTM AND the Chapter 14.
 - (2) Having an updated document and leveraging the market. A huge gap to exploit, especially with ISTA.
 - (3) Molly – we might want a timeline to update instead of sporadically.
 - (a) Quinn – the handbook committee should have this
 - (4) The Boards were unanimous in moving forward.
 - (a) Nicolette – if they do not have an actual committee who does the work?
 - (i) Quinn – working groups
 - (5) Quinn Gillespie moved to update the Seed Technologist Training Manual including Chapter 14 with a target year of 2028
 - (6) Nicolette Rusch seconded the motion
 - (7) The AOSA-SCST Boards unanimously voted to approve the motion.



- (a) Target date? 2028
 - (i) Nicolette – update more frequently so there was not so much work
 - (ii) Working group – Quinn will head and along with the chairs of the committees with subjects not chaired going to those with that knowledge.
- ii) Seed Moisture Testing Handbook (Victor Vankus)
 - (1) It is almost 10 years old and just needs updated. We don't really have a committee. I will be connecting with Sabry Elis.
- iii) Seed Vigor Testing Handbook (Victor Vankus)
 - (1) Connected with Laura Carlson and Riad Baalbaki and it is on the agenda for the committee meeting.
- iv) Advanced Technology Handbook (Quinn Gillespie)
 - (1) If someone decided to quit making equipment used in day-to-day seed testing, what technology could replace that? Especially since they may be in the AOSA Rules.
 - (a) The new equipment technology would need to meet the Rules standards.
 - (2) Melissa is a member of this committee and will head this project.
- v) Committee Handbook (Quinn Gillespie)
 - (1) Molly - Report guidelines, this would be the place
 - (2) It would need to be rewritten with AOSA AND SCST committees but with the merger in mind.
 - (3) I think a lot of this information will come out of the chair committee meeting today.
 - (4) The SOP's helped and it would be great to place them
- c) Committee's
 - i) Committee Engagement (Melissa Phillips)
 - (1) What is the current state or gaps and go into the Boards state and expectations all will be discussed at the chair meeting.
 - (2) What does a good committee/working group look like?
 - (a) Active participation
 - (b) meeting every other month. Not just at the annual meeting
 - (c) Nicolette - Updated committee reports every 6 months
 - (i) Morgan – rotate the committee updates to the board every other month with a set schedule
 - (d) Do you want goals?
 - (i) Molly – have the goals ready at the annual meeting. Starting next annual meeting, report the smart goals at the chairs meeting and a webinar after this meeting to start.
 - (ii) Victor – a webpage for every committee
 - (e) Get a little structured
 - (i) Victor – Include an SOP, education, training or specific actions included for those committees and then reported to the Boards. Just spell it out.
 - (ii) Start the conversation of reallocation
 - 1. Kathy - Some people need an assignment. Project focused.
- ii) Teaching & Training
 - (1) We need to establish a training plan template
 - (a) To be approved by both T&T and Exam Committees
 - (i) Tutorial program (Leann Duncan)
 - 1. Adopted by AOSA but it needs to be reviewed and updated.
 - (ii) Marija – We need a general tutorial guide or a curriculum outline because we need more tutors and I think this would help with this overall.
 - (iii) Molly – This would also help a curriculum plan and continuing education
 - 1. Kathy – CE points for the exam vs membership are different but it would be helpful on the distinction between.



- a. Leann – look up course for description
 - 2. Melissa - Put this work back on the candidate with transcripts on descriptions of the course.
 - (iv) Leann – update the study guide and do a webinar especially with the virtual exam and a shrinking committee
 - 1. Regional is an issue as well as the merger. We cannot consolidate because we are shrinking in numbers.
 - iii) Document Control Logistics & Roles
 - (1) System to handle documents or what the process is
 - (a) Moving to SOP's and who updates and what is the approval process
 - (i) Quinn – How foundational or structural is the update? Base level is anybody can update (Document revision form submitted) then to the committee chair for approval then to the Board. The board can choose to get member feedback.
 - d) Long Range Planning Final Agenda (Quinn Gillespie)
 - i) Seedling Image Database
 - ii) STRF
 - iii) Committee engagement
 - iv) Merger update
 - v) 5-year strategy
 - vi) ED Working Group
 - vii) Doc control logistics
 - viii) Annual Meeting
 - ix) Update from JTech
- 18) New Business
- a) 5-Year Strategy - What do we want to look like in 5 years?
 - i) ISTA Relationship (James Smith)
 - (1) Ernest Allen is the President for the next 3 years
 - (2) They would like to have their chairs be ad-hoc members of our corresponding committees and vice versa.
 - (a) Chairs receive a copy of the AOSA Rules
 - (i) Alignment opportunities of both Rules and actions
 - (b) Currently there is number of overlapping members (~15) Some are chairs
 - (i) Melissa - Maybe we are not partners but have a plan with reports and communication from the overlapping members.
 - (c) Quinn - ISTA now has harmonization with the AOSA Rules
 - (i) Leann – Ruojng's role with ISTA is harmonization of the AOSA Rules
 - (d) Chi – collaboration on the research level as an advisor but cannot do Rule proposals. Quinn – this would include SOP's
 - (e) Melissa - Establish a committee communication plan but don't require attendance to each other's meetings
 - (i) Morgan – treat it as an advisor to the committee's
 - (ii) The Boards decided to start here and keep it fluid. Opportunities may arise.
 - 1. James – open communication
 - 2. Nicolette – reciprocal sharing of the Rules and handbooks in general
 - a. Chi – signed agreement
- 11:59 Break for lunch
- 1:04 Resume session
- ii) Executive Director Search Committee
 - (1) As a new entity we would like new bids.
 - (a) Jess – we would like sooner rather than later what the intentions are due to the extensive database currently being built.



- (i) Melissa – we would want to start the bidding process now and make the decision at the end of the current contract in 2026. Open to something new and go in a different direction for the needs of the new organization. The working group is starting the process of what is needed.
 - (ii) Jess- from a fiduciary responsibility, we need that discussion of the contract and the database with its possible transition.
 - (iii) Melissa – Likely going a different direction
 - 1. Jess – what is the timeline
 - 2. Molly – could we get the numbers of the transition and prepare if necessary. The working group could see what decoupling would look like. It could be a benefit with the cost savings.
 - a. Jess – We would like to have that revenue and not just cost savings
 - (iv) James – Get all the informational numbers from JTech with worst case scenario in mind.
 - 1. Quinn – the timeline is after the membership vote roughly 8 weeks from now. Ideally, RFP is going out at the end of July.
 - a. Jess – don't feel contractually obligated. The transition timeline looking as...? On our side we can estimate a 6-month transition
 - b. Quinn – It is reasonable to say that the selection would be late fall or December leaving the 6-month transition finishing the contract.
 - i. Melissa – is there an option to transition after the meeting?
 - ii. Jess – we could prepare the meeting, but I encourage to get the new people in front of the membership.
 - 2. Jess – Receive the RFP's and push out to social media.
- iii) USDA Funding
 - (1) Available funds in total
 - (a) \$16K
 - (2) Plans for future USDA projects
 - (a) Annual Meeting
 - (b) ISMA
 - (c) Seedling Image Database
 - (3) What can we use funding for?
 - (a) Virtual Exam
 - (b) Seals
 - (4) Review of requirements for USDA funding
 - (a) The proposed project needs to be reviewed by Ernest Allen and his team before moving forward with the funds.
 - (5) Amount for 2025
 - (a) James - given the uncertainty of the budgets, I do not think we will see funding for the unforeseen future.
- iv) Reorganization (as separate organizations)
 - (1) Combining Committees with related functions
 - (a) Teaching/Training & Continuing Education
 - (i) T&T technical committees
 - (b) Communications/Publication & Handbook
 - (c) Genetics & Cultivar Purity
 - (2) Committee we should have but don't have support
 - (a) Seed Moisture
 - (i) Victor – Don't strike these committees but wait for the SOP's and there may be interest.
 - (b) Seed Pathology



- (i) We no longer have because we didn't have support. We could look for help through other avenues
 - (c) Remain dormant for now and revisit after the merger
- b) Plan future Leadership calls and frequency.
 - i) Stay with the same schedule as the previous year. Every month on Thursday at 10:00 Central time.
- c) Plan a joint meeting mid-year
 - i) Based on the progression of the merger and making concrete decisions
- 19) AOSA due's structure
 - a) Melissa – supporting your/AOSA Rules. Pressure the government to pay.
 - i) Emily – they could change the law and not use us. Just move to the Federal Seed Act.
 - b) Quinn – dues based on how many individuals are in the lab that are certified.
 - c) Melissa – individuals pay then the lab pays but there is a discount based on the individual numbers
 - i) James - Dues invoices would be one line item for the official labs.
 - d) Emily – drivers to stay a member through transitions like retirement
 - i) Melissa – equitable accreditation and it is highly desirable
 - e) Melissa shared a document on Teams with projected membership and option 1, 2, 3, and 4 dues structure and comparisons of SCST and AOSA. Option 2 was more favorable of which Quinn had reviewed earlier.
 - i) Kathy Mathiason has moved to adopt option 2 dues structure (AOSA lab membership remains but it will include individual membership for RSTs, CVTs, RGTs etc.) if we move forward with the merger.
 - ii) Nicolette Rusch seconded the motion
 - iii) All board members unanimously voted to approve the motion
- 20) Adjourn
 - a) Nicolette Rusch moved to adjourn.
 - b) Quinn Gillespie seconded the motion.

All board members unanimously voted to approve the motion at 3:00 pm MDT.

JOINT SCST-AOSA LONG RANGE PLANNING MEETING

June 11, 2025

- 21) Seedling Image Database
 - a) Will be discussed during the update from the JTech developers.
- 22) STRF Update (Tim Gutormson) – PowerPoint presentation
 - a) Presented the website (www.seedtestingresearchfoundation.com) homepage with the current sponsors.
 - b) STRF History
 - i) Incorporated in 2002 with a few years to just try to raise \$100K to have an endowment. And we are in our 18th year of the silent auction.
 - ii) History of AOSA/SCST Funded Research
 - (1) **1989- 2010** - Seed Testing Standardization Research Fund (AOSA STSRF) (funded 24 research projects totaling \$95,200)
 - (2) **2001-2002** – SCST Strategic Planning Initiative – Develop an endowment to fund practical seed research to compliment STSRF.
 - (3) **2002** – Seed Testing Research Foundation incorporated as a 501 c. (3) entity with three SCST members serving on BOD.



- (4) **2002-2006** – fundraising to create \$100,000 endowment.
 - (5) **2007** - \$102,000 STRF balance invested in CDs and mutual funds.
 - (6) **2010-2024** (funded 17 research projects totaling \$79,000)
- c) Current BOD and PRC
 - i) We have a seven-member voting board. Right now, we have had an open position and then I put out to some of our directors if anybody would be willing to step down so we could maybe recruit a few new people interested in research. And Susan, of course, is retired from SCST and Sabry, we just had him speak, but both said they'd be willing to step down if we could find someone that would replace them on the board. If you are interested just contact me or you can contact any board member.
 - (1) **STRF Voting Board of Directors**
 - (a) Susan Alvarez - volunteered to step down. (open BOD position)
 - (b) Randy Crowl, Colorado State University
 - (c) Tim Gutormson, (Chair) SoDak Labs, Inc.
 - (d) Andrae McMillian Alabama State Seed Lab
 - (e) Dr. Riad Baalbaki, California Department of Food & Ag
 - (f) Dr. Sabry Elias – volunteered to step down. (open BOD position)
 - (g) Open Position
 - ii) The proposal review committee, Cindy Finneseth has moved back to the University of Kentucky department of Horticulture and she's thinking she might step down. Riad is the chair currently, but he is thinking of retiring in a year. He thought he would continue in this role regardless of retirement.
 - (1) Proposal Review Committee (PRC)
 - (a) Dr. Cindy Finneseth, (PRC Co-Chair), University of Kentucky
 - (b) Dr. Riad Baalbaki, (PRC Co-Chair), California Department of Food & Ag
 - (2) Advisors to the Board
 - (a) Dr. Kent Bradford, University of California, Davis
 - (b) Brian Berkenhoff, CFA Birch Investment Management, L.L.C
 - iii) The People – a slide on how the like a piece of a puzzle, Research Need ID: AOSA Member Labs and SCST Members; Industry/University Database. Project Review: Proposal Review Committee (PRC) Chair, SCST and AOSA Research Committee Chair, AOSA-SCST Referee Committee Chair and 2 At-Large Representatives. Funding & Fundraising: Seed Testing Research Foundation (STRF 7 Directors), AOSA and SCST BOD Representatives, and Industry Research Representatives (5).
 - iv) Step by Step on Proposal Submission through the Final Report
 - (1) Call for Proposals
 - (a) Small and Standard Research Proposals
 - (2) Project Submission
 - (3) Proposal Review & Notification of Award
 - (a) Proposal Review Committee, screens and recommends proposals for funding. The STRF BOD receives the PRC recommendations and votes on funding each proposal. To date, all proposals recommended by the PRC have been funded.
 - (4) Project Work
 - (5) Submission of the Final Report
 - (6) Knowledge Transfer
- d) 2024 Research Projects Funded



- i) There were three projects funded this past year.
 - (1) MacKenzie Mattern, SoDak Labs \$10,000 – Development of PA-IEF Method for Cultivar Confirmation of Agropyron spp., Pseudoroegneria spp., Thinopyrum spp., Pascopyrum spp., and Elymus spp.
 - (2) Eunsoo Choe, Illinois Crop Improvement \$1,000 – Understanding of Soybean Germination Recovery from Embryonic Axis Damage
 - (3) Dr. Riad Baalbaki, California Department of Food & Agriculture \$1,000 – Effect of 7-Day Oat Germination Test Period on Final Test Results
- e) Income Statement (Profit and Loss) for the year ended December 31, 2024
 - i) Gross Profit = \$24,253.31
 - ii) Total Operating Expenses = \$14,918.19
 - iii) Net Income = \$9,335.12
- f) Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2024
 - i) Total Current Assets = \$442,369.89
 - ii) Total Liabilities & Equity = \$442,369.89
- g) Changing the Proposal Review Committee Structure
 - i) We did have a discussion on this and did come up with a draft, but we have not acted on it as a board of directors because of the possibility of a merger. The proposed by-law change would not limit the Research Chair and Co-Chair as an automatic STRF Board Member. It could be anyone on the research committee.
- h) Fundraising and Investing
 - i) To big funds we have is the Newlin Basic Seed Research Endowment and the Wiesner Seed Technology Endowment
 - ii) We also have the silent auction and quilt raffle that has been a great fundraising event.
- 23) Committee Engagement
 - a) Committee chairs and the boards met to begin the establishment of committee expectations, responsibilities, and deliverables.
 - i) The intent is to re-invigorate committee activities
 - ii) Increase member involvement and increase research, rule advancement and other items
 - iii) The Boards would like to get a revision of the Seed Technologists Training Manual – 2028 is the target release
 - (1) We are hoping this would be a great opportunity for “Team building” and a revenue generator.
 - iv) The Seed Pathology Committee
 - (1) It is to remain dormant, but we may have an opportunity to partner with industry to train on general ID.
 - v) Seed Moisture Committee
 - (1) Technologies are changing and a need from the committee continues.
 - b) Through the Mentimeter interactive slide, the question was posed to the membership of “What other things you would like to see from the committees looking forward?”
 - i) Some of the answers included but are not limited to; Training webinars, Communication and outreach (use of MS Teams and in the future, the membership portal), Active participation and ways to get involved, more frequent updates and a workplan throughout the year to reduce the amount of time needed for committee meetings at the annual meeting, Online resources, Committee structure clear with SOP creation and expectations.
- 24) Merger Update
 - a) Current State
 - i) Exams and exam eligibility requirements are already aligned – the same
 - (1) Same herbarium voucher, points needed, and study list
 - (2) How the exams are taken, open book, etc. are the same
 - (3) The new online version is also all the exact same.



