The meeting was called to order by President Ken Quesenberry. Board participants were:

Kenneth H. Quesenberry, CSSA President
Joseph G. Lauer, CSSA President-Elect
William J. Wiebold, CSSA Past President
C. Corley Holbrook, C-1 Board Rep.
Randy Wells, C-2 Board Rep.
Emerson D. Nafziger, C-3 Board Rep.
Gregory E. Welbaum, C-4 Board Rep.
Michael D. Richardson, C-5 Board Rep.
Lynn E. Sollenberger, C-6 Board Rep.
Gary J. Muehlbauer, C-7 Board Rep.
Thomas E. Carter, Jr., C-8 Board Rep.
Michael A. Grusak, Provisional C-9 Board Rep.
Craig A. Roberts, CSSA Editor-in-Chief, ex-officio
Lee E. Sommers, ASF Rep., ex-officio
Ellen Bergfeld, Chief Executive Officer, ex-officio

Also present:
Fran Katz, Chief Operations Officer and Director of Publications
Wes Meixelsperger, Chief Financial Officer
Susan Chapman, Director of Member Services
Karl Glasener, Director of Science Policy
Keith Schlesinger, Director of Meetings and Conventions
Cathy Goudreau and Meg Ipsen, Recorders

C003 Board of Directors
1. ACTION: It was moved by Corley Holbrook to approve the January 6, 2009 CSSA Board of Directors Conference Call minutes. Seconded by Randy Wells. Carried unanimously.

2. The Board will meet March 30-31 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Atlanta. The meeting will begin at 1:00 PM on March 30 and end at 3:00 PM on March 31. Board members were requested to forward agenda items to Ken Quesenberry and Ellen Bergfeld. Travel itineraries are to be forwarded to Stacey Phelps at Headquarters.

3. The next Board conference call is scheduled for May 5, 2009 at 8:00 AM Central Daylight Time.

C201 Organization, Policy, and Bylaws
It is anticipated that the O&P Committee will meet during the March 30-31, 2009 Board meeting.
C201.4 Strategic Planning
It is anticipated that the new CSSA website will be launched by the March 30-31 Board meeting.

C211 Budget and Finance
Wes Meixelsperger reported a positive net income from operations for the twelve months ending December 31, 2008. However, due to the investment loss, the Society will show a net loss.

Emerson Nafziger reported that revenues and expenses are on target for the month ending January 31, 2009.

ACS237 Membership and Society Identity
Susan Chapman reported on membership and renewal statistics. To date, 81.8 percent in the Active membership category have renewed, however, the typical renewal rate of 91 percent should be achieved. Efforts to retain the non-renewed members are ongoing, particularly in the Graduate Student category, which is down about 10 percent.

C301 Editorial Affairs, Policies, and Practices
1. Fran Katz and Craig Roberts provided a brief status report on CSSA journals. Publications in general were on budget by about 72 percent. Subscription renewals for 2009 are approximately $2,000 ahead of the same time period last year.

Processing time for Crop Science manuscripts is being monitored and it is anticipated that the Editorial Board will consider the feasibility of publishing the journal monthly.

The Plant Genome is on track to accept 30 papers this year compared to the goal of 40 papers. The journal is breaking even on a per paper basis and it is anticipated that an impact factor will be achieved in a year or so.

The Journal of Plant Registrations continues to improve and is on track to publish 100 papers in 2009.

2. As a follow-up to discussions on the January 6, 2009 CSSA Board conference call, Craig Roberts prepared a document further addressing the concerns regarding an applied, electronic journal. Following considerable discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that this will be a major agenda item for the March 30-31 Board meeting. Fran Katz will provide a mock-up of a supplement to Crop Science, a special section to Crop Science, and a stand alone publication, including costs associated with each option. She will also provide information on possible competing publications.

ACS536 Science Policy
ACTION: It was moved by Randy Wells to approve Executive Committee actions regarding 1) the letter thanking House leadership for including science funding in the Economic Stimulus bill, and 2) signing on to the Conservation Coalition’s letter to USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack in support of full funding of USDA conservation programs and sufficient technical resources to implement the programs and work directly with landowners on conservation practices. Seconded by Bill Wiebold. Carried unanimously.
C711 Program Planning
Joe Lauer provided an update on the 2009 annual meeting. A WEBEX meeting room will be set up for the week and Society Program Chairs will identify key sessions that qualify for WEBEX broadcast. To date, a final decision has not been made on a speaker for the Klepper Lecture but it is anticipated that an individual will be identified in the near future. Board members were encouraged to forward suggestions of possible speakers to Joe.

Keith Schlesinger reported that the printed program book will be available on-site, but meeting attendees with a U.S. address that have preregistered, will have the option of receiving a program book by mail for a $10 fee. A cost savings of $12,000 to CSSA, ASA, and SSSA is anticipated.

Keith Schlesinger informed the Board that authors will be encouraged to submit their abstracts by April 24 because the abstract submission fee will increase from $45 to $60 for regular member submissions and from $25 to $40 for student submissions on April 25. The deadline date for all submissions is May 5.

Keith Schlesinger is pursuing the possibility of virtual posters at future annual meetings.

Meeting adjourned.