

Adriana Feng

Background

- Hobbyist grower,
- Hybridizer
- Casual gardener
- Floral arranger
- Grows 300+ peony varieties

Strengths

- Coding/web design
- Technology
- Photography
- Email Distribution lists
- APS judge
- APS Convention planner
- Managing people
- Served on another volunteer board in the past

Weaknesses

- (none listed)

Interested Committees

- Award of Landscape Merit Committee
- Awards Committee
- Convention Steering Committee
- Nomenclature Committee

Skills and Expertise

- "listed above"
- Would like to develop knowledge in the following areas:
 - hybridizing

Connections and Networking

- "not sure"

Passion and Commitment

- Interest in BOD
 - "Hearing what others have to say about their regional challenges for growing peonies as every climate has its own challenge, and I think it is important for us to recognize that and customize our recommendations/growing advice depending on the climate. That's the best way we can encourage more people to fall in love with peonies."
- Motivation
 - "Seeing people happy and sharing their joys with the community."
- Time Commitment
 - "varies"
- Aspirations
 - "Continue to serve as I am able, help with the cultivar images for the database, continue to organize the ALM committee and hopefully get some cultivars awarded"
 - Increase inclusiveness, diversity, and friendliness

Cory Tischman

Background

- Hobbyist gardener
- Hybridizer
- Grows 325 different peonies

Strengths

- Open-minded and curious
- Creative
- Interested in other's perspectives
- Quicker learner
- Works well independently and on a team
- Good memorization
- Timely and organized

Weaknesses

- Can emotionally shut down at times during heated conversations and usually needs a few minutes to regroup
- Can become impatient when deadlines are met
- Sometimes needs help with getting ideas started

Interested Committees

- Awards of Landscape Merit (ALM) Committee
- Educational Committee
- International Outreach Committee

Skills and Expertise

- Skills as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
 - Effective communication and interpersonal skills
 - Conflict resolution skills and training
 - Instruction and leadership skills
 - Systems analysis and evaluation
 - Active listening and learning skills
 - Crisis management skills
- Leadership experience serving on the Wisconsin Peony Society (WPS) BOD for the last five years and APS BOD for the last two years
- 12 years of experience with photography as a part-time job
- Competencies in peony history, hybridizing, and judging
- Would like to develop knowledge in the following areas:
 - Hybridizing
 - Peony identification
 - Peony genetics

Connections and Networking

- Current President of the WPS
- Connections with international members of the APS through the International Outreach Committee

Passion and Commitment

- Interest in BOD
 - "My interest in being part of the BOD is driving it in a direction that brings about more inclusivity and diversity within the BOD but also within the organization itself."

APS Board of Directors & Officers Profiles

- Motivation
 - “Motivation to me is when I feel I have accomplished what I have done for the day and don’t have anything looming over me. I feel motivated when I am connected and engaged with my peers and notice an energized feeling in those moments.
- Time Commitment
 - I can typically accommodate several hours a week for commitments to the BOD and committees. It helps to plan things out in advance as I don’t have much time to do things last minute as my time does get booked quickly.
- Aspirations
 - Creating a more diversity within the BOD
 - Increasing involvement with members in committees
 - Connecting the APS to other peony societies around the world
 - Establish reference gardens that people can go to for peony identification

David Maltby

Background

- Hobbyist grower
- have three different gardens. One a bit neglected and one newly established and expanding. One at Whistling Gardens and in part integrated with the display beds there.
- Not counting the ones that are integrated as part of Whistling gardens, there must be over 600 different varieties.

Strengths

- Organizational skills
- Connections with peony growers throughout Canada

Weaknesses

- Social media
- Time

Interested Committees

- Award of Landscape Merit (ALM) Committee
- Convention Steering Committee
- Exhibition Committee

Skills and Expertise

- Experience growing peonies and other such plants as lilies
- Would like to develop knowledge in the following areas:
 - Species identification

Connections and Networking

- “In the Canadian Peony Society, I was fortunate to make connections and friendships with peony enthusiast and hybridizers in Quebec and draw them into participating in the CPS”

Passion and Commitment

- Interest in BOD
 - “The interests and accomplishments of the other board members.”
- Motivation
 - “Seeing peonies and other plants grow and growing them.”
- Time Commitment
 - this is a difficulty for me as I have employees who I depend on off with major health issues
- Aspirations
 - “Maintain the APS and increase membership: all specific gardening societies are declining in membership and then the work of keeping the societies going gets more dependent on a few people”
 - a move away from hotel based shows

David Michener

Background

- Hobbyist grower
- Casual gardener
- Scientific studies
- Writer
- Grows 66 peonies (24 herbaceous, 25 tree, 17 intersectional)

