

President's Report
AAPSE General Business Meeting
June 12, 2001
O. Norman Nesheim

2001 marks an anniversary for AAPSE. Ten years ago, April 1991, an evening meeting was held at the National Certification and Training Workshop at the Rosslyn West Park Hotel in Arlington, VA to discuss forming a national association for pesticide applicator training coordinators. I had the privilege of chairing the meeting. After about 40 minutes of discussion there was unanimous agreement to form an organization. A charter committee was appointed and the process began to form an organization known as the American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators. Most of the people listed for the charter committee are here (Jim Dill, Susan Whitney, Win Hock, Larry Schulze, Jim Criswell, Don Cress, Mike Stimmann, Howard Deer, Barry Brennan, Mac Horton, Mary Grodner, Norm Nesheim). We adopted our Articles and By Laws at the National Meeting in New Orleans in 1993 and elected our first officers.

AAPSE has gone through many things in the process of becoming a viable organization. Broadening our membership base has been important to the growth and recognition of AAPSE. Two years ago at the Portland meeting we amended our articles and by laws to expand the scope of full membership to include persons involved with state, tribal and federal agency training and certification programs. While on the subject of amendments to Articles and By Laws, we are in the process of changing our voting structure to simplify the voting process by giving full members a vote. With the growth and development of AAPSE as an organization we have found it necessary to change both structure and governance to meet the needs of an expanded membership and mission of the Association. Recognition of the need to make such changes, I think, represents a process of growth and maturity in an organization. I am certain that the AAPSE Articles and By Laws committee will continue to serve an important role for AAPSE as we grow and evolve as a professional organization.

I don't plan to recite a complete list of accomplishments of AAPSE for the past two years. The AAPSE Accomplishment Report for 1999-2001 prepared by the Executive Committee provides an excellent overview of Association activities during the past two years. I do want to note a few things to demonstrate that AAPSE is more and more being given a seat at the table when issues relating to pesticide education are discussed. However, being the youngest of 8 children, I learned that sometimes it is not enough just to have a seat at the table, it is how you use that seat or what you bring to the table that gets recognition. AAPSE and its members are receiving recognition that we bring something of value to the table.

The visibility of AAPSE has been increased through work done by the Issues and Evaluation Committee. This committee has offered comments on several issues identified by members as being important for our voice to be heard. Most notable, has been the issue of 25(b) labels. AAPSE has certainly raised the awareness of these labels and related concerns in EPA. Thanks go to Larry Schulze and others who worked with him for staying on this issue and getting a response from EPA.

Last month AAPSE was invited by EPA to participate in a workshop on their revitalized Endangered Species Initiative. The workshop focused on an outreach plan for the revitalized program. AAPSE will be involved with EPA and other partners in the development of outreach materials as this initiative evolves.

Recently, AAPSE was asked by EPA to participate on an implementation planning committee regarding the new globally harmonized hazard communication system (GHS) on pesticide labels. This new system will result in different toxicity categories, number of signal words, new symbols, new and revised hazard statements, as well as other possible changes. This will have significant impacts on applicator and consumer training as well as impacts on Worker Protection Standard requirements.

Another other area I want to highlight is AAPSE's involvement in the Pesticides and National Strategies for Health Care Providers. This project is a national initiative to improve the capability of primary health care providers to recognize and treat pesticide-related illness. AAPSE was represented on the federal planning committee and has been the principal source of pesticide content information and has been very important in providing credibility on this initiative. Amy Brown has been the principal liaison on the content information.

Last year AAPSE was asked to be involved in sponsoring the first program of the National Pesticide Stewardship Alliance that was held in Florida. Our participation was sought because as pesticide educators our programs are recognized to be an important component of stewardship efforts.

AAPSE has focused on professional development. In 1999 the Association conducted a feasibility study on creating regional train-the-trainer programs for its members. The goal of such regional programs is to strengthen the infrastructure of state training and certification programs by training those responsible for delivery of training or certification and enforcement activities. The goal was realized when the Southern Region Pesticide Safety Education Center (PSEC) at North Carolina State University was established. The North Carolina Pesticide Environmental Trust Fund and the Southern Region Pesticide Applicator Training Coordinators and Certification Managers supported the PSEC. Other regions are considering Regional Pesticide Safety Education Centers. Other professional development programs include AAPSE's first educational conference on drift held in Kansas City last year. Another program is scheduled for Sacramento, CA in September.

I want to report on the AAPSE Board of Directors' meeting that occurred Monday morning. The various committee chairs and liaisons gave reports of their activities. Their reports will be posted on the AAPSE Web Page and the membership will be notified when the reports are available.

The following actions taken by the Board of Directors are noted:

1. The Board approved the budget presented by the treasurer for the coming year.
2. The Board approved a dues increase for AAPSE members. Starting calendar year 2002 the

dues will increase from \$25 per year to \$50 per year. This action was taken due to the need to provide travel support for people representing AAPSE to various groups and committees.

3. The Board approved the Article and By Law changes proposed by the Articles and By Laws Committee to permit full members to vote in elections of officers for the Association. The proposed revisions to the Articles and By Laws will be posted on the AAPSE Web Page and the full members will be asked to vote on their approval after they have been posted for 60 days.

4. The Board approved a proposal for Executive Committee meetings to be closed meetings. The Executive Committee consists of the President, President-elect, Past President, Secretary and Treasurer. Minutes for the Executive Committee meetings will continue to be posted on the AAPSE Web Page. AAPSE Board of Directors' meetings will continue to be open meetings. The Board of Directors consists of the officers named and the regional representatives.

5. The Board agreed that AAPSE should sponsor professional educational opportunities for its members in years when the National Certification and Training Workshop is not held. Such meetings could precede or follow regional Pesticide Applicator Training and Certification programs. A professional development committee will be appointed to work on this effort.

AAPSE members are the Association's most valuable resource. We now have 160 members, perhaps more during this meeting. All of activities noted here and in the accomplishment brochure could not have been done without the efforts of our members. My thanks and that of the Executive Committee to all the regional representatives, liaisons to SFIREG, ASPCRO, and other groups, committee chairs, committee members and others who have given their time and effort on behalf of the Association. Your participation is important and valuable. I want to especially thank the officers and Board of Directors who have worked with me during the past two years. Thanks for your help.

AAPSE has come a long way in the last 10 years. Starting an Association as we have done is not easy. We had to define ourselves and what we have to offer. I think we are getting a good handle on who we are and what we can offer. We are receiving recognition for who we are and what we can offer. At the Board of Director's meeting the Strategic Planning Committee shared their vision of the future for AAPSE. When, not if, the Association puts the strategic plan in action, we will be, as their vision statement says, "an internationally recognized organization (emphasis on internationally recognized) representing professionals at educational institutions and regulatory agencies responsible for developing or facilitating pesticide risk reduction programs." I am certain the next 10 years will be challenging and most certainly interesting.

I want to close by saying if you are involved - stay involved and if you aren't involved - get involved.

Thank you.