- ii) Proficiency
 - (1) The requirements for AOSA and SCST accreditation maintenance is also the same.
- iii) AOSA Rules Voting
 - (1) Voting calculations within the merger will not change. That's the linchpin that's allowed this to go as far as it has. The weight of influence between lab and individual groups will not change. This will stay constant with this merger.
- iv) Seals
 - (1) SCST Accredited members use a stamp for reports, this is legitimizing.
 - (2) President Smith made the point that years ago, when you passed the exam, everybody got a seal. That's a physical seal that embosses paper reports, for those of you that don't use them. It is typically the same seal that was shared within a company. Over time, folks have gone to electronic seals reducing the need for the embosser. The future state will assess how many physical seals are needed, because these things are expensive and cost prohibitive. If they are not needed/used and you can utilize digital, then that is route we will go.
- v) In the case of merger failure
 - (1) The Boards discussed this and decided that we really didn't need this.
 - (a) If the merger doesn't go through it does not change the way we are now
 - (2) There was also a discussion that once the Plan of Merge is approved, it is then executed. After this point there is not an available exit.
 - (3) The Boards were unanimously aligned that a strategy is not needed.
- b) Bylaw feedback
 - i) Broke up into three sections for membership feedback. Once we received all the feedback and suggestions, the working group analyzed it all and came up with a final copy to send to the attorney for review. President Phillips provided physical copies to the members present and offered to send the PDF to those that were not. The attorney did have some requests like removing some parts or reorganizing some sections. Thank you to all that participated in getting us to where we are now.
 - ii) President Phillips then went through most of the feedback/poll outcomes with the membership via PowerPoint slides.
 - (1) Some key points of section 1:
 - (a) The majority of the membership that participated agreed on the name of the organization name, AOSA-SCST.
 - (b) The majority agreed with the use of RST for fully accredited analysts and member categories.
 - (c) Current state was, we are not that different
 - (2) Section 2
 - (a) Elected officers, majority agreed with no employment requirement for the President or Vice President, Directors-at-Large making sure that we have a minimum of two government and two private and require a genetic technologist.
 - (3) Section 3
 - (a) Streamlining the committees to make us more efficient. Making sure that our committees are focused on their subjects. Also making sure that the use of the SOPs versus the bylaws gives us the flexibility to make changes efficiently.
 - (b) If you read the bylaws today, you're going to see that there's big gaps. A lot of those "gaps" will go into those policy documents or SOPs. We want to make sure that we are putting on paper the bylaws of what the organization needs to operate and survive.
 - (c) Organization voting is one piece that would be changing especially for the government folks. Instead of one person voting for the lab, all members, including Associate members would have the right to vote on Association business.



- (d) Rules voting would remain the same as a government employee that is accredited but now as an individual vote.
 - (i) The AOSA Rules do have, in a sense, their own bylaws. That is one key piece of the whole initiative. The autonomy of the Rules must remain.
 - (4) In all three sections, the members that participated, the majority, wanted to move forward with the merger.
 - c) Example Budget
 - i) Vivian Winston prepared a spreadsheet of the combined budgets. President Phillips then copied the combined column and placed a column next to it with the potentials focusing on efficiencies. She placed notes next to all the changes.
 - (1) The main focuses were; Not depending on USDA funds since they are not guaranteed, Seedling Image Database that will become an income generator, Charitable donations is negotiable. Tax prep services we would anticipate just having 50% because we are only preparing one set, Legal fees are normally 1K but we've been bumping it up in preparation for the merge. Membership dues would double. Membership Database Portal 25K has not been reflected because it is coming out of savings. Travel is high due to an initiative to be present at the OECD conference (advocating for the AOSA Rules on the global front) with hopes to be financially stable in 5-10 years to have the leadership attend as well as all ASTA, AASCO, AOSCA events. She also touched on lodging and the need forward will be less due to only one business meeting. An overall reduced footprint for annual meetings.
 - ii) Dues Structure
 - (1) President Phillips shared the four different structure options. We put out a survey of which of the options did the membership like better or prefer. The best option was number 2. The Boards took a vote and option #2 was the structure to be utilized. However, this does not include the dues fee. The dues' structure would have AOSA labs still paying lab dues, to maintain their Rules on their behalf. But this would also include all the individuals paying their dues. 38% of SCST members fall into this type of membership category. We do have some ideas on how we could assist in getting your dues paid for by your lab.
 - d) Next Steps
 - i) Tomorrow – Business meeting vote for pursuit of Plan of Merge
 - ii) Plan of Merge Prepared
 - (1) Identity of surviving and dissolving entities
 - (a) Wisconsin is the preferred state for registration
 - (i) In legal terms, AOSA will be “dissolved” and SCST will be the “survivor”
 - (2) New Bylaws
 - (3) Board configuration
 - (4) New Name
 - (a) AOSA-SCST
 - iii) Official Votes by each organization
 - (1) Must pass by 2/3
 - iv) If passed
 - (1) Execute Plan of Merge
 - (2) Due diligence
 - (3) Assets of the dissolved become the assets of the surviving entity
 - (4) Could be completed by the end of 2025
 - v) Transition Period – This will need to get developed fully once the merger is approved
 - (1) Prepare policy documents and SOPs
 - (2) Communication Plan
 - (3) Board reduction vote



- (a) Selected from the current Board
 - (4) Staggering of time
 - (5) Finalize logo
 - vi) Through the Mentimeter interactive slide, the question was posed to the membership of:
 - (1) Thoughts on the Dues Structure – majority strongly agree
 - (2) The next steps are clear and understood – unanimously strongly agree
 - (3) Agree on next steps – unanimously strongly agree
 - e) Board Reduction Options
 - i) This was built into the new bylaws
 - (1) Minimum of two government members, not including the USDA ex-officio
 - (2) Minimum of two industry members. One genetic and another that are any membership category
 - (3) The vote would be on the current elected Boards
 - (a) The benefits of this are that there is a smaller pool and these folks have been involved and updated on all the merger details. We maintain that momentum and vision.
 - ii) Through the Mentimeter interactive slide, the question was posed to the membership of “What is the preferred board reduction option?”
 - (1) The majority of the members chose Select from Current Board with staggered terms.
- 25) 5 Year Strategy
 - a) What do we look like?
 - b) ISTA Relationship
 - i) There is a desire by Ernest Allen (USDA/New ISTA President). This is also supported by Ruojing Wang (CFIA Saskatoon/ISTA Vice Chair Wild Species Committee)
 - ii) From the AOSA and SCST Boards:
 - (1) Chair as ad-hoc committee member on committees is not supported
 - (2) They ask for a copy of the AOSA Rules and this is supported IF reciprocated with a signed agreement for usage.
 - (3) Leverage the overlapping members (~15)
 - (4) Establish communication a plan between chairs of corresponding committees (if not already the same)
 - (a) Establish frequency for between chairs of corresponding
 - (b) Share reports
 - iii) Through the Mentimeter interactive slide, the question was posed to the membership of “What are your feelings regarding the ISTA relationship?”
 - (1) The membership was unanimous toward a “Tighter Relationship” and “Good Plan”.
 - c) Use of current and existing USDA Funds
 - i) Current uses
 - (1) Meeting sponsorship
 - (2) ISMA project
 - (3) Seedling Image Database
 - (4) AOSA Management fee
 - (5) Exam expenses
 - ii) Potential uses
 - (1) Utilize to offset unanticipated merge costs
 - (2) Online exam costs
 - (3) Portal costs
 - (4) Procure seeds for exam purposes
 - iii) President Smith mentioned that for the last two years we have not gotten these funds due to budgetary concerns and having to use some of the funds for other reasons internally within



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- the USDA. These funds are not guaranteed but when we do get some, we are very appreciative and try to use them wisely and for the purpose on which it was intended.
- iv) Through the Mentimeter interactive slide, the question was posed to the membership of “What are your thoughts on the future use of USDA Funds?”
 - (1) The mean was 3.4 towards strongly agree but was heavier on Merge Costs and Seeds for exam.
- 26) ED Working Group
- a) Executive Director Evaluation and Selection Working Group
 - i) As was mentioned at the last annual meeting
 - ii) The working group will be reviewing the executive director’s needs of the new organization
 - iii) This will include Request for Proposal (RFP) to the industry
 - (1) Western Skies Strategies, the current Executive Director, is encouraged to apply
 - iv) The AOSA and SCST leadership is looking for additional volunteers
- 27) Annual Meeting Formats
- a) This came from the survey results from the last meeting. We asked, what are some difficulties that people have attending the annual meeting?
 - i) The most common was that the meetings are too long. So, we started to look at opportunities for streamlining. Now for granted, with the merger, we have a huge opportunity to streamline because we will only have one business meeting, one board meeting, and consolidation of some committees.
 - (1) We are looking at maybe alternating formats with a workshop midweek and tour after or tour with the banquet offsite together. It would be based on the destination. We could also have LRP Wednesday morning with business meetings in the afternoon. Then Thursday could be either a workshop day, tour or go home.
 - b) Future meetings
 - i) 2027 – Collaborate with ASTA, a redo of the canceled 2020 meeting
 - c) Through the Mentimeter interactive slide, the question was posed to the membership of “What are your feelings about this change?”
 - i) Make all meetings shorter – majority strongly disagree
 - ii) Keep structure the same – majority strongly agree
 - iii) Alternating is a good idea – majority strongly disagree
- 28) Update from JTech on website Portal systems (4:00pm)
- a) Chris Pontin, Project Coordinator at JTech Communications - The new AOSA and SCST website is custom built, and it moves away from using WordPress, which is going to eliminate a lot of the compatibility and security issues that the current site has.
 - i) Additionally, we’ve designed the website to interface with the Western Skies membership portal and in doing so we’ll be able to pull in member directory information, job posting, annual meeting registrations, online store and various other information that is managed by the Western Skies team.
 - (1) If you registered for this conference, there’s a good chance you have already used part of the system that’s currently in place.
 - b) Felix Wolfstrom, Senior Designer at JTech Communications
 - i) Gave us a virtual tour of the mockup of the new website as well as the database portal. They have updated the visual esthetic on the front facing or public side as well as the portal. Currently, everything will be listed as a merged organization.

Please refer to the Zoom recording for additional information and details on the presentation.

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/yKxulpeQZa4BUVytOIR_GzPDpr_PCGAwQFYHG6EqqcR5dkW9UK_igDeIRvGEqvS5.McY8tKPegn9OW609



JOINT AOSA/SCST BUSINESS MEETING

ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL SEED ANALYSTS
SOCIETY OF COMMERCIAL SEED TECHNOLOGISTS
JUNE 12, 2025

- I. **Call to order- Presidents:** James Smith (AOSA), Melissa Phillips (SCST) - The Business meeting was called to order by President James Smith at 7:45 am.
- II. **Appoint Parliamentarian(s) and Sergeant-at-Arms:** Johnny Zook, Jason Perrault was appointed by President Smith and President Phillips
- III. **2025 Rules Vote:** voting was conducted via paper ballots.
- IV. **Executive Director Report** – Jess Peterson presented the State of the Association and State of the Society as a video to the memberships prior to the Annual Meeting. The video will be available on the website. Jess gave a short presentation via PowerPoint on the history of the partnership between AOSA and SCST with the current Executive Director and office staff.
- V. **Committee Reports**
 - A. Advanced Technology Committee – Ruojing Wang & Brent Reschly
 - B. Communications and Publications – Kathryn McGinnis & Quinn Gillespie
 - C. Consolidated Exam Committee Report – Leanne Duncan & Sarah Graybill
 - D. Continuing Education Committee Report – Leanna Leach & Kathy Mathiason
 - E. Document Control Committee – Cheryl Fossler & Angie Rutt
 - F. Genetic Technology Committee – Molly Richeson & Kalyn Brix
 - G. Handbook Committee – Victor Vankus & Diandra Viner
 - H. Legislative Committee- Chi Trinh & Heidi Jo Larson
 - I. Liaison (Affiliate Organizations) Committee – James Smith
 - J. Necrology Report – Melissa Phillips
 - K. AOSA and SCST Proficiency Testing Committee – Jeanna Mueller & Heidi Arneson
 - L. Referee Committee – Chi Trinh & Quinn Gillespie
 - M. Research Committee – Sabry Elias & Eunsoo Choe
 - N. Rules Committee – Chi Trinh – report will be in the proceedings due to Chi not being able to attend
 - O. Teaching and Training Committee – Anitra Walker & Angie Croft – given by committee member Kathy Mathiason
- VI. **Research/Subcommittee Reports**
 - A. Conservation, Reclamation, Tree and Shrub Subcommittee – Jack Lemke, Tia Tyler & Randy Crawl



- B. Cultivar Purity Subcommittee – Diandra Viner
- C. Flower Seed Subcommittee – Kathy Mathiason & Sarah Dammen
- D. Germination and Dormancy Subcommittee – Riad Baalbaki & David Johnston
- E. International Subcommittee – David Johnston
- F. Purity Subcommittee – Nish Patel
- G. Seed Moisture Subcommittee – Sabry Elias
- H. Statistics Subcommittee – Sabry Elias & Karen Richard
- I. Tetrazolium Subcommittee – Elizabeth Stewart & Shaminder Miranpuri – given by committee member Michael Aberle
- J. Seed Vigor Testing Subcommittee – Riad Baalbaki & Laura Carlson – report will be in the proceedings due to committee chairs not present

VII. Annual Meeting Resolution – Heather Crosby

Adjourned at 9:00 am Mountain Time.

114TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF AOSA

June 12, 2025

- I. **Call to Order** the Business meeting was call to order by President James Smith at 9:06 am. Roll call and quorum was established during the Joint Business Meeting prior to Rules voting.
- II. **Appoint Sargent-at-arms** - Nish Patel appointed by President Smith
- III. **Roll Call (Rules voting establishes we have a quorum.)**
- IV. **Approve Agenda** – Cheryl Fossler moved; Nish Patel seconded. Motion carried
- V. **Approve Minutes as printed in the 2024 Annual Meeting Proceedings** – Sam Morgan moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Nish Patel. Motion carried.
- VI. **Summary of June 6, 2025, AOSA Executive Board Minutes** – James Smith provided a summary of the minutes and clarified that the full minutes would be included in the 2025 Annual Meeting proceedings.
- VII. **Reports**
 - a. President - James Smith
 - i. This past year I participated in our monthly Principals call, board meetings, consolidation meetings, and consolidation webinars.
 - ii. After our annual meeting I was able to attend the AOSCA annual meeting where I gave an update on AOSA-SCST. I also provided an update at the AASCO annual meeting. At this meeting Melissa and I discussed the proposed merger. It was well received. In September I was invited to participate in a Cotton Seed Quality Symposium hosted by Cotton Inc. At this meeting we discussed the AOSA Rules, Vigor Testing Handbook as well as the procedure to change the Rules. I provided technical support in questions regarding seed testing. While I



was in North Carolina, I visited USDA SRTD. Ernest, Todd and staff gave a tour and Ernest, and I had a discussion in areas of concern for USDA (primarily in the area of seed regulation).

- iii. ASTA invited me to attend the Seed Relations Committee meeting in Orlando. We met and had a roundtable discussion about the need for trained, certified analysts as well as other areas of concern such as seed laws and test dates.
- iv. In January, I attended the Beltwide Cotton Conference and the Extension Cotton Specialists meeting. There, I answered questions about the AOSA Rules and how they were applied. Also, at this meeting, we gave updates on potential research that would be started later this year.
- v. Part of the duties of President of AOSA is writing two articles a year for Seed Today. My first article was a review of our annual meeting. In my second article, I stressed the need for qualified seed analysts as well as the need for education within the seed industry.
- vi. At this time, I would like to thank Johnny Zook for his guidance and SCST president Melissa Phillips for her drive and determination as well as her creativity. I also want to thank our board for working with me when we had to shuffle the deck when Todd retired.
- b. Vice President – Diandra Viner
 - i. I attended the AOSA Board meetings and principles meetings as well as the annual meeting planning meetings in the past year. I have been active in a few different committee activities as well and look forward to continued learning and efforts as part of the board.
- c. Secretary/Treasure’s Report (Nish Patel & Jess Peterson)
 - i. Financial update
 - 1. Financial Report – Jess Peterson presented the financial report
 - 2. Budget - James Smith presented the budget
 - a. Sabry Elias moved to approve the budget, seconded by Kathy Mathiason. Motion carried.
- d. Executive Director Report
 - i. Membership Update – given during the joint AOSA/SCST Business meeting and reported to the membership on 6/04/2025 via video.
 - ii. Activity Report - given during the joint AOSA/SCST Business meeting and reported to the membership on 6/04/2025 via video.
- e. Committee Reports
 - i. Bylaw – Johnny Zook
 - ii. Certification of Analysts (if different from Consolidated Exam committee report) – Leanne Duncan
 - iii. Nominations/Election – Bridget Westfall
 - iv. Financial Audit– Nish Patel
 - 1. The AOSA Financials are in good order
 - v. Liaison/Affiliates – James Smith
 - vi. Rules – Chi Trinh will submit a report for the proceedings
 - vii. Proficiency Testing – Jeanna Mueller



- f. Acceptance of reports (member vote) – Kathy Mathiason moved to approve the reports as given, seconded by Johnny Zook. Motion carried.
- VIII. **Unfinished Business**
 - a. Vote of members present on moving forward with the plan of merger – Johnny Zook motioned to approve. Randy Crawl seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- IX. **Recognition of outgoing Board Members** (James Smith)
 - a. Gordon Baldrige, Chase MacPherran, Nish Patel, Jeanna Mueller, Lynn Robinson were recognized
- X. **Installation of new Board Members** (James Smith)
 - a. AOSA Secretary/Treasurer, Nish Patel, and AOSA Board of Directors, Jenny Hall (not present due to illness), Kathy Mathiason and Leanne Duncan, recited the AOSA Oath of Office and was installed as new officers.
- XI. **Announcement of Next Annual Meeting** – 2026 Annual Meeting June 5-11 in Rochester, NY

ADJOURN – Nish Patel motioned and seconded by Dave Stimpson. Motion carried 9:29 am

AOSA PRESIDENT’S REPORT

101ST ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF SCST

June 12, 2025

- XII. **Call to Order** - The Business meeting was call to order by President Melissa Phillips at 9:38 am.
- XIII. **Anti-Trust Policy**
- XIV. **Appoint Sargent-at-arms (4)** Steve Beals, Jason Perrault appointed by President Phillips
- XV. **Roll Call** - Roll call and quorum were established during the Joint Business Meeting prior to Rules voting.
- XVI. **Approve Agenda** – Nicholette Rusch moved; Desirae Jones seconded. Motion carried
- XVII. **Approve Minutes as printed in the 2024 Annual Meeting Proceedings** - Molly Richeson moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Nicolette Rusch. Motion carried.
- XVIII. **Reports**
 - a. President – Melissa Phillips
 - b. Vice President – Quinn Gillespie
 - c. Directors-at-large
 - i. Kathy Mathiason
 - ii. Desirae Jones
 - iii. Marija Topic
 - iv. Molly Richeson
 - v. Nicolette Rusch
 - d. Executive Director Report - Jess Peterson
 - i. Membership Update – given during the joint AOSA/SCST Business meeting and reported to the membership on 6/04/2025 via video.