Strengths

- Patience
- Honesty
- Slow to anger
- Focused

Weaknesses

- Puns
- Can be VERY focused
- Poor hearing
- Can be judgmental

Interested Committees

- Convention Steering Committee
- International Outreach Committee
- Scientific & Horticultural Studies Committee
- Website Committee (specific content)
- Other: Institutional gardens

Skills and Expertise

- Experience managing team projects
- Would like to develop knowledge in the following areas:
 - Long-term: a community of peony thinkers/researchers – not just “scientists”

Connections and Networking

- Connections to numerous public gardens
- Connections with peer scientists

Passion and Commitment

- Interest in BOD
 - “Networking and finding **NEW** people – not just the “already discovered”
- Motivation
 - “Professional excellence”
- Time Commitment
 - “At least a day a month, not counting the Annual Peony Convention”
- Aspirations
 - A successful 2021/22 American Peony Society Convention
 - Upgrade web content, include science
 - APS to run smoothly and on a solid financial base

David Sorrentino

Background

- Hobbyist grower
- Casual (collector of peonies) gardener
- Novice hybridizer
- Grows 780 peonies, and 440 varieties

Strengths

- Likes working with people, teamwork
- Can develop and lead projects and events
- Flexibility to handling change
- Commitment to cause once established

Weaknesses

- My long list of priorities sometimes leads to delays in schedules
- Have a strong sense of opinion on means and ways that may sometimes conflict

Interested Committees

- Exhibition Committee (co-Chair)
- Convention Steering Committee
- Other Committee Not Formed Yet (Specify): Executive Committee (is defined by officers but has not been active)

Skills and Expertise

- Past two term President of the Minnesota Peony Society (MPS)
- Past Exhibition Co-Chair for MPS
- Current MPS board member
- Current MPS webmaster
- Current APS Exhibition Co-Chair (since 2016)
- Past APS Auction Co-Chair, current auction committee member
- As past auction co- chair, the revenues and participation increased. The auction also has been somewhat automated.
- Can serve as backup web person because of WordPress knowledge
- Have also been heavily involved in all aspects of Convention Planning and Operation
- Would like to develop knowledge in the following areas:
 - Leadership roles

Connections and Networking

- As active member of APS for 20 years, know most growers, many members.

Passion and Commitment

- Interest in BOD
 - Working with like-minded people interested in the promotion of the genus Paeonia.
- Motivation
 - The need to feel needed, to interact with a community of peony enthusiasts and to have a social connectivity.
- Time Commitment
 - As an officer, I am willing to commit time as needed during with more time available as needed for meeting preparation and similar functions. Before and during Conventions, the time spent can be long days.
- Aspirations
 - "If elected as Vice President, I would like to ensure all positions, including committee chairs, are well documented and defined with a chairperson name assigned. I would also work with the President and Executive Committee to ensure the goals of APS are on track."

APS Board of Directors & Officers Profiles

- As exhibition co-chair:
 - Complete Convention Planning Handbook
 - Complete Exhibition Planning Handbook
 - Complete judge's accreditation process and training including handbook and PowerPoints
 - Establish sub-committees for Exhibition
 - Have an active Executive Committee
- There needs to be a method to foster greater volunteerism which is not an easy task given the unrest and issues of our times. Is there a way to make it more fun or rewarding?

Hazel Cook

Background

- Hobbyist grower
- Commercial root grower
- Hybridizer
- Cut flower grower
- Floral arranger
- Grows 6000 peonies, and 650 varieties

Strengths

- Team worker
- Focused
- attention to detail
- enjoy meeting members and learning about their gardens, etc.
- moderate computer skills
- willing to learn

Weaknesses

- Do not enjoy creative writing
- an introvert except around gardening/bee keeping
- Hesitate to phone people
- not a good decision maker (I over analyze-this comes from Joe)

Interested Committees

- Award of Landscape Merit (ALM) Committee
- Corresponding secretary
 - I am interested in continuing as the corresponding secretary. This is quite time consuming so I do not have much additional time to provide to other committees on a continual basis. I am willing to assist as a support person when needed, i.e. at conventions.

Skills and Expertise

- Grower of all types of peonies as well as grafting woody peonies, some hybridizing, sell cut flowers locally, sell peony roots, entered flower shows, give presentations with Joe to a wide range of audiences
- Have been an APS director and the corresponding secretary for several years.
- Would like to develop knowledge in the following areas:
 - I am interested in all areas of nature and horticulture. There is always more to learn. I need to learn a better system for filing correspondence emails for future use.

Connections and Networking

- Joe and I belong to many local, national and international plant societies:
 - Ontario Rock Garden and Hardy Plant Society,
 - Canadian Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society
 - Canadian Peony Society
 - We are overseas vice-presidents for The Delphinium Society UK.

