



American Peony Society

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2021 | 6:30 p.m. CST

Call to Order/Roll Call

Voting Members in Attendance: *Craig Aiken, Cory Tischman, David Maltby, David Michener, Jill Stevens, Kent Tretheway, Kris Jurik, Leena Liljestrand, Linette Sorrentino, Lois Girton, Mary Muellner, Nate Bremer, Piet Wierstra, Scott Parker, Steve Smith*

Non-Voting Members in Attendance: *David Sorrentino, Hazel Cook*

Absent Members: *Adriana Feng, Brandie Orchard, Mike Miller*

A regularly scheduled meeting of the American Peony Society (APS) was held on February 11, 2021 via Zoom. It began at 6:32 pm CST and was presided over by Nate Bremer as President, with Cory Tischman as Recording Secretary.

Reading & Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on November 5, 2020 made by Cory Tischman, seconded by David Michener. No corrections were made, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Officers' Reports

President's Report – Nate Bremer

- *See report*

Treasurer's Report – Kris Jurik

- *See reports*
- Motion to accept reports made by Lois Girton, second by Piet Wierstra, and the motion approved unanimously

Committees and Special Projects Reports

Website Committee Report – Nate Bremer

- *See report*

Editorial (Bulletin & Directory) Report – Nate Bremer

- *See report*

Mentorship Committee Report – Kent Tretheway

- *See report*
- Some vacancies for mentors, mostly looking for hybridizing

Budget Report – Nate Bremer

- *See report*

Awards Committee Report – Steve Smith, Brandie Orchard, Craig Aiken

- *See report*

Membership Report – Linette Sorrentino

- 21-22 took up online only membership option so far

- Close to 285 people renewed/new memberships
- 675 members total, 212 more members this time vs last year
- Only 155 lapsed memberships

Correspondence

- No new correspondence

Unfinished Business

- Minnesota Convention – David and Linette Sorrentino
 - *Survey sent out to members and results discussed:*
 - 33 people said they would go to live event
 - Haven't approached hotel about contract yet
 - Discussed options: Cancel contract vs. downsize vs go virtual
 - Risks due to COVID-19 and limitations with hotel, health code restrictions, safety of guests and volunteers
 - Possible hybrid option of virtual option & smaller in-person events regionally
 - Motion made (see 'Motions')
 - Live Convention cancelled and a virtual option will be worked on
- Commercial Member Profiles – Nate Bremer
 - Tabled for this meeting due to corrupted file
- To-Do List – David Michener
 - *See report*

New Business

- Sponsorship of APS by Webfitters
 - See report "Website Maintenance Options"
- "Gold Medal Peony" and "Peony of the Year"
 - See report "Gold Medal Peony – Peony of the Year Proposal"
 - Discussion getting rid of Peony of the Year award and pick Gold Medal Peony for 2021 and 2022 in June
- Personal Awards Proposal
 - Created a bronze medal to be used for awards
 - Order medals and ribbons

Discussion

- Steve Smith encouraged people to make submissions for personal awards to the Awards Committee
 - Encouragement to have members involved for nominating others

Motions

Motion: Nate Bremer made a motion to cancel the live 2021 APS Convention in Minnesota and to have the APS plan a new alternative convention, including virtual components, for 2021. Mary Muellner seconded the motion. No discussions were made. The motion carried with unanimous in favor.

Motion: Nate Bremer made a motion to accept Webfitters proposal to have the APS place “POWERED BY WEBFITTERS WEBSITES, APPLICATIONS, & DIGITAL MARKETING” in the APS’ Peony Registry heading for purposes of a trade for maintenance services. See Proposal. Seconded by Linette Sorrentino. No discussions were made. The motion carried with unanimous in favor.

Motion: David Maltby made a motion to accept submitted proposal by Steve Smith regarding APS medals for personal awards. See Proposal. Seconded by Steve Smith. Discussion made over metal choices. The motion carried with unanimous in favor.

Motion: Nate Bremer made a motion to roll Peony of the Year into the Gold Medal Peony, resulting in the Gold Medal Peony being awarded a year prior to its designation and discontinuation of The Peony of the Year. See proposal. Seconded by Piet Wierstra. No discussions were made. The motion carried with unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Nate Bremer moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:55pm CST.

Next Meeting: April 22, 2021 6:30pm CDT via Zoom