

C655.1 through C655.5 CSSA LIAISONS TO THE NATIONAL VARIETY REVIEW BOARDS

A. Status: Board Membership:

- C655.1 -- Grass
- C655.2 -- Small Grain
- C655.3 -- Soybean
- C655.4 -- Alfalfa and Miscellaneous Legumes
- C655.5 -- Sunflower

B. Composition: The Board, an official AOSCA function, is made up of members nominated by the agencies (the President of CSSA) they represent. CSSA has one member and an alternate on each of the above listed boards. Appointments are made by the President of AOSCA and/or its Executive Committee. Active CSSA members of Division C-1 shall be appointed; preferably from the public plant breeding sector because of the Board's other agency composition.

C. Tenure: The term of service is for four years. The representative serves the first two years as an alternate and a second two year term as CSSA's official member on the Board. Members are rotated off after two years service on the Board. AOSCA will ask CSSA for nominations prior to an October 1 appointment.

D. Functions:

1. Attends Board meetings which are normally held once per year, on call of the chair, to review materials submitted to AOSCA for accuracy and eligibility for certification. They make certain each variety is distinctively described for positive field identification. The alternates are urged to attend all meetings.
2. Submits to the CSSA Board of Directors and to the CSSA Executive Committee, via the Headquarters Office, an annual summary report of the committees' activities that are of interest to crop scientists and to CSSA.

E. President's Responsibilities to the Liaison:

1. Informs officers of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies and the National Variety Review Boards of the nominee.
2. Issues appropriate instructions designed to guide the liaison.

F. Address:

Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies
600 Watertower Lane, Suite D
Meridian, ID 83642
208/884-2493; fax: 208/884-4201
idahocrop@aol.com

G. Background: Agencies represented on Boards:

Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies
American Seed Trade Association
Crop Science Society of America
National Council of Commercial Plant Breeders
U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service
Plant Variety Protection Office (nonvoting, ex officio)

*The North American Alfalfa Improvement Conference appoints the members of the Alfalfa Variety Review Board.

Additional Information Provided by AOSCA (10/2009)

The Review Board typically meets in person once a year although we are working towards an eventual “virtual” meeting. Depending on the Board, it may be January (Alfalfa) thru April (Sunflower). The Soybean, Small Grain, and Grass Review Boards usually meet in February or March. Submitted applications are distributed to primary and alternate representatives by the Review Board Chair 2-4 weeks prior to the meeting via a password-protected, document sharing web site. This site allows for review and commentary of each application prior to the meeting. The number of applications assigned depends upon the number submitted and number of Review Board members and typically run from 5-20 per member. I am unable to address the time involved per application as it varies across the Boards. In an effort to make the review process easier and faster, the applications are “pre-reviewed” by a consultant to get as many questions and clarifications resolved prior to issuance to the Review Board. As a NVRB member, you are asked to review the applications, attend the meeting, and participate in the discussions of each application. AOSCA staff members and volunteers are responsible for all follow-up correspondence with applicants and final reports. The primary and alternate members are invited to attend the meeting but only the primary or designated alternate have voting privileges for the applications.

The application deadlines are posted on our web site (except for Sunflower at this time)

<http://www.aosca.org/events.html>. For 2010, the Alfalfa Review Board is meeting Jan 12th in Las Vegas; the Grass Board is meeting Mar 4th in Phoenix. The remaining Board meetings have not yet been set but typically the Sunflower Board meets in April in Fargo, ND. The Soybean Board generally meets in Feb at the Soybean Breeders Workshop in St. Louis but discussion is currently underway about the possibility of a virtual meeting for 2010.

NVRB members are responsible for their own travel and related expenses to attend the annual meetings and we strive to keep them as compact as possible to keep time commitments to a minimum. We now offer up to \$400 travel reimbursement for the primary representative or to the alternate if they attend in the primary’s absence. We appreciate the voluntary nature of serving on a Board, since it is a service to the seed industry as a whole, and we try not to place an undue burden on our volunteers and the organizations they represent.