The meeting was called to order by President Rich Barczewski. Sixteen members were present. Each was provided with the agenda for the meeting, minutes from the last meeting and the Treasurer’s report. Our beginning balance on Dec. 31, 2003 was $13,743.49. Ending balance on Dec. 31, 2004 was $8,872.06. During the Treasurer’s report, Rich Erdman pointed out the unusual deficit in the budget was due to the large number of student awards and the donation for a digital image curation at the National Ag. Library. It was moved by Mark Varner and seconded by Bob Peters to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed. It was moved by Tom Hartsock and seconded by Mark Varner to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented. Motion passed.

Rich Barczewski recognized and thanked Dr. Ken Cummings of Church and Dwight for their continued financial support for the Young Scientist awards for the Northeast Region. Morse Solomon was recognized for his assistance with obtaining plaques for the awards, and the ADSA/ASAS were recognized for their financial and administrative support for the Northeast Region.

Tom Hartsock presented an update on the Graduate Paper Competition. Each student was presented with the judges’ comment sheets and a check for $150 for travel expenses. Five students participated in the competition. Rachel Teller (Univ. of Delaware) was this year’s winner. Neil Brown (Penn State) and Ashley Peterson (Univ. MD) placed second and third, respectively. Prize money awarded was $500 for first, $300 for second, and $150 for third. Judges Tony Capuco, Rich Barczewski, and Rich Erdman were recognized and thanked.

The agenda was altered due to the late arrival of Dr. Capuco. Dr. Barczewski updated the group on the Challenge Grant and encouraged all to participate.

The floor was open for discussion concerning meeting format. Sheila Andrew asked how many people attended the NE Regional meeting in 2004. Rich Erdman said 40. Tom Hartsock said awards not meals drive attendance. Rich Erdman said he liked the formality of the luncheon. Mark Varner agreed and said the overlap with other events should be avoided in planning for 2006. Sheila Andrew said the low attendance of today’s meeting was due to the lack of a luncheon. Discussion ended with no motion.

The floor was open to discuss potential of organizing a symposium. Tony Capuco said Johne’s disease was a possible topic. Mike Westendorf suggested partnering with his committee on Animal Health to co-sponsor the event. Tony Capuco mentioned the deadline was Aug. 19th for ideas, and he welcomed other suggestions to be sent to him by email. He also warned that there was not much time to figure out the topic, speakers, costs, schedule, and number of papers. Discussion ended with no motion.

Tad Sonstegard was given the floor to make the presentation for the Young Scientist Award to Dr. Doug Bannerman, the 2005 recipient from USDA, ARS, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. Dr. Sonstegard yielded the floor to Dr. Capuco, who presented the Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Ray Stricklin of the University of Maryland.
The next joint meeting of ADSA/ASAS will be July 9-13, 2006 in Minneapolis, MN. Rich Barczewski announced the new officers for next year are: President, Tony Capuco; Vice-President, Tad Sonstegard; Secretary/Treasurer, Rich Erdman. Rich Barczewski thanked Tony Capuco for heading the Distinguished Service Award Program effort and Tad Sonstegard for heading the Young Scientist Award program. Tony Capuco presented Rich Barczewski with a plaque in appreciation of his hard work over the last several years on behalf of the NE Region of ADSA/ASAS.

There being no further business, it was moved by Mike Westendorf and seconded by Mark Varner to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.