



OBFS Annual Report 2022

September 16, 2022

OBFS Business Meeting: Open to all attending members

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, and Network Coordinator reports

President's Report – Lara Roketenetz and Chris Lorentz

- Committees have been working hard and will provide more specific updates on their activities and their progress on the Year One Strategic Plan Priorities.
- The new OBFS website initiative is underway and is being led by the Membership Committee.
- A membership survey will be released soon after the Annual Meeting. The purpose of the survey is to get a better picture of the membership and to learn how OBFS can better serve them.
- There are several ideas and plans for how to continue membership engagement outside the annual meetings. These include virtual workshops offered through the IDEA+ committee and well as possible regional meetings.
- FSMLs featured in important recent federal legislation including the CHIPS Act and the America Competes Act.
- OBFS has a new, ad-hoc Advocacy Committee with an intern, Conner Philson.
- Nominations are being accepted for Vice President, Member at Large, Outreach Chair, Collaborations Chair, and Network Coordinator. Self-nominations welcome.

Vice President's report – Tom Bansak

- Tom's term as Vice President will end at the end of 2022. He will not be running for another term. The Board is currently accepting nominations for Vice President.
- Tom will continue to serve on the meeting planning committee and is working on a meeting planning manual.
- A post-meeting survey will be sent to the attendees to solicit feedback.

Secretary's report – Beth Norman

- Beth reminded members that all are welcome to attend Board Meetings. Zoom invitations are sent out approximately 3 weeks before the meeting via the OBFS listserv.

Editor's report –Stacy McNulty

- OBFS publishes 4 newsletters every year. The November 2022 issue is in progress.
- The 2022 budget and the proposed change to the bylaws aligning Board position terms to the calendar year passed.
- The Communication and Outreach committee is looking for more members.

Network Coordinator – Jason Tallant

- Jason is looking to train a new Network Coordinator. The primary responsibilities for this position include interacting with members regarding website content.
- The new website will likely streamline many of the maintenance and analytics involved with this position.

Treasurer report – Paul Wetzel

- Paul presented the Quarter Three numbers for the 2022 budget. Overall the finances are as expected. Things to note:
 - Expenses for Strategic Plan implementation are allocated by committee. Notable Strategic Plan line item expenses so far include the website contract (~\$18,000 paid on expected \$55,000).
 - The Vanguard mutual fund is down due to the general state of the stock market. Several years ago, funds were transferred from the mutual fund into the other accounts to finance the implementation of the Strategic Plan.
- Audits of the reports are conducted every month
- Currently, OBFS has 189 member stations and 38 individual members.

Strategic Plan Update and Committee Reports

Strategic Plan overview – Chris Lorentz

- The 2021-2026 Strategic Plan was developed during the summer of 2020, completed in 2021, and presented at the 2021 Annual Meeting.
- We are now in the implementation phase of the Strategic Plan. Year One Priorities were set and Action Items were assigned to committees to carry out. Each of the committees provided an update on their progress during their report.

Membership report – Paul Wetzel

- The main Year One Strategic Plan Action Item was the website overhaul.
 - The Membership Committee is looking for volunteers to help with website content and development. The next newsletter will include a mechanism to submit photographs for the new site.
 - The website developer is Nazar Kasiss. He developed The Virtual Field website. The new site will be more interactive and outward facing, will integrate The Virtual Field and International Committee services into the main OBFS site, will include create streamlined processes for membership to generate website content, and may incorporate annual meeting registration.

- The new site will have a small number of beta testers before going live. The old site will remain in place until the new one is operational.

Collaborations Committee – Chris Lorentz (for Paul Foster)

- This committee was formed as part of the Strategic Plan and needs a co-chair.
- The main Year One Strategic Plan Action Item for the Collaborations Committee was the membership survey.
 - Amanda Lindell (UC Davis) has been contracted to design the survey.
 - The survey will be active this fall.
- The Stations Exchange Program awarded three applications this fall.

Development report – Brian Kloeppe and Sarah Oktay

- The main Year One Strategic Plan Action Item was to plan Friend and Fund Raiser events to increase the visibility and advocacy of OBFS and FSMLs.
 - The 2022 event is a boat cruise from Travers City with ~35 people (10 from OBFS). It will likely raise ~\$1,800, offsetting the \$2,700 investment by OBFS.
 - The events lift up local FSMLs and show OBFS members how to run an event. This is a service that future OBFS meeting hosts can consider.
- The committee currently consists of 7-8 members and meets on the 1st Thursday of the month.

IDEA+ – Tori McDermott

- This committee has been renamed (formerly the Diversity Committee).
- The committee has formed working groups within the committee, recruited speakers for potential virtual workshops, collected DEI-themed resources for the website, provided input to the membership survey, and is thinking of how to incorporate DEI principles into OBFS policies and procedures.
- Future initiatives include forming a DEI statement for OBFS and exploring the possibility of providing a DEI certification for OBFS member stations.

International report – Rhonda Struminger.

- The main Year One Strategic Plan Action Item was to create a matching program.
 - Three groups have been matched and the stations are working and meeting together and finding ways to collaborate.
 - A new call for this program will be made in November.
 - The plan is to conduct a workshop on the program during the 2023 annual meeting.

- The Virtual Café is up and running. The next event will be in November. The goal is to hold 2-3 events per year.
- Travel awards were given for the 2022 Annual Meeting. These included the 2021 travel award winners whose awards were postponed due to the 2021 meeting being virtual as well as new 2022 award winners.
- There will be 3 virtual regional international meetings held in February-March of 2023. These meetings will help provide a template for regional meetings moving forward.
- The committee meets monthly.

Joint Communications and Outreach / Advocacy report –Jennifer Gee and Conner Philson

- The Communication and Outreach committee is an updated committee formed by merging the former Outreach committee with its Communication sub-committee. There is an opening for the chair of this committee.
- The main Year One Strategic Plan Action Item was the formation of an ad-hoc Advocacy Committee to oversee an Advocacy Policy Internship.
 - The advocacy policy intern is Conner Philson. His internship is paid through the National Science Policy Network. He has been trained through this organization and has attended the AIBS Congressional Visits Day.
 - The goal of the internship and committee is to raise awareness of policy makers.
 - The internship lasts through 2022 and will generate the following deliverables:
 - For OBFS: a one pager and infographic
 - For member stations: a tool kit targeted toward local and state government policy makers with a webinar training.

Governance report – Shane Waddell

- The main Year One Strategic Plan Action Items were to draft a Policy and Procedures manual and to hold an orientation for new Board members. Both initiatives will help with the sustainability of the organization.
 - The P&P manual is in draft form. This will be a living document that will evolve with the organization.
- The committee is working to update the OBFS Code of Conduct so that it covers more than just the Annual Meeting and so that it includes a procedure for how OBFS handles adherence failures.
- The committee is forming a data management plan for OBFS. Currently, data (e.g. documents, photos, manuals, etc.) are spread over several cloud resources, hard drives, and physical locations. The goal is for OBFS data to be organized and accessible.
- The committee also oversees the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Year Two Strategic Plan Priorities will include continuing Year One initiatives, planning Spring events (including regional meetings), and adopting an RFP for collaborative projects.

Introduction of the 2023 OBFS Annual Meeting

The 2023 Annual Meeting will be held from September 12-16 at the Organization for Tropical Studies La Selva field station in Costa Rica. A short presentation was given by the 2023 hosts.