Passion and Commitment

- Interest in BOD
 - Feeling that I am able to contribute to an important organization even though I live in Canada. Connecting with friends of common interests.
- Motivation
 - Success, deadlines, challenges within my abilities and time, learning and obtainable goals

APS Board of Directors & Officers Profiles

- Time Commitment
 - I have not tracked the time for answering correspondence. The number of emails has increased significantly since I took over the position, especially since the new webpage was launched. This is a good sign.
- Aspirations
 - “Answer all correspondence in a timely, complete manner. Encourage other members to contribute their knowledge and experiences to bulletins, webpage, Facebook, etc. as well as provide information for answers to correspondence. Possibly add a frequently asked Q&A section to the webpage; although judging by the number of questions received during the previous webpage, members do not search for an answer before they send an email inquiry.”
 - Continue to improve our commitment to meet deadlines.
 - Encourage as many new members as possible, especially younger individuals. Make them feel welcomed, included but not overwhelmed.

Kent Tretheway

Background

- Casual gardener
- Grows 130 peonies, and 110 varieties

Strengths

- Strong organizational skills
- Energetic completion of assigned tasks
- Capable of performing in a supporting role

Weaknesses

- Hesitant to enter discussions, yielding to strong opinions
- Content to allow Status Quo, providing its effective
- Content to perform in a supporting role

Interested Committees

- Educational Committee
- Mentorship Committee

Skills and Expertise

- Continue represent the “casual gardener” in discussions
- Continue to lead the Mentorship Project
- Would like to develop knowledge in the following areas:
 - Increased knowledge of membership skills and expertise from which to draw
 - Mentors

Connections and Networking

- No significant beneficial connections

Passion and Commitment

- Interest in BOD
 - Being able to contribute in a small way to a National organization
- Motivation
 - Individual satisfaction of quality performance
 - Concern that others depend on my effectiveness
 - Continuing a long family tradition of involvement
 - Pride in Exhibition success
- Time Commitment
 - Several hours a week depending on Mentorship requests.
- Aspirations
 - Expand Mentorship Committee
 - Create Mentor Volunteer Pool from general membership
 - Increase focus and inclusion of general membership.
 - Get Members at Large on every committee

APS Board of Directors & Officers Profiles

Kris Jurik

Background

- Hobbyist grower
- Casual gardener
- Grows over a 1000 peonies, including woodland, species, herbaceous, intersectional, and woody

Strengths

- I am very heavily invested in plants—I love gardening and helping people enjoy plants.

Weaknesses

- Can't say no to most people.

Interested Committees

- Award of Landscape Merit (ALM) Committee
- Convention Steering Committee

Skills and Expertise

- Strong interest in peonies
- continue service as treasurer
- Would like to develop knowledge in the following areas:
 - I have started learning how to graft woody peonies and want to know more about the process.

Connections and Networking

- I am a member of other plant organizations and am familiar with how they run; we could incorporate some of their methods.

Passion and Commitment

- Interest in BOD
 - I like being connected with others, knowing what is going on, and helping promote peonies.
- Motivation
 - I love plants
- Time Commitment
 - I spend several days a week on it now
- Aspirations
 - Get things done in a timely fashion.
 - Have the bulletins arrive on time
 - have an up-to-date directory, perhaps online to save costs and allow frequent updating
 - have a yearly cultivar registration summary

Linette Sorrentino

Background

- Hobbyist grower
- Casual gardener
- Casual hybridizer
- Casual floral arranger
- Grows roughly 780 peonies, and 440 varieties

Strengths

- Attention to detail
- Record documentation
- Good organizer
- Enjoy teamwork
- Addicted to peonies

Weaknesses

- Feel guilty for other tasks not being completed and take on too much work load
- Tend to stand my ground if I strongly disagree with something
- Addicted to peonies

Interested Committees

- Award of Landscape Merit (ALM) Committee
- Convention Steering Committee
- Exhibition Committee
- Membership Committee
- Seed Distribution Committee

Skills and Expertise

- Twenty years BOD / Officer
- Minnesota Peony Society (MPS) Auction Co-Chair for over 14 years
- APS & MPS Exhibition Co-chair
- Past newsletter editor of multiple clubs / societies
- Current MPS Membership and Treasurer
- Current APS Membership Chair
- Love of volunteering and working with people
- Would like to develop knowledge in the following areas:
 - Hybridizing and grafting

Connections and Networking

- Active member of numerous garden clubs/societies
- Active in APS for 20 years
- Active in MPS for 20 years

Passion and Commitment

- Interest in BOD
 - Being able to contribute to peony education and growing a strong support system of peony enthusiasts.
- Motivation
 - A love of peonies (addiction)
 - At a young age it was instilled in me that “you are only as good as you give”.
 - A need to give back to a cause/organization I’m passionate about.
- Time Commitment
 - Currently APS Membership
 - Currently APS Exhibition Co-chair
 - Currently APS Convention Steering Committee

