

**Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Herpetologists' League**  
**15 July 2006**  
**Sheraton New Orleans Hotel**  
**New Orleans, Louisiana, USA**

President Ford called the meeting to order at 1600 h.

Past President Henry Mushinsky briefly summarized information about future joint meetings as discussed at the meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Treasurer Lora Smith reported a net loss in funds for the society, and she noted how this is accounted for by the transition to online publishing of HL journals. This will probably be balanced out by royalties from organizations such as BioOne. Smith discussed the HL endowment and its uses for supporting activities such as student travel. Finally, she detailed decreases in HL membership and ideas that the Board of Trustees had for increasing student membership. President Ford noted that the Board had also discussed strategies for bringing back former members.

*Herpetologica* Editor Alicia Mathis reported the switch to online submissions for the journal. She noted that the quality of publications is still high, and there are still many international contributors. She pointed out that she is always looking for artwork for the cover. Finally, she introduced Allen Press representative Annielaurie Seifert and ACG representative Angela Fine. Henry Mushinsky noted how high the impact factor for *Herpetologica* currently is. Angela Fine discussed the new journal website, access for members and nonmembers, and marketing efforts to increase institutional subscriptions. She noted that the Allen Press/ACG booth in the exhibitor's room at the meeting has received a great deal of interest.

Publications Secretary Stephen Mullin summarized business. ACG is currently handling missed issues and returns to sender. He noted that he will be taking up the task of creating an electronic bulletin board/list serve for society members for the purpose of posting society announcements. The listserv will take the place of the old newsletter. Since the old newsletter editor resigned, no replacements have volunteered. The intention is to keep the new list serve at a low volume. Finally, Mullin announced that HL will have a back issues clearance sale at the joint meeting in St. Louis in 2007, and HL will offer back issues in developing countries for free if they pay the postage.

Symposium Committee Chair Rafael de Sá announced that symposium proposal deadlines will be adjusted to accommodate the Joint Meeting Planning Committee.

Jaeger Award Committee Chair Christopher Shiel introduced the three Jaeger Award participants (Kerry Kriger, Libby Liggins, and O.Torres-Carvajal) and noted that they were all considered finalists. He suggested that a few additions be made to the

competition guidelines to justify single authorship on the talks and to emphasize the invitation to publish in *Herpetologica*.

**New Business:**

President Linda Ford discussed replacement of the Vice President. She noted that an election needed to be held since an appointee by the President cannot act as an elected officer. Susan Walls has agreed to chair the Nomination Committee again. She will come up with a list of nominees for the fall, and she is happy to receive suggestions.

President Linda Ford outlined the development of the new HL website. The new webmaster is an undergraduate student volunteer, Patrick Carew, who is being supervised by Henry Mushinsky. The society has purchased the domain name of [herpetologistsleague.com](http://herpetologistsleague.com). One of the HL officers will be looking into whether or not “.org” would be more appropriate than “.com” for the domain name. Ford requested that constructive comments on the site should be sent to Mushinsky. Currently, the new website is still under construction, and unfortunately the current meeting information was not posted. Standing committees will be responsible for their own sections of the website, and a Website Oversight Committee will police general cohesiveness of the site. Current newsletters will also be posted and archived on the site.

Treasurer Lora Smith discussed advance payment of dues. The dues structure is changing, and future advance payments will no longer be considered an option. Renewals will now only be considered for one year at a time. Linda Ford noted that rules for nonprofit organizations have made things too complicated to retain the advance payment system.

President Linda Ford announced that *Herpetologica* may now be publishing the HL Distinguished Herpetologist Lecture. A committee composed of C. Kenneth Dodd, Jr., Aaron Bauer, and Neil Ford has been formed to implement this.

The meeting was adjourned at 1640.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick C. Owen  
Secretary