



The American Peony Society

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes May 16, 2019 | 6:00pm (Central)

Purpose: Continue Planning for 2019 and 2020

Limits: Any unfinished business will be resumed at our next bi-monthly meeting, scheduled for Thursday, July 25, 2019.

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

In attendance: Nate Bremer, Hazel Cook, Adriana Feng, Don Hollingsworth, Reiner Jakubowski, Kris Jurik, David Michener, Mike Miller, Mary Muellner, Scott Parker, Lorē Sampson, Linette Sorrentino, Cory Tishman, Kent Tretheway, and Piet Wierstra were in attendance. Absent: Carol Adelman, David Maltby

II. Website Roll Out and Update – Nate Bremer

The main website is now live. Nate demonstrated the site. Also covered were outage response, areas where more content will be needed, feedback from members at the convention, and areas needing more content.

III. Reading and Approval of Minutes – Mary Muellner

Minutes for March 21, 2019 meeting were corrected and approved. The Heartland Peony Society was planning on having a bus trip to attend the APS flower show.

IV. Treasurer's Report – Kris Jurik

Kris gave an update on the Society's current finances and activity expected prior to fiscal year end.

V. Committee Reports:

▪ **Auction Committee – Mary Muellner, Chairman**

The auction listing was finalized and printed prior to the start of the convention. Linette and David Sorrentino were very helpful during this process. Decision made to donate an APS owned 1928 Boyd book that is a duplicate to the auction. Other duplicated books will be added to future auctions.

▪ **Award of Landscape Merit (ALM) Committee – Adriana Feng, Co-Chairman**

Nine new judges trained. Currently, 27 Peonies are in the process of being judged.

- **Books & Publications Committee** – Mike Miller, Chairman

- **Bulletin Committee** – Lorē Sampson, Editor

Plan in place to catch up and keep current on bulletins.

- **Commercial Membership Committee** – Piet Wierstra, Chairman

Commercial membership committee will be meeting for ongoing discussion on possible changes.

- **Convention Steering Committee** – Linette Sorrentino, Co-Chairman

The next three convention locations have been set. The 2020 convention will be announced at the general meeting on May 18, 2019.

- **International Outreach Committee** – Cory Tischman, Chairman

Continue to work to involve peony societies and enthusiasts on an international level.

- **Nomenclature Committee** – Reiner Jakubowski, Chairman

Change to add a fifth annual Bulletin, which will include full descriptions of all new registrations for the year. Each quarterly bulletin will have a listing of the registrations for the quarter. New registrations will be added to the online registry during the year.

- **Seed Distribution Committee** – Scott Parker, Chairman

Shipping costs to increase for next year. Also considering other changes for next year's seed distribution program. Changes include pricing structure, adding an online inventory, and online pay function. Need for seed donations are high right now. A lot of interest among all members, especially internationally.

- **Social Media Committee** – Nate Bremer, Chairman

Social media – number of followers continue to grow on each platform with Facebook leading the way with over 4,600 followers.

- **Mentorship Committee Update** – Kent Tretheway, Chairman

Committee members include Nate Bremer and Don Hollingsworth. Work continues on a functioning product to assist, or mentor, new members. The Social Media Committee wants to help advertise and assist in other ways with the program.

VII. New Business:

▪ **Possible New Peony Book** – David Michener

The book would be produced in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the peony garden at the University of Michigan. Focus will be on peonies in Michigan and the Great Lakes area.

▪ **Gold Medal Selection**

Adriana Feng submitted a list of possibilities from nominations. Additional nominations were made by Board members. Lesser known varieties were discussed.

- Gold Medal winner: Angel Emily
- Runner Up: Nosegay

▪ **Board Members**

All Board Members whose terms expire in 2019 (including Nate Bremer, Kris Jurik and Linette Sorrentino) have agreed to serve another term. Don Hollingsworth plans on retiring from the Board after many years of service. Corresponding Secretary Hazel Cook will also be nominated as a Director. This slate of Directors will be presented for a vote at the General Membership meeting.

▪ **Other New Projects and/or Business?**

- Kris Jurik and Lore Sampson will begin working on establishing a Youth Committee.
- Photo standardization is another project under discussion. Standardization would benefit provide multiple benefits.

VIII. Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn. Motion carried.