- ii. Activity Report - given during the joint AOSA/SCST Business meeting and reported to the membership on 6/04/2025 via video.
- e. Financial update - Jess Peterson
 - i. Financial Report
 - 1. Reported totals in the bank accounts (Wells Fargo Checking & First Federal CD)
 - 2. Assets were covered in detail.
 - 3. Liabilities and Equity totals were given
 - ii. Budget
 - 1. Discussed the income, expenses, liabilities, equity and net balance
 - 2. Dues payment timelines have shifted, and this is the year of transition
 - 3. The bad debt line item was questioned with a contractual obligation not being met at that time
 - 4. There was a question about membership numbers of which Jess Peterson provided from the SCST Executive Director Board report and State of the Society.
 - a. There was also a question on how that coincides with Annual Meeting attendance. Jess mentioned the Long-Range Planning Session and Quinn Gillespie said that there is a survey to address the issues after every meeting.
 - 5. Quinn Gillespie moved to approve the Budget, seconded by Brenda Johnson. Motion approved.
- f. Audit Committee
 - i. Tom Mager and Jason Perrault reviewed and determined that all records are in order.
- g. Committee Reports
 - i. Ethics – Rachel Henricks & Brent Reschly
 - ii. Nominating – Brad Johnson
 - iii. Molly Richeson moved to approve, seconded by Kathy Mathiason. Motion carried.
- XIX. **Old Business**
 - a. No old business to be conducted
- XX. **New Business**
 - a. Vote of members present on moving forward with the plan of merger - Brenda Johnson motioned to approve, seconded by Laura Donaldson. Motion carried by simple majority.
- XXI. **Other Business**
 - a. No other business to be conducted
- XXII. **Recognition of outgoing Board Members** – Melissa Phillips presented a certificate to Desirae Jones, RST and Kathy Mathiason, RST/RGT and thanked them for their service. Quinn Gillespie presented a certificate and plaque to President Melissa Phillips.
- XXIII. **Installation of new Board Members** Quinn Gillespie was installed as the new SCST President. The SCST Vice President, Brad Johnson, and SCST board members, Morgan Webb, and Emilly Morrison completed the oath and was installed as new officers.



- I. **Announcement of next annual meeting** – 2026 Annual Meeting June 5-11 in Rochester, NY
- II. **Adjourn** - Brenda Johnson motioned and seconded by James Smith. Motion carried 10:19 am



EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS

DIRECTOR AT LARGE, DESIRAE JONES

During my final year as a Director at Large for SCST, I responded to emails with membership and industry concerns and attended board conference calls.

I attended the planning calls for the annual meeting and reviewed the monthly financial reports.

I contacted my local school district and spoke to elementary teachers regarding educational opportunities as well as the FFA leader for lab tours in the fall.

I have continued to learn about our associations by being involved in the internal workings. Seeing the bigger picture of all the moving parts has strengthened my appreciation for all our current and past leaders. Being a small part of the collaboration towards the merging of the two has been incredible. Thank you for making this such a unique and amazing group.

A special thank you to the members of the consolidation committee, I am grateful for your passion and perseverance in tackling the hard issues with determination and grace.

Respectfully submitted,

Desirae Jones

DIRECTOR AT LARGE, KATHY MATHIASON

This was my third year as an SCST Director at Large. I serve as the chair of the SCST Continuing Education Points committee. As such, I record CE points for the Society's Registered, Certified, Professional, and Associate members and send point shortage notices. I also confirm point totals for consolidated exam applicants. Along with my AOSA co-chair and the Teaching and Training chairs, we approved CE points for workshops held throughout the year. At this annual meeting we rolled out an updated application form for points and had a productive conversation about the future committee and revamping the points. I am on the RGT Board of Examiners, and I suggested edits for our exam applications and some of the written and practical exams and approved exam and reinstatement applications. As a Genetic Technology Committee member, I suggested an addition to the RGT study guide. I am a member of the Consolidation working group and did a lot of work on the proposed ByLaws and the merger plan. I attended the annual meetings for the Northern Seed Trade Association, South Dakota Crop Improvement and Minnesota Crop Improvement Associations, AOSA/SCST webinars, I participated in the Illinois Seed Trade referee, and completed all SCST proficiency tests. I participated in SCST Board calls and emails. I enjoyed my time serving on the SCST Board, learned a lot about how the Society runs, and made some valuable friendships. I highly recommend you consider serving in a leadership position if given the chance. The rewards far outweigh the effort.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Mathiason



DIRECTOR AT LARGE, MOLLY RICHESON

During the last year as a Director-at-Large with the SCST, I have been working, not only on the board but also as a co-chair of Genetic Technology as well as chair of the RGT Board of Examiners. I have already given reports for each of the chair positions, so in the interest of brevity and to avoid redundancy, I will only report on activities outside of those capacities.

As a Director-at-Large, I participated in every scheduled board meeting throughout the year. I reviewed the Annual Meeting proceedings, voted to approve the minutes, and took the Proposed Bylaws surveys, also reviewing the results. I also voted on quorum options, voted in SCST elections, watched the 2025 Rule Change webinar, the Consolidation Update webinar, the Rules Proposals webinar, and participated in BOD emails.

Otherwise in the industry, I gave a presentation on adventitious presence for the Illinois Seed Trade Association, organized hands on training for other SCST members, volunteered with the Brimfield FFA, and finished a course in Bioinformatics. Additionally, I have remained active in Women in Leadership of Central Illinois where I actively develop my leadership skillset and have received the Woman Leader of the Year award today.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Richeson

DIRECTOR AT LARGE, MARIJA TOPIC

Since the last Board meeting, I have:

- Attended the Idaho Seed Lab Advisory Board meeting in McCall, where I provided an update on the proposed AOSA/SCST merger. I covered the anticipated benefits, the rollout of a new virtual examination, revisions to certification titles, and potential adjustments to membership dues should the merger be approved.
- Coordinated a referee project for sweet corn short root and prepared samples for seven participating laboratories.

Training

- Conducted training sessions for two analysts in my lab to prepare for the RST certification, with one scheduled to take the exam in August.
- Helped an analyst from the Washington lab to prepare for the August RST exam
- My current focus remains on maintaining day-to-day operations and responsibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Marija Topic



DIRECTOR AT LARGE, NICOLETTE RUSCH

What's small, red, and whispers? - A hoarse-radish!

This was my first year as a Director at Large. I served as co-chair of Region II Referee Committee. I developed and produced a Basil Referee for the year and was able to present the data at this year's annual meeting. I have also participated in various other referees and proficiencies throughout the year.

I attended the ASTA Flower and Vegetable Meeting in February to help educate people in the industry about the importance of quality seed testing.

I participated in SCST Board Member calls and emails and look forward to continuing to be an active member of the board.

What did the cucumber say to the pickle? - You mean a great dill to me!

Respectfully submitted,

Nicolette Rusch

SCST VICE PRESIDENT, QUINN GILLESPIE

This year I have had the opportunity to be involved in this Society in so many ways. Which I say intentionally, we are fortunate to have a place outside of our day-to-day working lives to connect with other analysts, and share research, get our teeth sunk into projects, and to start planting seeds for the next generation. Pun intended.

I participated in all joint Principals' calls, between AOSA and SCST leadership, and all SCST Board of Directors' calls, and reviewed financial statements and proposed budgets. I have also reviewed the proposed bylaws for AOSA-SCST and when asked, I put on my punk rock hat to look for holes. The working group putting those together has put in a tremendous number of hours. I would like to thank all of them for their hard work. No matter what the outcome, I think we will be better for it.

I was able to attend the AOSCA Advisory Committee in August, representing SCST. I also attended the Northwest Analysts group meeting in January and provided an update on behalf of the board.

As the SCST Communications and Publications Chair, I have worked with the committee to produce the Annual Meeting Proceedings, and three issues of the Newsletter since the last Annual Meeting. Many thanks go out to the Communications and Publications Committee for all their hard work over the course of the year. We have more work ahead of us, but I believe we have a strong committee who are ready to contribute their ideas, and we have room for more active participants as well. (That's my plug.)

As SCST Referee Committee Chair, I wear a few hats. One is to help coordinate projects and help encourage analysts in their research, and to communicate their findings back to the membership. One of our major tasks this year was to propose an AOSA Bylaws change to remove the requirement for regional organization. Chi Trinh, our AOSA Chair was instrumental in this. I would also like to thank



Chi for her time on the committee, as she will be stepping down from that role, to allow her to take on the role of Rules Chair. So we will still be in touch.

One of my favorite tasks as Vice President- believe it or not- has been reviewing applications for the consolidated exam. I've always thought of the application process as an act of hope and bravery. I love seeing how many people we have putting in the hard work of studying, applying, collecting their points. I love seeing the variety of college courses people are taking and how their knowledge can improve our Society in the future. I don't know if any of us would want to take the exam a second time, even with the knowledge we have built over the years.

I also just want to say thank you to the team at Universal Seed. Having their support has made my involvement as Vice President possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Quinn Gillespie

SCST PRESIDENT, MELISSA PHILLIPS

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as the SCST President this past year. What a year it has been!?

I participated in society emails and meetings and reviewed the monthly financials. I have attended monthly principles calls.

In November I attended the Collegiate Crops Judging banquet and spoke about the importance of the seed testing and how the skills learned in the competition could be a jump start to an exciting career. Don't worry I made it sound exciting and full of adventure!

I was able to attend the American Seed Trade Association meeting in Orlando, where I attended the SALT training and I had a chance to touch base with ISTA's President Keshavulu Kunesoth,. I acknowledged our continuing desire to work together but some items we would have to be put on hold as we work through consolidation. He and ISTA are still interested in working together and harmonizing where possible.

While at the ASTA meeting I met with Sarah Wilbanks of AOSCA to discuss possible collaboration opportunities. The SCST board was invited to attend the regional meeting in Rapid City for our April board meeting. The majority of the board was not able to attend but I was able to go and see how they arrange their meetings to understand feasibility of a future joint meeting. It looks like 2028 could be the earliest possibility. They are headed to Canada in 2027 and as much as we loved Canada, I let Sarah know, we would wait.

I gave 2 presentations at the Genetic Super Workshop in Ames in February, also attending as many planning and genetic committee meetings as possible. I want to apologize to Kalyn, I still you exam photos and I dropped the ball there. And will try to get that to you soon.

I have completed 2 articles for Seed Today magazine. Let's be clear, I am not a writer. I did not embarrass us but do not think any journalism awards will be forth coming.



Analyzeseeds.com

The portal project has been ongoing, and I would like to thank Quinn for covering these and for WSS all of their support on this initiative from an SCST standpoint, I have not been able to make all the meetings but have attended several. I see the opportunities that the new portal would give us for sustainability and growth as an organization.

The largest amount of my time of the last year has been the consolidation working group. We have met at least 15 times, starting just after last year's annual meeting. In that time, the group has drafted a proposed bylaws, prepared and shared a webinar with the membership and a survey that followed. The activities from this past year and the preparation for this meeting has really been an eye opener for me of how intertwined we already are and the redundancies we must keep due to the formality of 2 organizations. I appreciate all the feedback and comments from everyone and their participation in the initiative. I may regret saying so, but please keep the input coming. I want to give a huge thanks to the working group. Marjia, Brenda, Todd, James, Kathy, and Victor. Who have spent more time beyond the calls, but all the emails, comments, notes, and ideas.

On a related tangent, I wanted to share my work with ISTA as initiatives such as these usually spill over to North America. I am leading an initiative from the Germination committee to clarify evaluation criteria for secondary roots for corn. This is at its beginning phases. I have also been on the working group with Ruojing Wang to support the document to support implementation of advanced technologies for ISTA testing. This includes guidance on validation, and monitoring. I have also been meeting with our own advanced technologies group to see how we can leverage this document for our purposes here.

The past year has gone by extremely fast. I suspect the next will as well.

I want to thank the members for allowing me to serve as your president. I am really excited to see so many were able to attend the meeting this year.

Thank you and safe travels home.

Respectfully Submitted

Melissa Phillips

SCST President



AOSA RULES VOTING RESULTS

PROPOSAL No.	PURPOSE	SUBMITTED BY	RESULT
1	To add bulk weights for species with a purity weight listed in Table 2A.	Bryce Calligan, Professional Member, Bayer Crop Science	Fail
2	To add the additional name of canola (Argentine type) to Brassica napus var. napus to Table 2A, 6A, and Volume 3 of the AOSA Rules	Christopher Roberts, RST, Corteva Agriscience	Pass
3	To improve the reporting requirements for de-coated seed by providing more information on the chosen method.	Todd Erickson, USDA Seed Regulatory & Testing Division	Fail
4	To add Glyceria declinata to AOSA Rules Volume, Uniform Classification as a weedy species.	Quinn Gillespie, RST, Universal Seed LLC.	Pass
5	To update the identification and description of aerial seedling structures of cyclamen, changing the identification and description of ‘cotyledons’ to ‘epicotyl.’	Riad Baalbaki, David Johnston, Germination and Dormancy Subcommittee	Pass
6	To revise section 3.5.6 Negative Geotropism of Volume 4, to clarify the differences in geotropic responses between seedling shoots and roots, and the correct evaluation of each.	Heidi Jo Larson, Laura Donaldson, David Johnston, Kathy Mathiason, Marija Topic, Riad Baalbaki, Seedling Images Working Group	Pass
7	To add a note, under Poaceae Grass Family III- Corn in AOSA Rules for Testing Seeds Volume 4, clarifying the evaluation of anthocyanin color that can be present in Zea mays seedlings.	Heidi Jo Larson, Laura Donaldson, David Johnston, Kathy Mathiason, Marija Topic, Riad Baalbaki, Seedling Images Working Group	Pass
8	To add a note, under Poaceae Grass Family I- Cereals in AOSA Rules for Testing Seeds Volume 4, clarifying the anthocyanin color that can be present in Secale cereale and x Triticosecale seedlings.	Heidi Jo Larson, Laura Donaldson, David Johnston, Kathy Mathiason, Marija Topic, Riad Baalbaki, Seedling Images Working Group	Pass
9	To add a sketch and clarify how a detached coleoptile tip should be evaluated for members of the Poaceae Grass Family I-Cereals, AOSA Rules for Testing Seeds, Vol. 4.	Heidi Jo Larson, Laura Donaldson, David Johnston, Kathy Mathiason, Marija Topic, Riad Baalbaki, Seedling Images Working Group	Pass



FINAL VOTE TABULATION

Proposal #	AOSA Yes	AOSA No	AOSA Abstain	AOSA Total	AOSA %	SCST Yes	SCST No	SCST Abstain	SCST Total	SCST %	Final Vote	Pass/Fail
Proposal 1	8	11	1	19	42.10526316	36	25	1	61	59.016	101.12	FAIL
Proposal 2	12	8	0	20	60	52	10	0	62	83.871	143.87	PASS
Proposal 3	1	19	0	20	5	14	46	2	60	23.333	28.33	FAIL
Proposal 4	20	0	0	20	100	60	1	1	61	98.361	198.36	PASS
Proposal 5	20	0	0	20	100	62	0	0	62	100.000	200	PASS
Proposal 6	20	0	0	20	100	60	2	0	62	96.774	196.77	PASS
Proposal 7	16	3	1	19	84.21052632	57	4	1	61	93.443	177.65	PASS
Proposal 8	17	2	1	19	89.47368421	58	3	1	61	95.082	184.56	PASS
Proposal 9	20	0	0	20	100	61	1	0	62	98.387	198.39	PASS



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee reports published as submitted by the committee chairs or their representatives at the Joint Business Meeting of AOSA-SCST.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

June 12, 2025

On June 9 the Advanced Technology Committee (ATC) held a forum at the annual meeting in Missoula, MT. The committee invited two technology providers to give them the opportunity to present their technologies to the attendees and answer questions. We thank Ron Harder from Vibe and Thomas Stumpe from Marvitech. There was a presentation on “overcoming obstacles on new or advanced technology applications” by Brent Reschly. Dr. Ruojing Wang gave presentations on CFIA tool development (Nachet - an AI based Seed Id program) as well as presenting the ISTA Computer Vision Guide.

