

From the president, 05/06/2024

This president's note will be primarily factual, as there are a couple of updates. Most important at this time: the 2024 NAPB meeting (co-hosted by Bayer and University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign) with the theme "Rethink - Reimagine – Revolutionize" is just around the corner, and held in St. Louis and in Champaign, July 21-25, 2024. Registrations are open, late registrations start June 16, 2024: <https://www.plantbreeding.org/meetings/2024>. So, better sign up before June 16 !

Here the updates:

- 1) NAPB EC secretary election: Dr. Katy Martin Rainey (Purdue University) will be incoming secretary, starting July 25, 2024;
- 2) The NAPB 2024-2029 Strategic Plan was approved by an overwhelming majority (99%) of 162 voting NAPB members;
- 3) The name change to National Association for Plant Breeding (NAPB) was approved by the majority (86.5%) of 163 voting NAPB members. As a consequence, we are from now on the **National Association for Plant Breeding (NAPB)**;
- 4) The 2025 NAPB meeting venue and time in Hawaii has been decided. The 2025 meeting will be in Kailua-Kona, HI, May 25-29, 2025 (contact: Mikey Kantar; mbkantar@hawaii.edu);
- 5) NAPB meeting locations for 2026 and 2027 have been decided: the 2026 NAPB meeting will be in College Station, TX (contact: David Baltensperger; David.Baltensperger@ag.tamu.edu), tentatively June 8-13, 2026. The 2027 NAPB meeting will be in Fargo, ND (contact: Ana Maria Heilman Morales; ana.heilman.morales@ndsu.edu), tentatively June 24-28, 2027;
- 6) 3-year memberships have been implemented, current rates (1 year/3 years) are \$130/\$345 for regular members, \$70/\$165 for students.

A major milestone and accomplishment has been completion of the 2024-2029 NAPB Strategic Plan. It is a great document, highlighting the long-term aspirations of NAPB, organizing NAPB activities in a "4-pillar structure", and spelling out long and short term goals within each of these 4 pillars. This document would not have been possible without strong leadership from our past president, Hannah Senior. Hannah organized a brain-storming session more than 1 year ago, invited former NAPB presidents, and current NAPB EC members. Subsequent meetings involved NAPB committees and working groups. It was a very involved process leading up to the final document. So, at this place: **special thanks and kudos to you, Hannah !**

The document is far from being prescriptive. At the NAPB business meeting on July 24, 2024, implementation of the 2024-2029 NAPB Strategic Plan will be a major topic. As stated in the strategic plan: "It is, however, silent on the specifics on what and how this should be achieved. Working this out is a task that will require its own project team, and input from across the working groups, committees, and members. The new structure will almost certainly be something that evolves over time and the transition will not take place in one go." As a volunteer organization, the overall goal of the strategic plan is to encourage and best utilize volunteer ideas and energy, while being transparent (to avoid redundancies) and creating synergies between the different committees, working groups and the EC.

I am looking forward to this discussion at the 2024 NAPB meeting, and hope to see all of you there !

Thomas Lübberstedt