



**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE 2020 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SPICE TRADE ASSOCIATION, INC. HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020, VIA WEB MEETING.**

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**1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

President David Solomon, BDS Natural Products, called the Annual Business Meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. A quorum was present.

**2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

David Solomon provided an overview of ASTA's accomplishments and activities of the past year, including the work of the ASTA Standing Committees and an update on the ASTA Membership.

**3. ELECTIONS**

Nominating Committee Chair Simone Cormier, Allegro Coffee Company, presented the slate for the Board of Directors:

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Directors to serve one year:

Mostafa Bedair, Giza Seeds and Herbs

Larry Lichter, McCormick and Company

Carol Kitchen, B&G Foods

Lynda Lathrop, Griffith Foods

Pontus Mattsson, Silva International

Jill Russell, Olam Spices and Vegetable Ingredients

Peter Sayia, AA Sayia

Peter Shah, Harris Spice Company

Suvan Sharma, Jain Farm Fresh

David Solomon, BDS Natural Products

Greg Sommerville, Frontier Co-op

Sebnam Karasu will serve the second year of her term as the non-voting representative of the Associate Membership.

**ARBITRATION BOARD**

Simone Cormier presented the slate for the Arbitration Board:

Spencer Martin, Wm. E. Martin & Sons Co., Inc., to serve a two-year term as Arbitration Board Chair.

Dan Crabbe, A.A. Sayia & Co., Inc., to serve the second year of a two-year term as Board member.



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J.C. Solazzo, Jain Farm Fresh Foods Ltd., to serve the first year of a two-year term as Board member.

Alternates to serve one-year terms:

Paul Chowla of Ludwig Mueller

Rich Hamerschlag of Accurate Ingredients

Tom Overby of Nedspice U.S.

Terry Sutton of Advanced Spice & Trading

Motion made and seconded to elect the Board of Directors and Arbitration Board. The Board of Directory and Arbitration Board was duly elected. Simone Cormier announced that in accordance with the Bylaws, the ASTA Board of Directors will elect officers at their next meeting, but traditionally the Vice-President is elected as the ASTA President. She then introduced Larry Lichter as ASTA's presumed incoming President.

**4. INCOMING PRESIDENT LARRY LICHTER**

Larry Lichter thanked outgoing President David Solomon and Past President Simone Cormier for their service. Larry Lichter presented the new mission, vision, and strategic plan to the membership. He then provided an update on ASTA's ongoing activities to further the Association's strategic goals.

**5. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Pontus Mattsson, Silva International, reviewed the financial impact of the cancellation of the Annual Meeting. He then presented the new investment policy and draft 2020-2021 Budget. Next, he reviewed the audit of the 2018-2019 fiscal year and the current financial state of the association, which is financially healthy. The audit, annual report and the financial policies and procedures can be found on the ASTA website.

**6. SPECIAL GUEST**

Ben Nemtin, the keynote speaker from the 2019 ASTA Annual Meeting, provided an update and words of encouragement to the ASTA membership in these unusual times.

**7. ASSOCIATION/MEMBER UPDATE**

Laura Shumow, ASTA Executive Director, provided an update for members on ASTA's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Then, announcements regarding the ASTA Online Program were presented.



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**8. SUSAN L. ABBOTT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

The scholarship selection process was described, and the Scholarship Task Force was recognized. The winners of the Susan L. Abbott Memorial Scholarship award are:

- Matthew Biegger, Michael Biegger with B&G Foods
- Alex Yuan, Jian Yuan with Griffith Foods
- Riya Khokhal, Ketan Khokhal with Certified Laboratories
- Lucas Kluger, Mary Lee Kluger with Certified Laboratories
- Brandon Bullock, Wendy Bullock with Kutas Group
- Halee Sinner, Kim Sinner with B&G Foods
- Reagan Cowser, David Cowser with Silva International
- Isabella Chavez, Anthony Chavez with Buhler Inc.
- Gabrielle Struchen, Nicole (Nikki) Struchen with B&G Foods
- Israel Correa, Noel Correa with Asenzya

All members are encouraged to contribute to the scholarship to fund next year's awards.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

The virtual meeting was opened for questions and new business, but none were raised.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The 2020 Annual Business Meeting adjourned at 12:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Skerritt