The ATC is planning to hold some additional technology webinars in the coming year as well as making resources available to members for technology scouting and evaluation.

Respectfully submitted Brent Reschly, Dr. Ruojing Wang.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

June 12, 2025

This has been a “foundation building” year for the Communications and Publications Committee. At our meeting in August the committee established four main working groups within the committee, each with 3-6 members. This year the committee produced three issues of the Seed Technologist Newsletter, and submitted an update to AOSCA for their Newsletter, as well as information on AOSA/SCST workshops held at the Annual meeting to ISTA. The outreach working group consists of the committee chairs and designated representatives from other seed organizations to submit updates for publication in the Seed Technologist Newsletter. ASTA, AOSCA, ISTA, the Illinois Seed Trade Association, and the Oregon Seed Association.

Our editorial group has been vital to editing and proofing issues of the Newsletter and Proceedings. This is behind the scenes work, but it is extremely important to the work of the committee.

The research review group helps to supply technical research reports and abstracts of posters and research papers presented at the Annual Meeting. This group also helps to review information submitted for more technical research to be shared with the rest of the organization. This year we were able to publish an informational identification guide to *Vicia* spp., information on the new domesticated CoverCress, *Thlaspi arvense*, results of a devitalization study by freezing, a research paper examining the effects of damage at the embryonic axis in soybeans, results of a referee study on germination days in canarygrass.

Our indexing group has been slightly dormant this year, although there have still been over 5500 lines of the index completed. The committee chair does have nearly all the available issues of the SCST



Newsletters and SCST Proceedings available, and the committee established a goal to complete review and indexing of twenty historical documents by the end of the year.

During our meeting in Missoula, the committee made plans to schedule committee meetings in September, February, and April, corresponding with the new publication schedule for the Newsletter. The meeting special edition of the Newsletter was well received and the committee plans to continue publishing three issues a year, with the focus of the fall issue being research and items generated by the Annual Meeting, a spring issue focused on proposed changes to the AOSA Rules, and a late spring “Annual Meeting Issue,” containing information and agendas for committees leading up to the Annual Meeting.

We are fortunate on this committee, as so much of our work is facilitated by members submitting articles, ideas, photos, and feedback. Thank you to everyone who contributes at every level.

Respectfully submitted,

Quinn Gillespie, Kathryn McGinnis

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AOSA/SCST Continuing Education Committee Report

June 12, 2025

The Continuing Education subcommittee met jointly with the Teaching & Training committee and Webinar subcommittee at the AOSA/SCST Annual Meeting on Monday, June 9, 2025, in Missoula, MT.

We discussed the following:

- Points needed to take the exam versus points needed to maintain membership
- Graphs of where members are for points
- How to receive points for attending the annual meeting
- The basics of watching recorded webinars and how to report watching with someone else’s log-in
- Reviewed the updated Application for CE points for a workshop/webinar
- And worked on the new SOP for the merger with feedback from the attendees

Over the last year, we have approved points for four (4) workshops.

Respectfully submitted,

Leanna Leach and Kathy Mathiason



DOCUMENT CONTROL

June 12, 2025

Report from the Document Control Committee

6/23/25

The following committees have completed their SOPs:

C&B-SCST	COMM
CP	DOC
ETHICS	EXAM
EXEC	FLOWER
GENE	Pur
REF	Res
RULE	TEACH

Conservation, Reclamation, Tree and Shrub Committee

I do not have completed SOPS from the following committees:

C&B-AOSA	LIA
EDU	MEM
ELECT	MOI
GERM	PROF
HDBK	STAT
HIST	TECH
INT	TZ
JOURNAL	VIG

LEG

If your committee is not listed, please let me know so that I may add it to our master document list. Please email your information to Cheryl Fossler, cheryl.fossler@arkansas.gov.

The Document Control committee would like all committees to complete their documents by October 31, 2025. This will allow us to approve them and get them on the website by December 31, 2025.



EXAMINATION COMMITTEES
Consolidated Exam Committee Report
June 12, 2025

The exam committee meets throughout the year and most recently met on May 16, 2025.

During this meeting we reviewed the recent survey of the exam candidates after the exams in May.

Discussions also took place on editing the exam application, the process of updating the study guide, and the creation of the SOP's related to the exam processes.

For our year in review, in August 2024 there were a total of 32 candidates taking the exam from both organizations in 3 separate locations, the following are the results: 12 RST/CSA's; 12 CVT/CSA-G.

This spring (2025) we had 24 candidates that wrote the exam in 2 separate locations. The following are the results: 5 RST/CSA's; 12 CVT/CSA-G

We will be rolling out the virtual exam in August. The purity practical exam will continue to take place in person on August 14th at the USDA Gastonia Lab, California Lab and at the Iowa State University lab. The purity written exam will take place virtually on August 18th and the germination exams for both written and practical will be held on August 19th. The application deadline is June 30, 2025.

AOSA and SCST recognized members who have left the committee during the past year:

Laura Clift - Corteva

Cindy Davis – Washington State Department of Agriculture

Kathleen Willey – New Mexico Department of Agriculture

Respectively Submitted,

Sarah Graybill and Leanne Duncan

SCST RGT Board of Examiners Report
June 12, 2025

Since the last annual meeting, the RGT Board of Examiners has offered two exams: One in February at SGS in Brookings, SD and one at this annual meeting. No one took the exams.

We have been systematically comparing our written exams to the available study materials provided by Genetic Technology and making notes about areas that need to be covered more thoroughly. This will help with the updating of the RGT Study Guide to better prepare members for the exams.

We took over the work on the virtual herbicide bioassay practical exam from Genetic Technology and will be working out the kinks this year.

We reviewed all of our applications and guidelines to make sure our requirements are clear and added a question on the exam applications so that we may provide reasonable accommodation if required for exam taking.



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We welcomed one RGT to Genetic Technology (previously a CGT) and guided another through the reinstatement process. We are currently in the process of guiding another former member through reinstatement.

Next, we will be updating our practical sets as needed. We will be setting up a document as a guide for succession, and we will be offering an exam about halfway through the year. Our highest priority goals will be finalizing the virtual Herbicide Bioassay practical exam and developing a 24 month learning plan for those intending to become RGT's or CGT's.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Richeson
Chair RGT Board of Examiners

GENETIC TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

June 12, 2025

Since the last annual meeting, Genetic Technology has been focusing on a few projects.

The Committee Structure subcommittee has created a New Member Welcome Guide that we passed out at our Genetic Technology meeting this year.

The Education subcommittee has created a Genetics Superworkshop Presenter's Guide to be used for the upcoming 2026 event. The trait purity proficiency test was also created and subsequently taken by the membership. All passed. This subcommittee has also been conducting a systematic review of the RGT Study Guide to compile a list of notes regarding what needs replaced or added.

The Newsletter subcommittee has submitted study material to the newsletter, as well as three additional articles: one a devitalization by freezing study update, one on herbicide classes, and one on the structural differences between DNA and RNA.

The Research subcommittee did some work on the herbicide bioassay virtual practical exam and is currently discussing the addition of SNP testing to our study materials.

This year, we are looking forward to planning the 2026 Genetics Superworkshop to be held at Iowa State University in February and will be working on a Superworkshop Planning Guide during the process as well as looking at vendor or sponsorship opportunities for this event.

We plan on at least one webinar for this year as well as to begin the process of updating Chapter 14 and our RGT Study Guide. We will also be writing a document to assist with chair succession. Our proficiency test will be in adventitious presence this year.

We intend to write at least two articles for the newsletter as well as submitting our meeting minutes and proficiency test review. One of these articles will cover the Genetics Superworkshop.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Richeson

Co-chair Genetic Technology



HANDBOOK COMMITTEE

June 12, 2025

The Handbook Committee has been working on editing of the TZ Handbook this past year. It has been updated with many kinds, and photos. The bulk of the work was done in 2023 by the TZ Committee and editing was worked on in 2024 through now. It is to be ready for sale shortly after the annual meeting. The possibility of a Tolerances handbook will be discussed further, and other committee handbooks will be worked on periodically after review or needs are evaluated from each handbook's respective committee. New initiatives include finding new members to help write the SOP for updating handbooks and additional members and volunteers have been identified. The handbook committee has begun collaboration with the Publications and Communications committee, and this is exciting moving forward to have new help and enthusiasm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diandra Viner & Victor Vankus

HISTORIAN/NECROLOGY COMMITTEES – AOSA AND SCST

June 12, 2025

Ethel Ledgerwood

Ethel Viola Ledgerwood Davis passed away of natural causes on February 3, 2024, in Klamath Falls, Oregon, at the age of 104. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and nine siblings. She leaves behind 11 nieces and nephews and multiple great- and great-great-nieces and nephews. She was born November 29, 1919, in Athabasca, Alberta, Canada, to James Alexander Ledgerwood and Margaret Eliza Keyes.

The family moved to Oregon, where Ethel grew up. She worked at Buchanan Cellers for many years.

She married Howard Martin Davis on December 23, 1952. Ethel and Howard loved to travel.

She will be remembered for her quick wit and smile.

Ethel became an RST in 1951 while employed by Buchanan Cellers Grain Company in Oregon. Ethel retired from seed testing around 1986.

Thank you to Heidi Larson for finding information about Ethel's passing.



Jennifer Pernsteiner

Jennifer J. Pernsteiner, age 65, of Fall Creek WI, passed away peacefully after a courageous battle with cancer on Sunday, December 22, 2024, at her home surrounded by her loving family. Jennifer Joan Pernsteiner (nee Tomfohrde) was born on January 9, 1959 in Marshfield, WI to Gerald (Butch) and Carol (Lubeck) Tomfohrde. She graduated from Lincoln High School in 1977 and received a Bachelor of Science in Plant Science from the University of Wisconsin River Falls in 1981.

She married Steven Gregory Pernsteiner on December 29, 1979. She is survived by her husband Steve, Mother Carol Tomfohrde, two children, Andrew Pernsteiner and Rachel (Chris) Beckner, five grandchildren Sophie, Kiera, Maeve, Guinevere and Jonathan, siblings Cindy (Larry) Lutz, Patti (Andre) Nicholas. She was preceded in death by her father Gerald (Butch), and brothers Jeffrey and Mitchell.

During her lifetime she was a church musician at numerous churches. She was a 4-H Program Support Worker starting in 1989 and stayed in that role until she moved to River Falls, WI to support her husband Steve's career. In 2000 she started her career as a seed analyst. After 2 years of training, she received her certification as a Registered Seed Technologist, eventually becoming a co-manager at Minnesota Crop Improvement where she trained several beginning analysts.

As a member of the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists where she contributed as a co-chair of the handbook committee and served on the board of directors. In 2018 at the age of 59, she retired, and Steve and Jennifer moved to Inverness, FL part time, while keeping a home in Fall Creek, WI for the warmer months. Jennifer enjoyed growing flowers, crafting, visiting her children and grandchildren and traveling together with her husband. The family would like to thank St. Croix Hospice for the exceptional care given to her and to the family.

Harold 'Rodger' Danielson

October 31, 1938 - January 4, 2025

It is with deep sadness that we announced the passing of Harold "Rodger" Danielson of Millersburg, Oregon on January 4, 2025.

Rodger and his twin sister Lynnea were born in Redding, California to Harold and Mildred Danielson. In his youth, the family lived in Redding, California, then moved to Eureka, Bolinas and finally to Larkspur, California in 1947 where he graduated from Sir Francis Drake High School in 1956.

Rodger started college at Whitman College in Walla Walla, WA. He transferred to Montana State University, graduating with a BA in Botany in 1961. While at Missoula, Rodger met Nancy Gilroy, who he married on August 20, 1961.

The couple moved to Sacramento where Rodger began work with the California Department of Agriculture as a seed analyst. Their first two children were born during this time, Teri, born in 1963 and Amy, born in 1965. In 1966, Rodger and Nancy built their first home in the Sacramento.

Debi was born in 1968, just as Rodger accepted a position as a Germination Supervisor at Oregon State University. In 1969, they bought a home on Oak Dell Place, where they would live for almost 50 years. In 1973 Rodger obtained his Master's Degree in Seed Technology and was promoted to assistant director



of the Oregon State Seed Lab. In 1980, he became the seed lab manager.

During his tenure at OSU, Rodger taught courses in the Crop Science Department, advised students, worked with the Crop Science Club, coached crop judging teams and accompanied them to contests in Chicago and Kansas City. He received the Crop Science Outstanding Teacher Award in 1977. Rodger conducted a variety of research projects and published numerous articles throughout his career. He was very active in his national organization, Association of Official Seed Analysts. He served as president of that organization in 1984 and was a member of their executive board for five years. He gained the associations certification of expertise in both purity and germination in 1985 in 1992. Rodger was awarded AOSA's award of merit for his service to the association. Rodger retired in 1996.

After retirement, Rodger and Nancy traveled to Norway and Sweden to visit the family farm of the Bjellands' (Danielson), Hvalls' and Gustafson's. Rodger and Nancy also took many trips around the U.S. gathering information to add to their genealogy documentation.

Rodger's interests included many outdoor activities, as well as volunteer opportunities. Early on, he enjoyed yearly fishing trips with his Dad into the Marble Mountain primitive area in Northern California. After moving to Oregon, he looked forward to yearly camping trips with friends and family to the Trout Creek Area. He developed an interest in horses and brought them on some of his elk hunting trips in North Eastern Oregon. Rodger enjoyed barbecuing and conducted chicken barbecues for the Crop Science Department for many years. He joined the Benton County/ Mary's Peak Search and Rescue and became a special deputy with the Benton County sheriff's department. He was a longtime member of Corvallis Elks. He also enjoyed delivering Meals on Wheels and working with Kiwanis Club.

In 2015, they moved to Millersburg, where they lived until Rodger's death. During those 10 years, he was an incredible caregiver for our mother after her stroke. Rodger was hospitalized in Albany shortly before his death and he passed away at Evergreen Hospice with his family at his side.

Many great memories will be cherished by his wife, daughters, and extended family of time spent together during holidays, family reunions, camping trips, crabbing adventures, trips to Depot Bay and of the countless "wine times" the last few years where we enjoyed listening to him recap stories from the past.

Rodger is survived by his wife Nancy, daughters Teri, Amy (Evan) and Debi, four grandchildren, two great grandchildren, sister Barbara Jean Menzel and many nieces and nephews.

Helene Shoaf

Helene Shoaf, 79, passed away on Wednesday, February 13, 2025 at her residence in Battle Ground, Indiana.

Helene was born June 25, 1945 in Landshut, Germany to the late Benjamin and Eugenia (Wahl) Gruenke. She was married to Charles William Shoaf on August 3, 1968 in Lafayette. He preceded her in death on April 17, 2002. Professionally, Helene worked at Purdue University for over 24 years as a Certified Seed Analyst in Purity at the Office of Indiana State Chemist. She retired in 2005. She was a long-time member of St. James Lutheran Church. In addition, she was an avid animal lover and "took



in” many strays over the years. Helene enjoyed spending time with her family and doing Simon and Schuster Mega crossword puzzles every day. She will be dearly missed.

She is survived by four children, Benjamin (Rhonda) Richardson of Lexington, KY, Juliana (Raymond) Gray of Lafayette, Kurt Richardson of Lafayette, and Travis (Peggy) Richardson of Frankfort; sister, Edith Grady of Florida; ten grandchildren, Kurt E. Richardson, Branden (Kim) Richardson, Amber (Brandon) Richardson Womble, Westley (Allyssa) Richardson, Jessica (Luke) McVay, Brooke (Zac) Williamson, Charlene (Kevin) Orozco, Kyle (Liz) Gray, Miranda (Lucas) Cord and Jacob Richardson; and eighteen great-grandchildren; and two great-great grandchildren; and her beloved dog Bruno and cat Buddy.

In addition to her husband, she is preceded in death by a sister, Mary Gruenke, grandson, Kyle Richardson, and daughter in law, Nancy Richardson.

Barbara Grace Davis Clark

Barbara Grace Davis Clark age 81 of New Richmond, passed away unexpectedly in her home Thursday, February 27, 2025. Barb was born in Kokomo on July 20, 1943 daughter of the late Junior and Margaret Beck Davis. She married Jerry Clark May 9, 1969 in Jefferson, IN and he preceded her in death December 25, 1999.

