

## **Report on the 2003 APS Council Meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina**

by Michael E. Matheron, Past Pacific Division Councilor

**Evolving Governance Structure for APS.** An integral component of effective governance is the development and implementation of a strategic plan. APS formerly operated under 5-year strategic plans and would begin to develop a new plan as the old one was approaching expiration. Due to the increased rate of change in the modern world, APS has moved to so-called continuous strategic planning, where the plan is modified as needed to deal with rapidly changing issues. Strategic planning topics discussed by APS Council this year in Charlotte included governance, strategic financial planning, and APS's international role. A recent survey of membership revealed that 78% of respondents felt that the current governance structure was fine and should not be changed. APS is currently financially sound; however, development of a strategic financial plan is imperative to deal with future financial uncertainties, such as a possible reduction of income from journals. Finally, since over 30% of APS members live outside the U.S., our Society needs to effectively address the needs of this sector of membership.

**Future annual meeting sites:** Organizational planning for the next annual meeting, which will be in Anaheim, CA in 2004, is in progress. The Pacific Division will meet concurrently at this site. The location for 2005 will be Austin, TX and for 2006 we will meet with the Canadian Phytopathological Society in Quebec City, Quebec. In 2007 the national meeting comes back to the Pacific Division when we will meet in San Diego. 2008 will be the centennial year for APS and the annual meeting will be held in Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN. Site selection for 2009 has been narrowed down to Portland, OR or Nashville, TN.

**Financial status of APS.** APS ended the current fiscal year (2003) with a loss of approximately \$132,000. Member services are the largest expense for the Society and include publication of *Phytopathology News*, support for *APSnet*, the awards program, placement, as well as many other activities. Other programs and projects are financially supported by APS as well, including the development of the *Plant Management Network*, establishing the Education Resource Center and informing the public of what we as a professional society do through the Office of Public Affairs and Education (OPAE) and the Public Policy Board (PPB).

The main sources of income are publications, including *Phytopathology*, *Plant Disease*, MPMI and APS Press. Library subscriptions for the print form of these journals currently provide the bulk of the income from these publications. However, the future status of institutional subscription income (due to pricing and access to electronic subscriptions) is unknown. If library subscriptions erode significantly, so will the income to the Society. Careful monitoring of the budget with appropriate adjustments of expenses as income changes will prevent the accumulation of sizeable deficits in the future.

**Adios.** It has been my privilege to represent the APS-Pacific Division on Council for the past three years. It is now time to welcome Gary Grove, our new Pacific Division Councilor. APS will face many challenges in the future. Remember that each of us as members comprise the American Phytopathological Society. As important issues surface and are discussed, let Gary Grove know how you feel about these issues. As members of the Pacific Division, Gary is our direct link to APS Council.

Respectfully submitted,

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Past Pacific Division Councilor