

The 58th Annual Meeting of the
North American Maple Syrup Council

October 23rd – 25th

Levis Quebec Canada

President Eric Randall gave the opening speech welcoming everyone to the province of Quebec and called the meeting to order.

Ray Bonenberg the president of the IMSI gave a welcome to everyone in attendance on the behalf of the IMSI.

Cecile Brassard Pichette gave a welcome on the behalf of the Citadelle producer's cooperative and welcomed the NAMSC to Quebec.

Roll call of the states and provinces was taken by Secretary Joe Polak. Vermont was not present at the meeting and they have not decided to rejoin the NAMSC.

Eric Randall stated after roll call was taken that we indeed had a quorum to conduct the business meeting.

The secretary's report was printed in the official book of the meeting proceedings and a motion was made to approve the secretary's report that was printed and it passed.

The treasures report was given by Joe Polak and it was also printed in the meeting book. Joe explained the financial report in detail and answered any questions that were asked in detail.

The maple research committee report was given by Winton Pitcoff. The University of Vermont submitted a research project on preventing disastrous seasons. The study would focus on the timing of tree tapping, fall to spring, diameters and depths of tap holes, and the effects of reaming tap holes to increase the yield on short seasons. The funding that will be allocated for this project will be \$35,000. The second proposal was submitted by the University of Maine. This study will focus on Microbial safety of maple sap and maple syrup under normal storage practices. This is a two year study that will be funded for a total of \$32,900. In the future the NAMSC will ask for letters of intent for research proposals to shape the direction of the research being done and make sure the research meets the goals of the NAMSC.

Tim Perkins wrote a report on the financial state of the North American Research Fund and how it compares to present production. This report was published in the convention booklet and was also published in the maple digest. The report explained in great detail with charts comparing maple syrup production over the last 30 years to the financial contributions to the North American research fund. Based upon the present value of maple syrup per pound and the present level of production in the US producers are only contributing 3 hundredths of a cent for every one dollar of maple syrup produced. The dollar amount is 50 times less than the per unit amount that a Quebec Federation of Maple Producers member pays. This fund has produced a lot of ground breaking maple production research

over the last 30 years. The NAMSC must figure out a revenue stream to fund itself and fund future research in the maple industry.

The Maple digest financial report was given by Joe Polak and Winton Pitcoff gave the editors report for the maple digest. Winton explained the practical skills guides that have been inserted into the maple digest. These inserts will be continuing over the next year. Winton explained that additional copies of the Maple Digest can be sent to the associations to use them as a recruitment tool.

The fiscal year 2018 budget was given to the delegates at the meeting. Joe Polak covered each line item of the budget in detail. The budget will be changed from the report given by Joe Polak to reflect the proceedings of the present business meeting.

Mike Girard the executive director gave an update on the North American Maple Syrup Councils strategic plan and some of the changes were explained. All of the changes to the strategic plan were listed in blue in the book that was provided at the convention.

A proposal was made to take the \$5000.00 dollar allocation that was set aside last year to be used at the Maple Museum and was never spent and add an additional \$5000.00 to it to complete the projects at the maple museum.

The education report was given by Eric Randall and Winton Pitcoff. One of the NAMSC projects that was highlighted in this discussion was the off flavor syrup kits that were sent out to all of the associations. This is a great tool to given to the associations by being a member of the NAMSC.

The ACER grant was discussed by Tim Perkins. This was a grant program that was set up by the US government and was actually funded this year. The University of Iowa, University of Maine and the University of Vermont were recipients of the project funds.

David Briggs gave the communication committee report and he mentioned that the Maple Digest is always looking for additional content from the local states and provinces. The costs of single issues of the maple digest were possible going to increase.

Karl Zander gave the website committee report and explained that the focus for 2018 would be on content management of the website which will be mostly behind the scenes work to keep the website updated to the most present technology.

Winton Pitcoff gave a report from the international maple syrup day committee. The committee would like activities from each state or province to be listed on the website during this month.

The Convention planning committee report was given by Joe Polak and he reminded everyone that the 2025 slot for the NAMSC meeting was open.

The NAMSC hall of fame committee report was given by Richard Norman and he mentioned that they are always looking nominees.

The North American Maple Syrup Producers Manual report was given by Tim Perkins. The manuals are sold out and they have no more hard copies. It was mentioned that you can get a free copy of the manual in a PDF form from the University of Ohio. The updates for this publication will not be done at this time, no money for the project, no help to complete the project, lack of extension workers etc. They are looking to discontinue the manual.

Eric Randall had a short discussion on funding sources for projects like the North American Maple Syrup Producers Manual and he explained that we need to come up with some funding sources for projects like these.

Gary Keough from NASS gave the 2017 crop report which included the 2017 production statistics and the 2016 price summary. You can download the NASS presentation from the NAMSC meeting on the NASS northeast website. The Census of Agriculture will take place later in 2017 and we should see a comprehensive report in the fall of 2018.

Luc Lagace gave the maple specialist report. He explained that Henry Marckus is retiring and the Eastern states will be face with a lot of extension personnel retiring the next several years. FSMA and good manufacturing processes will be some topics that will be affecting maple syrup producers the most in the next few years.

Winton Pitcoff made a motion to support the IMSI's social media campaign and I gained the support of the NAMSC.

The 2018 budget was passed after a small debate on the parliamentary procedure that was used.

The nominating committee report was give and David Briggs was nominated for President, Debbie Thomas was nominated for Vice President and Joe Polak was nominated for Secretary. The slate of officers was voted on and passed.

The life membership report was give and the following people were given life memberships: Bruce Bascom, Gary Gaudette, Gary Graham, and Cecile Brassard Pichette.

David Kemp gave a welcome to New Hampshire in 2018 and the Gavel was passed from Eric Randall to David Briggs. David adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

James Adamski

NAMSC Delegate