Barb was in the last graduating class of Little Jeff High School in Jefferson, IN. Following graduation she was employed as a waitress at Jefferson Plaza and later the Key West Shrimp House. Following her marriage she worked as a Certified Seed Analyst in the Office of the Indiana State Chemist at Purdue University, retiring September 2009.

Barb was an active member of Pleasant Hill Christian Church in Wingate, she was also a driving force behind the New Richmond July 4th Celebration and her efforts will be sorely missed. She also had served on the Coal Creek Advisory Board. She enjoyed attending the Clinton County fair where she supported her great-niece. Over the years she was involved with a sewing group in Linden who made clothing for newborns and donated to hospitals. She enjoyed traveling with Joe Cloncs on his three-wheel motorcycle. Barb also donated many hours at the Crawfordsville Thrift shop. She was an outspoken, stubborn lady with a huge loving heart.

Surviving are: two sisters; Rebecca (Vernon) Gillum of Kokomo and Jill Davis of Lafayette, a brother Dwight Dean Davis of Kokomo. Three nieces: Jimie Davis of Jefferson, Jodie (Brandon) Neal of Frankfort and Renee Gillum Stienke of Georgia and Jezrey Davis of Kokomo. Two great-neices; Chloe Perlee of Kirklin, Ivy Hill of Frankfort and a great-nephew Christian Davis of Frankfort. Preceding her in death were her parents, husband Jerry and brother Jimmy Davis.

Visitation hours are 5:00 – 8:00 PM Monday, March 3, 2025 with funeral services at 11:00 AM Tuesday, March 4, 2025 with Pastor Alan Goff officiating, at Family and Friends Funeral Home of Wingate. Burial follow in New Richmond Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be directed to Coal Creek Fire and Rescue or Pleasant Hill Christian Church, Wingate. Visit us online at www.familyandfriendsfh.com to sign the guest book or share a memory.



Bennie Charles Keith, Jr.

Bennie Charles Keith, Jr., 72, of Starkville, passed away May 31, 2025, at University Medical Center in Jackson.

Born on July 4, 1952, in Hollandale, he was the oldest son of Bennie Charles and Rose Katherine (Harper) Keith. He learned the value of hard work early, growing up on a farm, and helping at his grandparent's country store in Murphy. A prankster, Bennie led his siblings and friends on many adventures. Throughout the years, he had numerous pets with the most memorable being an alligator later adopted by a park ranger and used to teach children of wildlife habitat. Bennie's love for animals began early and continued through his life. "Bless the little animals" was always included when saying grace.

In 1970, he graduated from Humphreys Academy, where he was an All-Conference football player. He won the state science fair with his invention of the brake fluid indicator. The light was first manufactured by the Ford Motor Company and became a standard feature on all cars. After high school, Bennie attended Mississippi State University, where he earned his PhD in Agronomy. In 1974, he married his high school sweetheart, the love-of-his-life, Mary Diane Rivers, and together, they settled in Starkville.

In 1998, Bennie retired from Mississippi State University after 25 years of service. He began his career at Delta Research Extension Center in Stoneville, MS; later transferring to serve at Mississippi State University with the Foundation Seed Service as Department Head. He finally concluded his service with MSU, as the Director of Mississippi Seed Technology Program. He authored numerous publications, taught graduate-level courses, and set up seed labs in four foreign countries. After his first retirement, Bennie began a second career with Mississippi Crop Improvement Association (MCIA) serving 20 years, as the Executive Secretary. He gave valuable service to the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) as President in 2007-08, while serving on the Board of Directors. Along the way, he made life-long friends and was truly a mentor to both students and colleagues in the Agricultural Industry. He was recognized among Who's Who in Mississippi and a member of the Knights of Columbus.

His career allowed him to travel the world, but his favorite place was home. He loved spending time outdoors and was an avid hunter and fisherman. Coach Keith coached little league baseball, All-Stars, and even took a team to the Little League World Series. Whether tutoring a neighborhood child in science or sharing his wisdom and kindness, Bennie always found time to help. He was handy; there was not anything he could not build or repair. He was Dada to not only his grandchildren, but also their friends. And he always looked forward to his Friday Coffee Group.

He was a member of St Joseph Catholic Church. Serving as an usher, he was sought out by the children who knew he always had a stash of peppermints ready to share.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister, Dale Keith, brothers-in-law, Jody Rivers and Earl Long, and sister-in-law Eugenia Keith.

Survivors include his wife of 51 years, Diane; daughter Emily Johnson (Andy) of Vernon, AL; son, Bennie Keith (Emily Ann) of Starkville; four grandchildren, Braxton and Eliza Johnson, Madison and Bryson Keith; siblings, Gay Long, Harper Keith, and Donna Wade (Thom), all of Hollandale; brother-in-law, Waymon Rivers (Carla) of Gravette, AR; sister-in-law Donna Ramey, and eleven beloved nieces and nephews.



Memorial donations are appreciated to St. Joseph Food Pantry at 607 University Drive; Starkville, MS 39759 or The Prosper Initiative at P. O. Box 309; Vernon, AL 35592.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

June 12, 2025

The chairs were not present at the Annual Meeting due to travel constraints. However members are encouraged to review the online version of the All-States Noxious list regularly due to the new process of updating the list multiple times a year, as needed, rather than once a year. Changes in state legislation and regulations may change without warning.

-Proceedings editor,
Quinn Gillespie

LIAISON/AFFILIATES COMMITTEE

AOSA Liaison, SCST Affiliates Committee Report

June 12, 2025

The liaison/affiliates met on June 19, 2025. In attendance were:

Dr Sarah Wilbanks AOSCA

Dr Sergio Pasquini ISTA

Dr Ruoqing Wang CFIA/ISMA/ISTA

Melissa Phillips SCST

Quinn Gillespie SCST

Diandra Viner AOSA

Nish Patel AOSA

James Smith AOSA & AASCO

Dr Pasquini gave an update on behalf of ISTA. He discussed the future working relationship between our organizations. We shared that we had decided to work on improving communication between our respective committees.

Dr Wilbanks gave the update for AOSCA. She brought up Nuclear Sterile Male Wheat and asked if we could work together as this crop becomes available. There may be a need for testing procedures as well as input from regulatory officials. She also discussed an opportunity at the ASTA meeting in December to provide education on seed testing, certification and regulatory topics. We will start planning in August.

We closed the meeting by agreeing that all organizations represented would work to improve communication and explore opportunities to work together.



Respectfully submitted

James Smith

PROFICIENCY TESTING COMMITTEE

AOSA/SCST Proficiency Testing Committee Report

June 12, 2025

During the 2024-2025 year, the AOSA/SCST Joint PT Committee conducted two PTs for conventional members, on written and one hands on, as well as one written PT for SCST Genetic Technology members.

First for conventional testing members was a written test covering the Application of Test Tolerances, with 220 submitted results, all receiving passing scores. A detailed report of results was sent to the membership in October 2024.

The hands-on conventional PT this year was an alfalfa sample to be tested for purity and germination. 261 results were submitted on this PT. Individual results and a detailed report of membership results will be sent out shortly after the Annual Meeting.

Twenty-five Genetic Technology members participated in a written PT in the area of Trait Purity this year. All participants received passing scores.

This year, the committee also updated our page on the analyze seeds website by uploading all past written as well as a few digital image PTs with answer keys. Please be aware that answer keys were written at the time the test was given, so be sure to check for Rule updates on any of those subjects.

Looking ahead to the coming year, the PT Committee will work on updating those answer keys for past PTs. A flax sample was sent to the conventional membership in February for hands-on germination, with a deadline of August 29, 2025. Thank you to the 146 participants who have already submitted results! There will also be one written test for each conventional and genetic members.

Based on feedback from this meeting, the committee will also explore the possibility of conducting training for in-house lab proficiency programs, and the possibility of a future hands-on TZ proficiency. Please be looking out for surveys on these topics coming out shortly.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanna Mueller and Heidi Arneson



REFEREE COMMITTEE

June 12, 2025

This year the Referee Committee met several times over zoom, with regular updates via email. At our meeting in July directly after the Annual Meeting in Rapid City the committee discussed changes to the website to include all projects listed in a single table rather than by region. The committee felt it would make the most sense, pending reorganization, to proceed with a change to the AOSA Bylaws to remove the specification of regions. AOSA Chair, Chi Trinh worked with the AOSA members of the committee to draft this change, which will be presented to the AOSA membership for voting at this meeting.

It was also agreed among the committee that because analysts may have interest in many different crop kinds that the committee proceed with simpler organization, with members who are currently regional chairs serving as permanent committee members. The committee also discussed the opportunity to hold a webinar in conjunction with the statistics committee to help analysts designing referee projects understand experimental design and data analysis as relates to referee testing and method validations studies.

There are several projects that were discussed during the 2024-2025 year. Four projects were presented during the Referee Presentation session, and project introductions were presented to solicit feedback from the wider membership. Our meeting in May was focused primarily on updates on the AOSA Bylaws proposal and establishing the schedule for the Referee Presentation and Buzz Session. The projects which were presented in Missoula were:

Short-rooted sweet corn and field emergence, presented by Maria Topic. This was an in-house study which demonstrated that many sweet corn seedlings with short roots may still be viable when introduced to field conditions.

Sorghum-sudangrass germination days, presented by Tyann Alexander. This referee was presented as part of her ongoing work with sorghum-sudangrass. Many participants in the study found that sorghum-sudangrass reached maximum germination at seven, rather than ten days, with approximately a one percent difference in final germination compared to the longer germination period. Additional work will be done on this species, evaluating the potential for adding top of crepe paper to the Rules as a method, to match other *Sorghum spp.*

Sweet Basil Referee, presented by Nicolette Rusch. This study compared using between blotters, rolled towels, and top of blotters as the substrate, to determine if it is appropriate to add top of blotters to the Rules as a possible method.

Illinois Seed Trade Association Referee, presented by Tammy Stark and Eunsoo Choe. This presentation included data from multiple years of studies conducted by the Illinois Seed Trade Association, to compare results from different labs, and individual participants in germination testing for corn, soybean, and sweet corn.

Two introductory presentations were also presented. Diandra Viner gave a brief introduction to an upcoming survey, soliciting feedback on substrate, light sources, and use of KNO₃ in ryegrass fluorescence testing. Quinn Gillespie presented preliminary information on an ongoing project to find a quick method to identify mechanical damage in onion seed, from Maria Topic and Haley Osburn.



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I would like to thank Chi Trinh for all her hard work and for drafting the AOSA Bylaws change on behalf of the rest of the committee. She will be stepping out of her role as Referee Committee chair to take on the role of Rules Committee chair.

For members who are planning to conduct referee studies during the coming year, please submit your projects and contact information either to a permanent committee member or to the SCST Referee chair as we will be muddling through without Chi for now.

Respectfully submitted,

Quinn Gillespie

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

June 12, 2025

Mission Statement

Promote research to improve seed testing methods and achieve better uniform, accurate, and efficient results, and respond to the emerging needs of the seed industry.

Function

Help members of the AOSA/SCST in conducting research studies, referees, and rule change proposals to ensure sound research, statistical analysis, and conclusions. We also encourage conducting workshops and webinars to improve the professional skills of our analysts.

We believe that research is the gateway for innovations, adopting new technologies, and acquiring knowledge in subjects related to seed testing.

- During the past year, the committee responded to inquiries from members related to projects and/or statistical analysis in projects related to research studies and referees.
- The Research Committee conducted its meeting this year on Tuesday, June 11, 2025.
- The attendees discussed the reasons for the decline in research activities in the associations. The workloads in each lab and skills needed to conduct research studies were among the main reasons.
- Tim Gutormson encouraged the attendees to submit rule proposals to the STRF for possible funding as an incentive for promoting research in our associations.
- The research committee always welcome any request for help.
- The attendees suggested a webinar on how to conduct successful research studies, which the committee will plan to do.
- This year, the Research Committee organized a “Research Paper Session” on Wed, June 11, 2025. Four papers were presented:
 1. Improving cotton germination testing and predictability of field emergence. Michael Phillips.



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2. Analysis of soybean seedling development after mechanical damage at the embryonic axis. Eunsoo Choe.
 3. Effect of different coating percentages on seed performance of five grasses. Sabry Elias.
 4. Changes in gibberellic acid and abscisic acid during seed development and maturation of red clover and their effects on germination and dormancy. Sabry Elias and Ead Angsumalee.
- An idea was raised about inviting outside speakers to the annual meetings. We asked if the STRF can help with that. Tim will talk to the board about that.
 - The committee chairs asked the attendees and any member who needs help in designing studies or analyzing data to contact the research and statistics committees; Sabry Elias, Riad Baalbaki, Karen Richard or Eunsoo Choe.
 - Members of the AOSA/SCST are welcome to send us any suggestions to the co-chairs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sabry Elias and Eunsoo Choe – June 12, 2025

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

June 12, 2025

Whereas: the 114th AOSA and 101st SCST annual meetings were held June 7th through June 12th, 2025, at the Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown in Missoula, MT. and

Whereas: the planning committee of Bridget Westfall, Dave Stimpson, Desirae Jones, Terry Freeman, Rady Crowl, Heather Crosby, Valeria Silva, Quinn Gillespie, Marija Topic, Racheal Geary, Trey Johnson, and the team at Western Skies Strategies, Kelly Fogarty, Kelly Polzin, Maggie Tupper, and Autumn developed an excellent meeting agenda; and

Whereas: productive discussions were had regarding the new crop CoverCress, and excellent information was shared about the new Seedling Image Database, and an excellent array of referees, and posters were presented; and

Whereas: the team at Western Skies Strategies, and other volunteers completely supported the functions of the meeting including audio-visual equipment, agenda development, and facility arrangements; and

Whereas: the poster session was educational, and enjoyable for all in attendance; and

Whereas: the information, accommodations and services were greatly appreciated by all attendees; and

Whereas: a good time was had by all in attendance at the tour at Alberton Orchards, and highland cows were petted and bison were NOT, and attendees were able to take advantage of the many wonderful outdoor activities available in the state of Montana;



Therefore: Be It Resolved: the members of the Association of Official Seed Analysts, and the members of the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists and their respective boards; and the delegates and representatives from affiliated organizations, and other attendees hereby agree that these meetings were very successful, and that seed analytical work was advanced through the execution of training and planning for the future at this event; and

Be it Further Resolved: that the members of AOSA and SCST express their appreciation and sincere thanks to all committee chairs and all those who took time from their routine responsibilities to provide leadership and skills to our deliberations at this meeting; and

Be It Further Resolved: that all in attendance express their appreciation to the following vendors: Hoffman Manufacturing, Tagarno, Kubtec, Anchor Paper, and SoDak Labs

Be It Further Resolved: that the association's presidents shall send an appropriate letter of gratitude to those individuals and organizations that provided donations and/or financial support that made this year's meeting such a pleasurable and productive event. Our gratitude is expressed to the following sponsors:

Montana Seed Trade Association, SoDak Labs, Crookham Company, USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, Seed Academy, Bayer Crop Science, and Harold Armstrong

Be It resolved this June 12, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Crosby

RULES COMMITTEE

June 12, 2025

On October 30, 2024, Rule Committee presented the new changes for the 2024 AOSA Seed Testing Rules. The changes were presented by Todd Erickson.

On December 17, 2024, the Rule Committee met to discuss the proposed changes for the 2025 Seed Test Rules. Sabry Elias, Todd Erickson, Quinn Gillespie, Michael Kelley, Jodi Keeling, Emi Kuroiwa, Lei Ren, and Chi Trinh participated in the discussion.

On February 26, 2025, Todd presented the rule proposals for 2025 to all members. There were 9 proposals. At the same time, he also announced his retirement. Chi Trinh agreed to become a AOSA Rule Committee co-chair.

On May 22, 2025, Chi Trinh hosted a virtual open rule discussion. Due to a low participation, another virtual open rule discussion was scheduled for June 3.

Due to travel restriction, most of the rule committee members were not able to attend the Annual Meeting this year. The AOSA open rule discussion at the Annual Meeting was facilitated by Randy Crowl.

The Rule Committee would like to say Thank You to all members who volunteered to assist ensuring the discussion and the voting of the Rule went smoothly.



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Respectfully Submitted,

Chi Trinh

AOSA Rule Committee co-chair

TEACHING AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

June 12, 2025

The Teaching and Training Committee had a time slot on Monday June 9 from 1:30-3:30 pm. The CE points chairs gave a presentation that included a request for a new webinar coordinator, a request for new practice tests, and a summary of the differences between points needed to take the consolidated exam and points needed to maintain membership. We had a good discussion regarding revamping CE point requirements.

If anyone is interested in participating on the T&T committee or volunteering to be a mentor/tutor, please contact Angie Croft or Anitra Walker. Both co-Chairs missed seeing everyone at the meeting this year!

Respectfully Submitted,

Angie Croft and Anitra Walker



RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Research subcommittee reports are published as submitted by the subcommittee chairs at the Joint Business Meeting of AOSA-SCST. These technical committees focus on specific topics in seed testing which may be centered around specialized testing methods or crop kinds which require special attention.