APS Board of Directors & Officers Profiles

- Already assist as needed
- Aspirations
 - Establish subcommittees for Exhibition and Convention
 - Complete Convention Planning Handbook
 - Complete Exhibition Planning Handbook
 - Complete judges accreditation process and training
 - More interaction with APS members
 - Greater BOD / Officer participation
 - Grow APS membership

Mike Miller

Background

- Hobbyist grower
- Commercial root grower
- Cut flower grower
- Casual gardener
- Floral arranger
- Promotes peonies through local farmer's market with cuts and potted peonies
- Grows 5000 peonies, and 500 varieties

Strengths

- I have been involved in real estate sales for 35 years and owner of a real estate company for 25 years

Weaknesses

- I sometimes try to do too many things at once and have trouble speaking up or expressing my concerns

Interested Committees

- Books & Publications Committee
- Convention Steering Committee
- Exhibition Committee

Skills and Expertise

- I have been in sales for 35 years; this enables you to cultivate good people skills.
- I have been growing peonies since 2004 and an APS member since 2005. I have participated for several years as a Board member.
- I am currently President of Midwest Peony Society and their Auction Chairperson.
- Would like to develop knowledge in the following areas:
 - Hybridizing

Connections and Networking

- I know several of the commercial growers and a lot of the APS members.

Passion and Commitment

- Interest in BOD
 - The wealth of knowledge of others on the Board
- Motivation
 - When people are willing to work together.
- Time Commitment
 - In book sales and mailings, I devote whatever time is necessary to complete the task.
- Aspirations
 - Increased book sales and timely bulletins
 - With the new leadership, I see APS growing in membership in the next 2 years.

APS Board of Directors & Officers Profiles

Nate Bremer

Background

- Hobbyist grower
- Commercial root grower
- Hybridizer
- Grows 10,000+ plants, and 1500 varieties/cultivars (600 woody peonies)

Strengths

- Tenacious in meeting most goals
- Work hard to educate people and find enjoyment in working
- I'm a problem solver and enjoy looking at new ways to accomplish tasks
- Change does not scare me off and believe in our day and age practices need updates constantly.

Weaknesses

- I can become distracted easily with many interests and lack patience at times.
- Managing people is not enjoyable to me as I have expectations that may not be shared by all. This can cause some discourse, but in most instances can be worked around.

Interested Committees

- Award of Landscape Merit (ALM) Committee
- Awards Committee
- Commercial Members Committee
- Exhibition Committee
- Scientific & Horticultural Studies Committee
- Seed Distribution Program
- Speakers Bureau
- Website Committee

Skills and Expertise

- Some computer related skills
- An open mind
- Problem solving skills
- Persistence
- Varied peony interests and background
- View of overall APS structure and functions
- Would like to develop knowledge in the following areas:
 - how to better run meetings
 - use of procedural steps in meetings
 - understanding of expectations by members, directors and officers.

Connections and Networking

- "Through my business (Solaris Farms) and APS I have made numerous connections with other peony businesses, gardeners, hybridizers and related groups.
- My wife, Kim, is a professional marketing person with many connections in that field and has an understanding of publications, writing, publicity and related topics, all of which are resources and have allowed an understanding of that area.

Passion and Commitment

- Interest in BOD
 - "The APS is an outstanding society made up of many extremely interesting members. Being able to help the Board with a focused direction helps all members and allows for many interesting connections, conversations and relationships."
- Motivation
 - Others who have enthusiasm and are willing to try new things.

APS Board of Directors & Officers Profiles

- Time Commitment
 - “I generally spent 2 to 6 hours a day working on APS related activities at this time. This is a bit more than I would prefer, but foresee less time spent as systems are streamlined and clear expectations are implemented.”
- Aspirations
 - To bring about a cultural change in which involvement by all members is greater.
 - I also would like to streamline many of the organizational tasks so our BOD can efficiently lead and experience greater enjoyment with their assignments.
 - Greater involvement and by members in all aspects of the organization. A society structure which supports all members and functions.

Piet Wierstra

Background

- Commercial root grower
- Cut flower grower

Strengths

- Knowledge of growing peonies for roots and cut flowers

Weaknesses

- Formulate on paper (language barrier)

Interested Committees

- Educational committee
- Membership Committee
- Speakers Bureau

Skills and Expertise

- Would like to develop knowledge in the following areas:
 - As a speaker to educate others on peonies

Connections and Networking

- Contacts with the Netherlands

Passion and Commitment

- Interest in BOD
 - Trying to get peonies up to a higher level
- Motivation
 - Love of growing
- Time Commitment
 - Whatever it takes
- Aspirations
 - APS BOD working together
 - Bulletin being on time
 - Letting people talk and not one person in meetings