



American Peony Society Board of Directors Meeting Minutes February 17, 2022 | 6:30 p.m. CST

Call to Order / Roll Call

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

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

Absent Members: David Maltby

A regularly scheduled meeting of the American Peony Society (APS) was held on February 17, 2022 via teleconference (Zoom). It began at 6:34 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 4, 2021 was made by Cory Tischman. Lois Girton seconded the motion and was approved unanimously.

Officers' Reports

President's Report – Nate Bremer

- **See Report**
 - Nate made emphasis with point #2 in his report, and encouraged BODs to be open with each other, staying on top of tasks, and asking for help.

Treasurer's Report – Kris Jurik

- **See Report**
 - Everything was “good” financially and Kris Jurik has an upcoming meeting with Edward Jones

Committees and Special Projects Reports

Membership Report – Linette Sorrentino

- 315+ new or renewed members and all commercial members have received their second notice to renew. There are about 240 lapsed members she needs to send out a second notice.

Convention Report – Linette Sorrentino

- No Report

Auction Report – Mary Muellner

- No Report

Mentorship Report – Kent Tretheway

- No Report

Seed Distribution Program Report – Scott Parker

- No Report

Scientific & Horticultural Studies Committee Report

- No Report

International Outreach Program Committee - Cory Tischmam & Leena Liljestrand

- No Report

Youth Program Committee Report

- No Report

Website Committee Report - Nate Bremer

- No Report

Nomenclature Committee Report - Reiner Jakubowski

- **See Report**

Awards Report – Steve Smith

- Committee is currently soliciting nominations for individual awards and for the Gold Medal award.

Editorial (Bulletin & Directory) Report - Kim and Nate Bremer

- Covington Press has been reportedly under heavy duress due to delays in supplies and issues with workers, and getting work done in a timely manner. There are concerns getting bulletins out on time and want to get the next bulletin out before the convention, and need to get information to Kim Bremer by mid-March.

Social Media Report - Craig Aiken

- No Report

Publications Report – Mike Miller

- No Report

Award of Landscape Merit (ALM) Report – Cory Tischman & Jill Stevens

- No report

Nominations Committee Report – Cory Tischman

- No Report

Correspondence

- Hazel Cook shared she had received some correspondence from Russia regarding the cultivar 'Weatherball 90' and possibly getting photos and possibly more information on that cultivar.

Unfinished Business

- To-Do List
 - Continuing look at ways to donate to select peony projects but nothing is finalized yet and will continue to look into it further.
 - Nate is looking into options for T-Shirts, business cards, name tags, and other merchandise and will be on the agenda in the future.
 - Bylaw Revisions will be happening more so down the road, making minor changes.

- Mary noted she still needs to set up a meeting with the auction committee and solicit donations, and will set something out later to get something set up.
- Set Convention Planning Meetings for Michigan & New York
 - **For Michigan Convention:** Convention committee will likely need to have another meeting and want to meet soon. Linette Sorrentino wanted to get some of the subcommittee chairs filled for the convention so those people could also attend the meeting, citing the need for more help with the convention. It was suggested to possibly put something on the website and social media to give notice about the need for volunteers. Continued discussing logistics with shuttles and transporting members to the hotel and gardens. Nate Bremer suggested having the BOD's meeting at the picnic. David Sorrentino shared details of changes to Novice Division and criteria to then be placed into the Open Division. Linette asked if \$15 for garden walk to be either included into registration costs or tacked on as an additional fee. Discussed if Shakespeare in the Arb tickets should be a tacked on fee, and BOD agreed to this idea.
 - **For New York Convention:** Craig shared his sister is working on the hotel arrangement; the dates are open, and the prices are still unknown. There is a shuttle to the airport and a hospitality garden. He had some uncertainty for size for seminar rooms.

New Business

- None

Discussion

- Nominations/Elections for 2022
 - Cory Tischman noted the deadline to get the questionnaire and letter of acceptance by March 1st. Informed Directors to let Cory know if they are interested in an officer position.
- APS Timelines and Schedules
 - Nate referred to this resource and asked Directors to review it for accuracy, deletions and additions. This is to be used as a reference for all programs, events, etc... in which the Society partakes. A good way to stay on schedule and meet obligations so others depending upon their work are not held up.
- Question from David Michener about image use by UM. Our policy does not allow, but we may be able to help him with images from our personal files.
 - David Michener noted many images are needed for a heavily used website resource which supplies information for the Peony Garden. Since many new woody peonies and a number of other peonies have been added and have not yet been bloomed or photographed they are in need of images.
 - APS cannot supply images due to our Image Use Policy, Nate suggested David supply a list of needed images to Directors and Officers. Since many Directors and Officers have large image collections we may be able to supply images needed from the list provided. David will email a list when he has it available.

Motions

Motion: Piet Wierstra made a motion for Nate Bremer to investigate solid pricing of Promotional Materials (Business Cards, Hats & Name Badges) and submit to the Board of Directors for approval via email. Upon approval via email, Nate Bremer will order Promotional Materials. If further changes need to be made after Director responses Nate will make commensurate changes and resubmit to the BOD for approval. Seconded by Lois Girton. No discussions were made. The BOD unanimously approved and the motion carried.

Adjournment

Nate Bremer moved that the meeting be adjourned and this was agreed upon at 8:20pm CDT.

Next Meeting: June 2, 2022 at the APS Convention in Ann Arbor, MI