CONSERVATION, RECLAMATION, TREE AND SHRUB SUBCOMMITTEE

June 12, 2025

During the past year the Committee met twice. Once virtually on 05/01/2025 and in person on 06/09/2025

Discussions were had concerning committee membership and projects, including plans for a referee on *Poa secunda*. Guest speakers included, Gil Waibel, (Wild-seeds.net) Sabry Elias (Native Tolerance tables) and Michael Butts (Montana Native Seed Network).

Other Accomplishments include:

Several Committee members have been added.

An SOP for our committee has been completed and will be submitted.

Also, several committee members attended the National Native Seed Conference in Tucson AZ. At this meeting members gave presentations on native seed testing and passed out information to many meeting attendees.

Respectfully submitted:

Randy Crawl

Jack Lemke

Tia Tyler



CULTIVAR PURITY SUBCOMMITTEE

June 12, 2025

In this past year the Cultivar purity committee has made efforts to meet and converge with the Genetic Technology committee. There are goals to further review and discuss the Ryegrass Allelic Discrimination (RAD) method which was added a couple of years ago to the latest revision of the Cultivar Purity Handbook. Additional Ryegrass Genetic Testing Research that has been worked on at OSU was presented at this year's annual committee meeting. This topic continues to have some ongoing needs. Future training initiatives may conjoin with genetic technology trainings and a ploidy webinar remains on the to do list for the coming year as well as creating guidelines for adding methods to the CPH.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diandra Viner

FLOWER SEED SUBCOMMITTEE

June 12, 2025

The Flower Seed Committee met on June 9, 2025. The committee was well attended. We discussed the activities of the past year that included collecting seed counts for *Liatrix* spp and compiling drawings to add Cyclamen drawings to Primulaceae I page in the AOSA rules volume 4. Work will continue to progress on collecting more seed counts of species not in the AOSA Rules and adding flower seedling evaluation sketches where needed. We will also work to form an official Flower Seed Committee member group and work to have regular email updates and meetings as needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Co-chairs Sarah Dammen and Kathy Mathiason

GERMINATION AND DORMANCY SUBCOMMITTEE

June 12, 2025

The Germination and Dormancy Subcommittee was involved in many activities between July 2024 to June 2025. The following is a summary of these activities:

1. Organized and conducted a "Seedling Evaluation Workshop" on June 8, 2025, at the annual AOSA-SCST meetings held in Missoula, MT with 16 participants.
2. Continued to respond to inquiries from AOSA-SCST members and from individuals outside these organizations, in all matters related to germination testing and dormancy such as dormancy



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breaking recommendations, Rules-related issues, and feedback regarding the process and interpretation of germination tests. Almost all inquiries were received online through AnalyzeSeeds.com and then referred to the chairs for response, along with several in-person contacts during the annual meeting.

3. The “Seedling Images Working Group,” of the sub-committee continued their review and discussion activities related to developing evaluation suggestions and notes on evaluating specific seedling conditions, an essential part towards the building of the “Seedling Images Database (SID)”. The co-chairs encourage the Boards to create and publish a user’s guide and corporate and institutional subscriptions options for the SID, as interest is growing in the database.
4. Held their annual sub-committee meeting during the Missoula AOSA-SCST meetings, where several issues were discussed and action taken:
 - Six Rules Change proposals related to germination were discussed:
 - Proposal 3. Improve reporting requirements in Volume 1 Section 15.r for de-coated seed by providing more information on the chosen method.
 - Proposal 5. Update the identification and description of aerial seedling structures for cyclamen (*Cyclamen africanum*) in Volume 4, PRIMULACEAE, PRIMROSE FAMILY 1.
 - Proposal 6. Revise Volume 4, Section 3.5.6 Negative geotropism to clarify the differences in geotropism responses between seedling shoots and roots and the correct evaluation of each.
 - Proposal 7. Revise Volume 4, POACEAE GRASS FAMILY III – Corn clarifying the evaluation of anthocyanin coloring that may be present in *Zea mays* seedlings.
 - Proposal 8. Revise Volume 4, POACEAE GRASS FAMILY I – Cereals clarifying the evaluation of anthocyanin coloring that may be present in *Secale cereale* and *X Triticosecale* seedlings.
 - Proposal 9. Revise Volume 4, POACEAE GRASS FAMILY I – Cereals by clarifying and adding a drawing regarding the evaluation of a detached coleoptile tip of members of POACEAE GRASS FAMILY I.
 - Melissa Philips shared the results of the *Thlaspi arvense* germination validation study, and the planned validation study proposal.
 - The co-chairs updated the members on present and future activities and plans related to the Seedling Images Database.
 - Discussed Germination and Dormancy Subcommittee membership, expected roles and responsibilities, and invited all interested attendees to join the sub-committee.



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- Requested areas of improvement to the AOSA Rules and ideas for workshops and webinars from members.
- David Johnston, in his current role as ISTA Germination Committee Chair, shared recently approved ISTA Rule changes, current activities of the committee, planned validation studies, and possible harmonization issues related to AOSA germination Rules. He also shared areas where the ISTA Rules have been harmonized with the ASOA Rules and vice versa and that there will be a spirit of collaboration between the two germination committees to improve both rules. This has been an ongoing priority of the AOSA-SCST Germination Committee for several years and will continue to be so.

The Co-Chairs would like to thank the Boards and the membership for their continued participation and support for the committee's efforts, it is greatly appreciated!!!

Respectfully submitted,

David Johnston, SCST Co-Chair

Riad Baalbaki, AOSA Co-Chair

June 12, 2025

PURITY SUBCOMMITTEE

June 12, 2025

The committee this past year has been working hard on the common names project. This project was broken down into two phases. Phase one was using Volume 1 table 2A as the base for comparison among the four volumes, in this first phase of the project we focused on the scientific names found in Volume 1. We checked to see if the common names among the four volumes matched for each scientific name found in Volume 1 table 2A. A table was created to show only when a mismatch of common names across all Rules volumes was found. If a species is not in a particular volume or Table within a volume NA was used. The working group compiled a list of 23 pages of mismatches that were presented at the annual meeting. There will be a conference call with the Rules Committee chair to see how best to incorporate these changes in the rules. Phase 2 will be focusing on Volume 3 and comparing them to sources such as the All-States Noxious List, GRIN, PLANTS, and regional floras.

Also, the committee has been trying to harmonize the AASCO Handbook on Seed Sampling with Section 1 of the AOSA Rules for Testing Seeds. There were a few edits that needed to be done, and we will have a discussion on the best way to make these edits with help from the Rules committee.

There was one rule proposal. This proposal was based on a suggestion from the purity committee. The intent is to clarify on the ROA why the seed was de-coated prior to planting. The existing rule indicates that the de-coated statement is to be used when the conditions in 6.8(l)(b & c) are met (Poaceae or



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mixes). The reason for de-coating may not be immediately apparent if the seed was de-coated for regulatory purposes or customer requests, so this should be clearly stated in the report. Todd Erickson has submitted this to be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

Morgan Webb has accepted the position of SCST co-chair replacing Deborah Meyer who will still be an active member on the committee. Please join me in welcoming Morgan.

Respectfully submitted,

Nish Patel

AOSA Co-Chair

SEED MOISTURE SUBCOMMITTEE

June 12, 2025

- Thirteen people attended the meeting.
- The Chair welcomed the attendees.
- Sabry provided review of some processes of moisture testing. The PP presentation covered the following topics, which are included in the 2nd version of the ‘Seed Moisture Determination: Principles and Procedures’ Handbook (2018):
 - Calibrating air-ovens for temperature uniformity.
 - When to retest moisture samples.
 - Procedure of determining moisture content for species not included in Table 5 of the Handbook.
 - Determining the size of screen for coarse and fine seed grinding. How to calibrate seed grinders?
 - Determination of the size of containers used in drying seeds in relation to sample size.
 - Eliminating the pre-drying requirements for seeds with high moisture content based on a study conducted by the Moisture Handbook Authors.
 - Species in Table 5 of the Moisture Handbook- Validation and Expansion.
 - Suggested data sheet to collect seed moisture results.
- The Chair proposed conducting proficiency tests for various species, maybe with collaboration with the Proficiency Testing Committee.
- The Chair asked for a volunteer to step up and replace the current chair. None of the attendees was interested.

Respectfully submitted,

Sabry G. Elias

June 12, 2025



STATISTICS SUBCOMMITTEE

June 12, 2025

The Statistics subcommittee assists seed analysts in designing experiments and analyzing data for referees, rule change proposals, and research studies. In addition, conducting workshops, webinars, and one-on-one advice.

- During last year, the committee developed two purity tolerance tables for native species:
 1. Native species tolerances for comparing purity test results of two subsamples from the same submitted sample of the same seed lot analyzed in the same or different laboratory (2-way test, $P=0.1\%$).
 2. Native species tolerances for comparing purity test results of two different submitted samples from the same seed lot analyzed in the same or in different laboratories (1-way test, $P=0.01\%$).
- On Thursday May 30, 2025, the committee conducted the meeting by Zoom.
- During the virtual meeting, Sabry presented a PP presentation on calculations of the fluorescence in blends and mixtures of ryegrasses for varieties with low VFL, high VFL, no VFL description, and unknown amounts of annual and perennial ryegrass.
- An error in Example 8 in the Rules needs to be corrected. A rule proposal will be submitted to rule committee in October 2025.
- The committee was planning to organize workshop on Sunday June 8, 2025, however, it was canceled because of lack of interest, probably because 3 other workshops were offered on the same day.
- The topics of the workshop were, 1) Why do seed test results differ among labs? 2) Calculations of the fluorescence in blends and mixtures of ryegrasses, and 3) discuss proposed purity tolerance tables for native species.
- We encourage any member in AOSA/SCST to let us know if they need help in designing a study or analyzing data by contacting Riad Baalbaki, Karen Richard, or myself.
riad.baalbaki@cdfa.ca.gov; karen.richard@bayer.com; sabry.elias@oregonstate.edu
- Currently, there is a revised version for conducting and preparing rule change proposals in the Rule committee website. Members of the AOSA/SCST are encouraged to check it before they start a new proposal.
- Members of the AOSA/SCST are welcome to send us any suggestions or comments.

Respectfully submitted, Sabry Elias and Karen Richard



TETRAZOLIUM SUBCOMMITTEE

June 12, 2025

The Tetrazolium Committee met on Monday, June 9. SCST Chairs Shaminder Miranpuri and Michael Aberle led a discussion recapping the TZ Workshop held the previous day, Sunday, June 8. The workshop featured two presentations: one on basic TZ techniques, and another discussing the impact of dormancy on TZ testing. The workshop also consisted of hands-on testing of various species. The overnight tests from the workshop were evaluated at the Monday meeting. Shaminder gave an update on the activities of the ISTA TZ committee. The meeting ended with the presentation of *Is it Viable?*, which included several images of questionable TZ stains for group discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Stewart

VIGOR TESTING SUBCOMMITTEE

June 12, 2025

The Vigor Subcommittee was involved in several activities between July 2024 and June 2025. The following is a summary of these activities:

5. A special meeting was held on 12-9-2024 to discuss reducing variation in cotton Cool Test results. James Smith, Laura Carlson, Mike Phillips, Guy Collins, Keith Edmisten, Evy Jaconis, and Gaylon Morgan were in attendance.
 - Gaylon gave a brief overview of the importance of cotton seed quality research, and past and present projects being conducted with the Extension Cotton Specialists, with an overview of Seed Quality 1.0, 2.0, and 3.0 findings. Main findings were that most of the seed being sold is good quality seed, but 5-10% of the seed would still be considered sub-optimal with warm germination below 80%. With current planting seed prices, growers expect the best quality seed and want more transparency on the seed quality, and improved consistency of both germination and cool test results.
 - Michael Philips presented results of his ongoing PhD research on cotton cool tests, conducted in collaboration with more than 15 extension cotton specialists across the Cotton Belt. Results indicated lower test variability and higher correlation with field performance if the 4-cm radicle length threshold used in the test is lowered to <2 cm. A presentation of updated findings and conclusions was planned during the annual AOSA/SCST meeting in Missoula, MT.
 - The need to update the Vigor Testing Handbook was also discussed.
6. The co-chairs organized a workshop on June 8, 2025, in Missoula, MT. The workshop, entitled “Vigor Tests – Pitfalls and Causes of Unwanted Variation,” focused on improving test uniformity among laboratories. Tim Gutormson, Lauren Shearer, Michael Phillips, David Johnston, and Riad Baalbaki were the instructors. Discussed vigor tests included the Accelerated Aging test, Cool Cotton test, and several Seedling Performance tests, as well as a general overview of commonly used tests in quality assessment.



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7. The Vigor Subcommittee held its annual meeting on June 9, 2025, in Missoula where several issues were discussed, followed by a general group discussion:
 - Current vigor research activities
 - Potential updates to the Vigor Testing Handbook
 - Possible addition to the Rules of a dedicated Vigor Testing chapter.
 - Membership in the subcommittee.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Carlson, Co-Chair

Riad Baalbaki, Co-Chair

July 10, 2025

SCST COMMITTEE REPORTS

SCST Committee Reports are published as submitted at the SCST Business meeting. Reports given here pertain to the business of the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

June 12, 2025

On the morning of June 11, 2025, the Audit Committee, consisting of Jason Perrault and Tom Mager, conducted a review of the proposed budget. During our review, we identified questions regarding certain credit card fees, media expenses, and the timing and classification of membership dues.

President Melissa Philips provided thorough and satisfactory responses to all inquiries. Following this discussion, we found the budget to be in order and hereby approve it.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Mager

Jason Perrault

ETHICS COMMITTEE

June 12, 2025

There were no Ethics issues reported in the last calendar year and no outstanding issues. The committee did not meet at the annual meeting held in Missoula, MT.

Respectfully submitted, Rachel Henricks, Brent Reschly



SCST NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

June 12, 2025

The nominating committee of the SCST had Executive Director, Kelly Polzin distribute an e-mail appealing to the membership for nominees for the office of two Director-at-large positions, the Vice President position, and an honorary member. The Director-at-large position is for a three-year term, while the office of Vice president is a two-year term followed by two years of serving as president of the SCST. We received thirteen nominations for the Director-at-large positions and seven agreed to serve if elected. We received seven nominations for vice president and two agreed to serve if elected.

The executive director sent out the ballots and tabulated the results.

Morgan Webb of Seed Check Technologies Inc. in Leduc (luh-dook), Alberta and Emily Morrison of Indiana Crop improvement Association were elected to fill the Director-at-large positions.

Brad Johnson (myself) of Bayer Crop Science was elected as Vice President... ..

Pat Miller was elected to become an honorary member of the SCST.

We would like to thank everyone for their help and cooperation.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Johnson, Nominations Chair



AOSA COMMITTEE REPORTS

AOSA Committee Reports are published as submitted at the AOSA Business meeting. Reports given here pertain to the business of the Association of Official Seed Analysts.

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

June 12, 2025

The virtual meeting of the Bylaws committee was held on May 27, 2025. There were 13 people in attendance.

There was only one bylaw change proposal submitted this year affecting ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES, 4. There shall be Standing Committees as follows (1998):, g. Referee:, (1) & (2)

The proposed change would remove the regional components from the specifications listed for the Referee committee, allowing for greater participation in referees and reducing the *required* members of the committee. Furthermore, the proposal would make the committee an official Joint committee requiring an SCST Co-chair.

The proposal was amended to include a sentence encouraging the selection of committee members from a wide-ranging representation of the AOSA/SCST memberships to draw from the varied regional experiences/perspectives.

Respectfully submitted,
Johnny Zook AOSA Bylaws Chair

AOSA NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

June 12, 2025

Ten nominations were received. Seven nominations were accepted. Three nominations were declined.

We are welcoming LeAnne Duncan and Jenny Hall to the Executive Board for a three- year term.

Kathy Mathiason has accepted the two – year term on the Executive Board.

