



AOSCA Spring Newsletter

Message from Sarah Wilbanks, CEO

Spring is here and in our line of work that means an endless supply of field inspections, meetings, and all things certification!



Since taking over leadership of AOSCA, I have had the privilege of attending all three regional meetings. Each region is unique and has its own sort of 'personality'. I am reminded that I have been given the opportunity to work with incredibly smart, talented, and dedicated individuals throughout the world. Our members are the backbone of this association, and it's because you **believe** in what we are doing: providing valuable services and quality products around the world.

We have been quite busy in the AOSCA office with transitioning to a fully remote operation, planning meetings, and processing VRB applications to name a few. We are really excited to see each of you again in Wenatchee for our 2022 Annual Meeting. We have a great line up of speakers to accompany our business and commodity meetings.

I want to especially point out that we will be hosting several sessions targeted at "new" members, although we hope others will want to attend as well. On Sunday night, we will have a New Members Meet and Greet at 5pm (prior to the reception) for members to meet our board members and get some tips to use throughout the week. I will also be hosting a breakout along with Pat Miller from ASTA to explain all things AOSCA and the role other associations play in the seed industry. Additionally, Lauren Port from California Crop Improvement Association has prepared an AOSCA Handbook Introduction presentation that will help you and your staff learn and apply the standards by attending a virtual course offered and organized by the Standards Council.

Please be sure to get your registration and hotel accommodations made. We are looking forward to a great conference.

I am looking forward to seeing each of you in a few short weeks!

-Sarah

REGIONAL MEETINGS CONCLUDE,

PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY FOR 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

AOSCA's Regional meetings were held throughout the month of April in Manhattan, KS (Western), Charleston, SC (Southern), and LaFayette, IN (Northern). We had great attendance for each meeting, which proves that we are all pretty happy to be working with each other in person again!

To summarize, we will have 5 Standards Change proposals going into our Annual Meeting in June.

1. PVG, GX of GX (Moore)
2. Vegetatively Propagated Hybrid Bluegrass Turfgrass Certification Standards (Hollifield)
3. Quinoa Certification Standards (Koala, Unverzagt)
4. Appendix II (Port)
5. Containerized Turfgrass Plug Certification Standards (Auman)

Each region had several discussion topics and some really good troubleshooting sessions. At the conclusion of the Southern and Western, all attendees participated in a SWOT activity that allowed agency input on the goals and objectives of AOSCA in the next three years. Unfortunately, we did not get to do the SWOT with the Northern Region, but we plan to offer this either virtually or at the annual meeting.

A special thanks to our hosts for their efforts in organizing our regional meetings!





AOSCA's NEW EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: TERESA SNYDER

We would like to Welcome Teresa Snyder to our AOSCA family. She will be serving as AOSCA's executive assistant, formally held by Peggy Gromoll. Teresa has a 20-year work history that makes her a perfect fit for this position. She has "hit the ground running" and has spent a great deal of time training with Peggy.

We are excited to have Teresa and know she will do a great job for AOSCA.



MOLINE OFFICE CLOSURE, NEW MAILING ADDRESS

The Moline, IL headquarters closed on April 30, 2022. AOSCA staff will work fully remote moving forward.

The new AOSCA mailing address for all correspondence and payments is **P.O. Box 174, Fayette, MO 65248**

Another new feature in place is the option to **pay electronically** rather than by check for any services and/or events provided by AOSCA. For guidance on utilizing our online payment option via QuickBooks Online, please contact [Teresa Snyder](#).

The AOSCA office number will remain the same. **(309)-736-0120**

2022 ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE



Don't forget to register for our Annual meeting in Wenatchee, WA!

The hotel block closes on 05/24/2022, so be sure to book your room.

All information for the Annual meeting can be found [HERE](#).
Full agenda will be made available after the deadline for committee agenda items.

AOSCA President's Corner

I want to say how wonderful it was to see everyone at the regional meetings this year. There were many familiar faces and even more new faces for me to meet, in person! The hosts were wonderful and their hospitality was top notch! This year we will be conducting our annual meeting in person after two years of conducting business remotely. I could not be more excited! The discussions, conversations, and meals at these meetings are second to none. More importantly though, relationships that are forged during these meetings can be long lasting and can help us all to complete our work while providing a higher quality service to all our customers and members. I encourage as many people as possible to come to the annual meeting this year, enjoy all that Eastern Washington has to offer and continue to work on expanding your relationships with those in the seed certification business. Also, if we haven't spent much time together please try to seek me out as I'd love to hear more about everyone's story! Take care and I will see you all soon!



-Andrew Altishin



MAY:

10th: Annual Meeting Committee - agenda items requested
23rd: ASTA Sponsored Bureau of Land Management meeting, Boise, ID
24th: Coast Hotel Annual Meeting Room Reservation Deadline
30th: AOSCA Office Closed in observance of Memorial Day

JUNE:

5-9TH: SCST/AOSA Annual Meeting
13-17th: OECD Annual Meeting
19-22nd: AOSCA Annual Meeting

JULY:

1st: Small Grains VRB Applications Due
4th: AOSCA Office Closed in observance of July 4th

AUGUST:

2nd: Hemp VRB Applications Due

DECEMBER:

1st: Alfalfa & Misc. Legumes VRB Applications Due

5-8th: ASTA Annual Meeting

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