Nish Patel will be keeping everything locked down and recorded as Secretary for the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget Westfall



MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Lab/Organization/Employer/Affiliation
Michael Aberle	Ransom Seed Lab
Brenda Ahlhorn	Texas Department of Agriculture
Tyann Alexander	SGS Brookings
Heidi Arneson	Hefty Seed Company
Daniela Avalos-Ochoa	ISU Seed Lab
Sam Banks	Bayer Crop Science
Bhupinder Batth	SoDak Labs, Inc.
Brian Beal	AgReliant Genetics
Steve Beals	Illinois Crop Improvement Association, Inc.
Caren Behn	New York State Seed Laboratory
Mark Berns	Illinois Crop Improvement Association, Inc.
Riley Blackwell	Nutrien Ag Solutions
Jessica Blake	Iowa State University Seed Lab
Kalyn Brix	SoDak Labs, Inc.
Laura Carlson	SoDak Labs, Inc.
Eunsoo Choe	American Takii
Barbara Cleave	Sakata Seed America Inc.
Matt Conway	Corteva Agriscience
Heather Crosby-Musselman	Montana State Seed Testing Laboratory
Randy Crowl	Colorado State University
Snjezana Dacic	Idaho State Seed Lab
Sarah Dammen	SGS Brookings
Rachel Dasal	Pennington Seed
Erin deNijs	Kent Agri Lab
Kevin Dietrich	AgReliant Genetics
Laura Donaldson	Indiana Crop Improvement Association
Leanne Duncan	Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Zach Duray	Illinois Crop Improvement Association, Inc.
Sabry Elias	Oregon State University Seed Lab
Justin Falk	Henricks Seed Lab Inc.
Dianne Farrer	North Carolina Department Ag & Consumer Sciences: Seed & Fertilizer
Bill Foote	North Carolina Department Ag & Consumer Sciences: Plant Industry
Cheryl Fossler	Arkansas Department of Agriculture
Neal Foster	South Dakota Crop Improvement Association
Sarah Foster	20/20 Seed Labs Inc.



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Terry Freeman
Rachel Geary

Quinn Gillespie
Ella Greeley
Kelly Grief
Tim Gutormson
Kyle Gutormson
Jenny Hall
Rachel Henricks
Susanna Huyge
Epifania (Fanny) Javier
Brad Johnson
Brenda Johnson
Cathleen Johnson
Trey Johnson

Desirae Jones
Trevor Kuechenmeister
Stacy LaMastra
Carolyn Langley

Emily Lapinel
Suzanne Latoz

Leanna Leach
Jack Lemke
Madeleine Longshore

Robert (Chase) MacPherran
Tom Mager
Brooke Malott

Kathy Mathiason
Mackenzie Mattern
Aubrey McCormick
Aleta Meyr
Drew Miller
Shaminder Miranpuri
Brigette Moore
Sam Morgan

Utah Department of Agriculture & Food
Wyoming State Seed Analysis Lab

SCST Vice President
Universal Seed Company

Arkansas Department of Agriculture
Wyffels Hybrids
SoDak Labs, Inc.
SoDak Labs, Inc.

Georgia Department of Agriculture
Henricks Seed Lab Inc.
Syngenta Seeds Pasco
INCOTEC
Bayer

Eurofins BioDiagnostics, LLC
Alabama State Seed Lab

Montana State Seed Testing Laboratory

SCST Board Member
Seneca Foods
SoDak Labs, Inc.

ADM Edible Beans
Idaho State Seed Lab

AOSA Board Member
New York State Seed Laboratory
Indiana Crop Improvement Association

AOSA Board Member
South Carolina Department of Agriculture
Idaho State Seed Lab
Agri Seed Testing

AOSA Board Member
Office of Indiana State Chemist
Beck's Hybrids

Indiana Crop Improvement Association

SCST Director-at-Large
SDSU Seed Testing Laboratory
SoDak Labs, Inc.

Henricks Seed Lab Inc.
Ransom Seed Lab

Iowa State University
Wisconsin Crop Improvement Association
Kent Agri Lab
Office of Indiana State Chemist Seed Lab



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Emily Morrison
Chase Mowry

Jeanna Mueller
Melissa Nelson
Moses Palmer

Nish Patel
Jane Penrose
Catherine Perkins
Jason Perrault
Michael Phillips

Melissa Phillips
Kyra Porter

Michael Proehl
Gergana Radinova
Marshal Reidlinger
Brent Reschly
Karen Richard

Molly Richeson
Maggie Risher
Christopher Roberts
Karla Rodriguez

Nicolette Rusch
Lauren Shearer
Valeria Silva
Miranda Smidt

James Smith
Tammy Stark
David Stimpson
Sharmila Sunwar
Lori Swonke
Brandie Taylor

Marija Topic
Candace VanWinkle

Indiana Crop Improvement Association
Minnesota Crop Improvement Association

AOSA Board Member
North Dakota State Seed Department
NST Seed Labs
20/20 Seed Labs Inc.

AOSA Secretary/Treasurer
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Agri Seed Testing
University of Kentucky Seed Lab
SEEDWAY
North Carolina State University

SCST President
Bayer Crop Science
West Virginia Department of Agriculture

SoDak Labs, Inc.
Minnesota Department of Agriculture Seed Lab
Missouri Crop Improvement Association
Syngenta Seeds
Bayer Crop Science

SCST Director-at-Large
AgReliant Genetics
Bayer Crop Science
Corteva Agriscience
Condor Seed Production, Inc.

SCST Director-at-Large
Eurofins BioDiagnostics, LLC
SoDak Labs, Inc.
Sakata Seed America Inc.
Applewood Seed Company

AOSA President
Mississippi Department of Agriculture Seed Lab
Hubner Industries
Oregon State University Seed Lab
Sakata Seed America Inc.
Texas Department of Agriculture
ADM

SCST Director-at-Large
Crookham Company
Pennington Seed



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Diandra Viner
Kaitlyn Vsetecka
Gilbert Waibel

Dr. Ruojing Wang
Morgan Webb
Alyssa Weber
Bridget Westfall
Jessica Wilkinson
Teresa Yakovac
Angela Yau
Johnny Zook

AOSA Vice President
Minnesota Department of Agriculture
ISU Seed Lab
Retired

ISTA Representative
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Seed Check Technologies Inc.
NST Seed Labs
Montana State Seed Testing Laboratory
Pennington Seed
25:2 Solutions
Arizona Department of Agriculture
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture



AWARDS AND HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS

Awards for Meritorious Service are given to members who have distinguished themselves in the organizations of AOSA and SCST for their contributions to the organizations and to seed testing as a whole. Some individuals who are not a member of AOSA or SCST may be recognized by either organization with an honorary membership as recognition for their contributions to the functions of the Association or Society.

SCST HONORARY MEMBER: PAT MILLER

Pat Miller was hired in January 2007 as the Director of State Affairs for the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA). In this role he coordinated with state and regional seed industry associations to provide input and assistance with legislative, regulatory and grassroots activities. In 2024, Pat became the Senior Director of Special Projects, where he sharpened his focus on specific seed industry issues including treated seed regulations and resources, seed labeling standardization, and much more. Pat retired from ASTA at the end of 2024. He now serves as the Executive Director for the Texas Seed Trade Association. Pat and his wife still live in Texas, along with their children and grandchildren.

RECIPIENTS OF THE SCST MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

The Meritorious Service Award was initiated in December of 1964 by the SCST Executive board to give recognition to present or past members who, in the opinion of the Board, have rendered outstanding service to the Society.

- 1965 *James E. Benedict, Comm. Seed Lab. Silver Springs, MD
- 1965 *Joseph E. Barnes, Funk Bros. Seed Co. Bloomington, IL
- 1965 *Bertha H. DeHam, Peppard Seeds Inc. Kansas City, MO
- 1965 *Clara A. Mangelsdorf, E.F. Mangelsdorf & Bros. Inc., St. Louis, MO
- 1965 *Harley Reeder, Agricultural Seed Lab Phoenix, AZ
- 1965 *Lewis J LaPine, Kentuckiana Seed Lab, New Albany, IN
- 1966 *Gabriel E. Natile, Asgrow Seed Company, Twin Falls, ID
- 1966 *Wilson Stone, Lone Star Seed Laboratory Tyler, TX
- 1967 *Verene Snell, Grace/Rudy- Patrick, Kansas City, MO
- 1968 *Mary K. Ryman, Burlingham & Sons, Forest Grove, OR
- 1969 *Louise C. Baker, Baker Seed Lab, Memphis, TN
- 1970 *Harriet E. Marsh, MFA Milling Company Springfield, MO
- 1970 *Harold O. Thornes, Land O' Lakes Inc. Minneapolis, MN
- 1971 *W. Wells Oppel, Teweles Seed Co. Milwaukee, WI
- 1972 *Joseph T. Charmella, Rudy Patrick Co., Kansas City, MO
- 1972 *Robert G. Colborn, Colborn Seed Testing Lincoln, NE
- 1972 *Charles R. Gunn, Crops Research Div., SNS, USDA, Beltsville, MD
- 1973 *Charles C. Abbott, Ohio Dept of Ag, Reynoldsburg, OH



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- 1973 *Ivah H. Clark, Clark Seed Lab., Toronto, ON, Canada
- 1974 *Betty R. Atwater, Ransom Seed Lab., Santa Barbara, CA
- 1975 *Robert H. Edwards, Jr., Farmers Coop, Laverne, TN
- 1976 *Frances H. Callaghan, NK Seed Co., Minneapolis, MN
- 1976 *Lucy M. Neill, Southern States Cooperative, Richmond, VA
- 1978 *Lloyd E. Smith, Gold Kist Research Center, Lithonia, GA
- 1979 *R. Jane Barris, Jacob Hartz Seed Co., Stuttgart, AR
- 1980 *Helen K. Faris, Pacific Seed Lab., Oakland, CA
- 1980 *Freida Wertman, Central Seed Lab., Excelsior, MN
- 1981 *Thomas Hackett, Asgrow Seed Co., Twin Falls, ID
- 1981 *Coralie Wilson, Northrup King Co., Tangent, OR
- 1982 *Dale Bright May Seed & Nursery Co., Shenandoah, IA
- 1982 *E. Jane Scott, Lipscomb Seed Co., Inc., Springfield, MO
- 1983 *Cecilia Kollack, Vaughn Seed Co., Downers Grove, IL
- 1983 *David S. McClure, Cargill Inc., Seed Division, Belmond, IA
- 1984 *Mary Bristol, AMM Seed Testing, Fresno, CA
- 1985 *Norman Kalbacken, Funk Seeds Int., Bloomington IL
- 1986 No Award Presented
- 1987 *Betty Butler, Southern States Cooperative, Richmond, VA
- 1987 *Mark Johnson, Pioneer Hi-Bred, Johnston, IA
- 1988 *Charlotte Jennings, Jennings Seed Testing St Joseph, MO
- 1989 *Geraldine Ottosen, True-Test Seed Lab., Junction City, OR
- 1989 *Wesley Wilcox, Funk Seeds, Int., Bloomington, IL
- 1990 Paul Johnson, Northrup King, New Deal, TX
- 1990 *Richard Sayers, Asgrow Seed Co., Twin Falls, ID
- 1991 *Hada Lambert, Cal/West Seed Co., Woodland, CA
- 1992 Guin Jenanyan, Royal Sluis Inc., Salinas, CA
- 1992 *Emma Kay, Southern States Cooperative, Richmond, VA
- 1993 *Marie T. Greeniaus, Accu-Test Seed Lab., Rivers MB, Canada
- 1993 Joe Lamb, Great Lakes Hybrids, Ovid, MI
- 1994 Aleta Meyr, Ransom Seed Lab, Carpinteria, CA
- 1995 Pat Brownfield, Rogers Seed Co., Twin Falls, ID
- 1996 Quentin Schultz, Mycogen Seeds, Prescott, WI
- 1997 Catherine Cook, Asgrow Seed Company, Ames, IA
- 1998 Nancy Vivrette, Ransom Seed Lab, Carpinteria, CA
- 1999 Dennis TeKrony, Univ. of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
- 2000 Myrta Wyson, Iowa State Seed Science Center, Ames, IA
- 2001 Sharon Davidson, Agri Seed Testing, Salem, OR
- 2002 Tim Gutormson, Mid-West Seed Services, Brookings, SD
- 2003 Loren Wiesner, USDA-ARS National Seed Storage Lab
- 2004 Barbara Cleave, Alf Christianson Seed Co., Mt. Vernon, WA
- 2005 Doug Ashton, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Ottawa, ON, Canada
- 2006 Wayne Guerke, Georgia State Department of Agriculture, Tifton, GA
- 2007 Michael O'Neil, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., Johnston, IA



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- 2008 *Barbara Atkins, STA Laboratories, Longmont, CO
- 2008 David Stimpson, Mycogen Seeds/DowAgrosciences, Marshalltown, IA
- 2009 Diane Mesa, Syngenta Seeds, Research Triangle Park, NC
- 2009 Norma Rossel, Johnny's Selected Seeds, Winslow, ME
- 2010 Miller McDonald, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- 2010 Cathy Weidmaier, SCST Secretary-Treasurer 1993-1999
- 2011 Jim Effenberger, California Department of Food & Agriculture, Sacramento, CA
- 2012 Susan Maxon, USDA-AMS, SRTB, Gastonia, NC
- 2013 None presented
- 2014 Brent Reschly, Syngenta, Ames, IA
- 2015 Heidi Jo Larson, SGS, Brookings, SD
- 2016 Deborah Meyer, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Sacramento, CA
- 2017 *Reginald Denny Hall, University of Wyoming Seed Lab, Powell, WY
- 2018 Gil Waibel, Indiana Crop Improvement, Lafayette, IN
- 2019 Jennifer Pernsteiner, Minnesota Crop Improvement Association, St. Paul, MN
- 2020 Sue Alvarez, Ransom Seed Lab, Carpinteria, CA
- 2020 Michael Stahr, Iowa State University, Ames, IA
- 2021 None presented
- 2022 Heidi Jo Larson, SGS, Brookings, SD
- 2023 Jane Penrose, Agri Seed Testing, Salem, OR
- 2024 None presented

*deceased



RECIPIENTS OF THE AOSA MERIT AWARD

1959 C.W. Legatt, R.H. Porter, E. H. Toole

1960 Albina Musil

1961 Edgar Brown

1962 O.L. Justice

1963 C.M. Bass

1964 A.S. Carter

1965 Duane Isely

1966 B.F. Forward

1967 W.A. Davison

1968 Benjamin E. Clark

1969 Louisa A. Jensen

1970 Leroy E. Everson

1971 E.J. (Jess) Doyle

1972 Claude Heit

1973 C. Bernard, W. Rogers

1974 Vera Colbry

1975 Louis N. Bass

1976 Ray Kinch

1977 Edgar Sundermeyer

1978 Don Grabe

1979 E. E. Hardin

1980 James Delouche

1981 Dwight D. Forsyth

1982 Arnold Larson

1983 Wendell F. Ditmer

1984 Milton Meadows

1985 R.P. Moore

1986 George Spain

1987 Loren Wiesner

1988 T. Wayne Still

1989 Gail Fenderson

1990 Charles Abbott

1991 A.B. (Sandy) Ednie

1992 Rodger Danielson

1993 No Award Presented

1994 Larry O. Copeland

1995 Dennis TeKrony

1996 Richard C. Payne



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1997 No Award Presented
1998 Doug Ashton
1999 Deborah Meyer
2000 Charles Baskin
2001 No Award Presented
2002 No Award Presented
2003 Lee Daughtry
2004 Jim Lair
2005 Ellen M. Chirco,
2006 Joe Garvey, Miller McDonald
2007 Wayne Guerke
2008 No Award Presented
2009 No Award Presented
2010 Miller McDonald
2011 Richard C. Payne
2012 Susan Maxon
2013 Deborah Meyer
2014 Gil Waibel
2015 Michael Stahr
2016 Adriel Garay
2017 Sabry Elias
2018 Sue Alvarez
2019 Riad Baalbaki & Annette Miller
2020 No Award Presented
2021 No Award Presented
2022 No Award Presented
2023 Janine Maruschak, Special Service award
2024 No Award Presented



SCST HONORARY MEMBERS

1946	*Helen Peebles, McCullough Seed Co., Cincinnati, OH
1948	*Wilbur Wright, Dominion Laboratory, Ottawa, ON
1950	*Emma Sirrene, USDA, Washington, DC
1951	*F.H. Hillman, USDA, Washington, DC
1952	*Regina Schulte, USDA, Washington DC
1953	*Louisa Jensen, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR
1954	*Albina Musil, USDA, Hopkins, MN
1955	*George Elliot, Dominion Laboratory, Ottawa, ON
1957	*Eben Toole, Agr. Marketing Sv, PPI, Washington, DC
1958	*Altice Carter, Seed Contr., Purdue Univ., Lafayette, IN
1960	*Walter Davidson, AMS, USDA, Washington, DC
1961	*Duane Isley, Iowa State University, Ames, IA
1962	*Bower Forward, Dept. of Ag., Toronto, ON
1963	*Oren L. Justice, FCAP Research, USDA, Hyattsville, MD
1964	*Leroy Everson, Iowa State University, Ames, IA
1966	*Merle Pierpoint, Oregon State Seed Lab, Corvallis, OR
1967	*Pauline Balbach, Indiana State Seed Lab., Lafayette, IN
1968	*R.P. Moore, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC
1969	*L.N. Bass, Mat. Seed Storage Lab., Ft. Collins, CO
1970	*Vera Colbry, Federal Seed Lab., USDA, Sacramento, CA
1971	*Edward Hardin, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR
1972	*Willard Crosier, State Ag. Exp. Station, Geneva, NY
1973	*David Syme, Sr. Anchor Paper Co., St Paul, MN
1974	*Lester C. Shenberger, Indiana State Seed Lab., Lafayette, IN
1975	*Preston King, Northrup King & Co., Minneapolis, MN
1976	*Edgar W. Sundermeyer, NSTSL, USDA, Beltsville, MD
1977	*Elizabeth Wiseman, NSTSL, USDA, Beltsville, MD
1978	*Bonnie Jenkins, Iowa State University, Ames, IA
1979	James DeLouche, Seed Tech. Lab., Mississippi State, MS
1980	*James Harrington, University of California, Davis, CA
1981	*Ben E. Clark, NY State Ag. Exp. Station, Geneva, NY
1982	*Janetta Leveque, Federal Seed Lab, USDA, Montgomery, AL
1983	*Arne Wold, State Seed Testing Station, AS-NLH, Norway
1984	*Frances William "Bill" Dale, Agriculture Canada, Saskatoon, SK
1985	*Wendell Ditmar, Dept. of Ag., Harrisburg, PA
1986	No award presented
1987	*Carleton Hanson, MN Crop Improvement Association St. Paul, MN
1988	Miller McDonald, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
1989	*Arnold Larsen, Colorado State Seed Lab., Ft. Collins, CO
1990	Ellen Chirco, NY State Seed Lab., Geneva, NY
1991	Jim Bruce, Colorado State Seed Lab., Ft. Collins, CO
1992	Alexander B. "Sandy" Ednie., Agriculture Canada, Ottawa, ON
1993	*Don Ator, Texas Seed Trade Association, Pflugerville, TX
1994	Al Hoffman, Hoffman Manufacturing, Albany, OR
1995	*Al Stults, Stults Engineering Springfield, IL



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- 1996 Paul Hall retired Wyoming State Seed Lab
- 1997 *Doris Baxter retired CA Dept of Agriculture
- 1998 Roger Danielson retired Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR
- 1999 Greg Lowry, Idaho Society for Association Executives and AOSCA, Boise, ID
- 2000 *Charles Robert "Bob" Gunn, USDA, Beltsville, MD
- 2001 Doug Ashton, Canadian Food Insp. Agency, Ottawa, Canada
- 2002 Harold Laswell, Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch, Gastonia, NC
- 2003 Susan Maxon, Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch, Gastonia, NC
- 2004 *Hada Lambert, retired Cal/West, Davis, CA.
- 2005 Ken Allison, Canadian Food Insp. Agency, Ottawa, Canada
- 2006 No award presented
- 2007 No award presented
- 2008 Dennis TeKrony, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
- 2009 *Joseph Garvey, Pennsylvania State Seed Lab, Harrisburg, PA
- 2010 David Buckingham, Kentucky State Seed Regulatory Services, Lexington, KY
- 2011 Dr. Richard Payne, USDA-AMS, SRTB, Gastonia, NC
- 2012 Perry Bohn, USDA-AMS, SRTB, Gastonia, NC
- 2013 Joanne Hinke, CFIA, Saskatoon, Canada
- 2014 No award presented
- 2015 Alan Galbreth, Indiana Crop Improvement Association, Lafayette, IN
- 2016 Al Hoffman & Mike and Sherri Bartoz, Hoffman Manufacturing, Jefferson, OR
- 2017 Loren Wiesner, retired, USDA National Germ Plasm Resource Center Milliken, CO
- 2018 *Randy Goff, Mustang Seeds, Madison, SD
- 2019 Riad Balbaaki, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Sacramento, CA
- 2020 Janine Maruschak, CFIA Saskatoon Laboratory, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, CN
- 2021 Ernest Allen, USDA Seed Regulatory and Testing Division, Gastonia, NC
- 2022 Bob Price, CDFA Seed Laboratory, Sacramento, CA
- 2023 No award presented
- 2024 Harold Armstrong, Retired, SGS Seeds, Brookings, SD
- 2025 Pat Miller, Retired, ASTA

*deceased



AOSA HONORARY MEMBERS

Charles C. Abbott	Newville, PA
Francis J. Barney,	
Doris Leiser Baxter	Sacramento, CA
Jennie A. Bloodgood	South Amoy, NJ
Hollis E. Buckland	Essex Junction, VT
Ellen M. Chirco	Penn Van, NY
Clifford Christenson	St. Paul, MN
Rodney D. Cobb	
William Cook	Palmyra, PA
Lawrence Copeland	Mason, MI
Willard Crosier	
F. W. S. Dale	Saskatoon, SK, CANADA
M. Hanford (Gus) Day	Silver Spring, MD
Wendell Ditmer	Mechanicsburg, PA
Clyde R. Edwards	
A.B. (Sandie) Ednie	Chelsea, ON, CANADA
L.E. Everson	
Gail Fenderson	Meeker, OK
Dwight Forsyth	Madison, WI
Don F. Grabe	Sisters, OR
Wayne Guerke	Tifton, GA
Paul J. Hall	
Edward E. Hardin	Corvallis, OR
Alice Hartley	
James F. Harrington	Davis, CA
Ralph Henry Hoffman	Huntington Valley, PA
Duane Iseley,	Ames, IA
Bonnie Jenkins	
Louise A. Jensen	Corvallis, OR
R.C. Kinch	
Velva Kumpel	
Jim Lair	Cantrail, IL
Dwight W. Lambert	
Arnold Larsen	Fort Collins, CO
Waldo Lincoln	
Russell K. Marx	Madison, WI
Ada McFarland	
Elizabeth McSwain	Austin, TX
Milton Meadows	Tallahassee, FL
William N. Rice	Northampton, MA
Stanley Rollin	
Russell Ruud	Moorehead, MN
Malcolm Sarna	Maurertown, VA



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Charles Sciple

Jane Skinner

George Spain

T. Wayne Still

E. W. Sundermeyer

Vivian K. Toole

Thomas Umstatted

Loren Weisner

Cindy Finneseth

Dennis TeKrony

Don Grabe

Annette Miller

Deborah Meyer

Roger Burton

Janine Maruschak

David Johnston

LaPlace, LA

Raleigh, NC

Lexington, KY

Lees Summit, MO

Greensboro, NC

Lohman, MO

Milliken, CO

Oregon

Colorado

California

North Carolina

Saskatoon, SK, CA



SCST GAVEL CLUB & E.H. JENKINS PAST PRESIDENTS CLUB

To recognize the work of leading the Association and Society, AOSA established the E.H. Jenkins Past Presidents Club and SCST established the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists Gavel Club for those who have served in the office of president of the Association or Society.

SCST GAVEL CLUB

Past Presidents	Meeting Place
*James E. Benedict	1922 Chicago, IL 1923 Atlantic City, NJ 1924 Washington, D.C. 1925 Kansas City, MO
*Walter C. Pfaender	1926 Ithaca, NY 1927 Detroit, MI 1928 New York, NY 1929 Des Moines, IA
*Leona Holliman	1930 Cleveland, OH 1931 Toronto, ON, Canada
*Kerchival Smith	1932 Fargo, ND 1933 Chicago, IL 1934 None held
*Anton J. Zahorik	1935 Minneapolis, MN 1936 Rochester, NY 1937 Washington, D.C.
*Betty Ransom Atwater	1938 Guelph, Ontario, Canada 1939 Madison, WI
*Macy I. Spracher	1940 Auburn, AL 1941 Ames, IA
*W. Wells Oppel	1942 Lexington, KY 1943 Chicago, IL
*Bertha M. DeHam	1944 Columbus, OH 1945 None held
*Gabriel E. Nutile	1946 Lansing, MI 1947 Richmond, VA 1948 Springfield IL
*Wilson Stone	1949 Corvallis, OR 1950 Washington D.C.
*Joseph E. Barnes	1951 Guelph, Ontario, Canada 1952 Lafayette, IN
*Katherine H. Koos	1953 Lincoln NE 1954 Ames, IA
*Harold O. Thornes	1955 Stillwater, OK



*Mary E. Lamphier

Harley M. Reeder

*Elva L. Norris

*Charles C. Abbott

*Mary K. Ryman

*Joseph T. Charmella

*Ivah H. Clark

Robert H. Edwards

Lucy Neill

Lloyd Smith

*R. Jane Barris

*Coralie Wilson

David McClure

*Cecilia Kollack

Charlotte Jennings

Paul Johnson

Guin Jenanyan

Quentin Schultz

Cathy Cook

Travis Handwerker

Sharon Davidson

Michael O'Neil

Pat Brownfield

1956 Sacramento, CA

1957 Baton Rouge, LA

1958 Montreal, Quebec, Canada

1959 Bozeman, MT

1960 Springfield IL

1961 Richmond, VA

1962 Miami Beach, FL

1963 Ft. Collins, CO

1964 Rochester, NY

1965 Lexington, KY

1966 Vancouver, BC

1967 Madison, WI

1968 Atlanta, GA

1969 Sacramento, CA

1970 Jefferson City MO

1971 Raleigh NC

1972 Salt Lake City, UT

1973 Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

1974 Little Rock, AR

1975 Portland, OR

1976 Hershey, PA

1977 Amherst, MA

1978 Lincoln, NE

1979 Saskatoon, Sask., Canada

1980 Des Moines, IA

1981 Orlando, FL

1982 Corpus Christi, TX

1983 Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

1984 Boise, ID

1985 Richmond, VA

1986 Minneapolis, MN

1987 Sacramento, CA

1988 Rochester, NY

1989 Peoria, IL

1990 Annapolis, MD

1991 Lexington, KY

1992 Oklahoma City, OK

1993 Ft. Collins, CO

1994 Portland, OR

1995 Sacramento, CA

1996 Milwaukee, WI

1997 Savannah, GA

1998 Boise, ID

1999 Omaha, NE

2000 Ames, IA

2001 Albuquerque, NM

2002 Sioux Falls, SD



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Tim Gutormson

Diane Mesa

Gil Waibel

Doug Miller

Brent Reschly

Neal Foster

Barbara Cleave

David Stimpson

Heidi Jo Larson

Steve Beals

Melissa Phillips

Quinn Gillespie

2003 Seattle, WA

2004 Tunica, MS

2005 Saskatoon, SK, Canada

2006 Indianapolis, IN

2007 Cody, WY

2008 St. Paul, MN

2009 Fort Collins, CO

2010 St. Louis

2011 Williamsburg, VA

2012 Des Moines, IA

2013 Boise, ID

2014 Fargo, ND

2015 Tampa, FL

2016 Portland, OR

2017 Denver, CO

2018 Raleigh, NC

2019 Sparks, NV

2020 None Held

2021 Virtual Meeting

2022 Skokie, IL

2023 Saskatoon, SK, Canada

2024 Rapid City, SD

2025 Missoula, MT

*deceased

Gavel club is the year where President was sworn in.



E.H. JENKINS PAST PRESIDENTS CLUB

*deceased

YEAR	PAST PRESIDENT	MEETING PLACE
1908	*E. H. Jenkins	Washington D.C.
1909	*E. H. Jenkins	Boston, MA
1910	*E. H. Jenkins	Washington D.C.
1911	*E. H. Jenkins	Columbus, OH
1912	*G. I. Christie	Cleveland, OH
1913	*G. P. Burns	Washington D.C.
1914	*W. L. Oswald	Washington D.C.
1915	*W. L. Oswald	Columbus, OH
1916	*E. D. Eddy	Minneapolis, MN
1917	*A. L. Stone	Detroit, MI
1918	*G. T. French	Baltimore, MD
1919	*Harold DeMott Hughes	St. Louis, MO
1920	*Edgar Brown	Chicago, IL
1921	*George Harold Clark	Toronto, ON
1922	*F. W. Taylor	Chicago, IL
1923	*F. W. Taylor	Cincinnati, OH
1924	*Mancel T. Munn	Washington D.C.
1925	*Anna M. Lute	Kansas City, MO
1926	*W. H. Wright	Ithaca, NY
1927	*W. H. Wright	Detroit, MI
1928	*Eben H. Toole	New York, NY
1929	*Forrest S. Holmes Sr.	Des Moines, IA
1930	*A. L. Stone	Cleveland, OH
1931	*C. W. Leggatt	Toronto, ON
1932	*Fred H. Hillman	Fargo, ND
1933	*O. A. Stevens	Chicago, IL
1934	No Meeting Held	
1935	*W. L. Gross	St. Paul, MN
1936	*William Orr Whitcomb	Rochester, NY
1937	*George Arthur Elliott	Washington D.C.
1938	*Emma F. Sirrine	Guelph, ON
1939	*Leland N. Allen	Madison, WI
1940	*R. H. Porter	Auburn, AL
1941	*Charles "Hugh" Niman McIntyre	Ames, IA
1942	*F. H. McLaughlin	Lexington, KY
1943	*Charles A. Stahl	No Meeting Held



1944	*Charles A. Stahl	Columbus, OH
1945	*Norman G. Lewis, No Meeting Held	
1946	*Norman G. Lewis	East Lansing, MI
1947	*G. P. Steinbauer	Richmond, VA
1948	*Raymond C. Kinch	Springfield, IL
1949	*H. L. Weir	Corvallis, OR
1950	*Altice S. Carter	Washington D.C.
1951	*Louisa A. Kanipe	Guelph, ON
1952	*Bower F. Forward	Lafayette, IN
1953	*W. C. Pfaender	Lincoln, NE
1954	*Duane Isley	Ames, IA
1955	*Buford Jones	Stillwater, OK
1956	*Oren L. Justice	Sacramento, CA
1957	*W. D. Hay	Baton Rouge, LA
1958	*Benjamin E. Clark	Montreal, QC
1959	*Leroy E. Everson	Bozeman, MT
1960	*Lester C. Shenberger	Springfield, IL
1961	*Carroll M. Bass	Richmond, VA
1962	*E. Jess Doyle	Miami Beach, FL
1963	*Dwight D. Forsyth	Fort Collins, CO
1964	*Milton V. Meadows	Rochester, NY
1965	*Paul J. Hall	Lexington, KY
1966	*Edgar W. Sundermeyer	Vancouver, BC
1967	*C. Bernard W. Rogers	Madison, WI
1968	*Elmo E. Winstead	Atlanta, GA
1969	*Harry L. Smith	Sacramento, CA
1970	*Wendell P. Ditmer	Jefferson City, MO
1971	*Edward E. Hardin	Raleigh, NC
1972	*Lois N. Bass	Salt Lake City, UT
1973	*George E. Spain	Ottawa, ON
1974	*Thomas E. Cuddy	Little Rock, AR
1975	*William N. Rice	Portland, OR
1976	*Don F. Grabe	Hershey, PA
1977	*Francis William Shelby Dale	Amherst, MA
1978	*Ralph Hofmann	Lincoln, NE
1979	James C. DeLouche	Saskatoon, SK
1980	*Arnold Larsen	Des Moines, IA
1981	*Charles C Abbott	Orlando, FL
1982	Loren Wiesner	Corpus Christi, TX
1983	*Gail Fenderson	Ottawa, ON
1984	*Rodger Danielson	Boise, ID



1985	*T. Wayne Still	Richmond, VA
1986	Ellen Chirco	Minneapolis, MN
1987	*David Svik	Sacramento, CA
1988	Allen Knapp	Rochester, NY
1989	*William “Buddy” Vaughan	Peoria, IL
1990	*Dr. Charles C. Baskin	Annapolis, MD
1991	Dr. Wayne R. Guerke	Lexington, KY
1992	Dr. Wayne R. Guerke	Oklahoma City, OK
1993	James Lair	Fort Collins, CO
1994	James Lair	Portland, OR
1995	Deborah Meyer	Sacramento, CA
1996	Deborah Meyer	Milwaukee, WI
1997	Robert Karrfalt	Savannah, GA
1998	Robert Karrfalt	Boise, ID
1999	Richard Lawson	Omaha, NE
2000	Richard Lawson	Ames, IA
2001	Kathleen Willey	Albuquerque, NM
2002	Kathleen Willey	Sioux Falls, SD
2003	Lee Daughtry	Seattle, WA
2004	Lee Daughtry	Tunica, MS
2005	Ellen Chirco	Saskatoon, SK
2006	Ellen Chirco	Indianapolis, IN
2007	Brent Turnipseed, acting Jan-Jun 2007	Cody, WY
2008	Brent Turnipseed	St. Paul, MN
2009	Brent Turnipseed	Fort Collins, CO
2010	Michael Stahr	St. Louis, MO
2011	Michael Stahr	Fort Collins, CO
2012	Dan Curry	Des Moines, IA
2013	Dan Curry	Boise, ID
2014	Susan Reed, acting 6-2013 – 6-2014	Fargo, ND
2015	Susan Reed	Tampa, FL
2016	Susan Reed	Portland, OR
2017	Randy Crawl	Denver, CO
2018	Randy Crawl	Raleigh, NC
2019	Michael Stahr	Sparks, NV
2020	Michael Stahr, No Meeting Held	
2021	David Johnston	Virtual Meeting
2022	David Johnston	Skokie, IL
2023	Johnny Zook	Saskatoon, SK, Canada
2024	Johnny Zook	Rapid City, SD
2025	James Smith	Missoula, MT