



# American Peony Society

## Special Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

June 02, 2022 | 4:00 p.m. CDT

### Call to Order / Roll Call

Present Voting BOD Members: Nate Bremer, Lois Girton, David Michener, Mike Miller, Mary Muellner, Brandi Orchard, Steve Smith, Linette Sorrentino, Steve Smith, Jill Stevens, Cory Tischman, and Piet Wierstra

Present Non-Voting BOD Members: Hazel Cook, and David Sorrentino

Absent Voting BOD Members: Craig Aiken, Adriana Feng, Kris Jurik, Leena Liljestrand, David Maltby, Scott Parker, and Kent Tretheway

Present Non-Voting Members: Lynn Gessling

The American Peony Society (APS) Special Board of Directors Meeting was held on June 2, 2022 in person. It began at 4:04 pm CDT and was presided over by Nate Bremer as President, with Cory Tischman as Recording Secretary.

### Reading & Approval of Minutes

Cory Tischman submitted the meeting minutes from the BOD meeting on February 17, 2022.

The minutes were submitted to be ratified with a motion made by Cory Tischman, seconded by David Michener, which carried unanimously.

### Reports

#### Treasurer's Report

- No report was submitted will be posted in the next APS bulletin and on the website once the report is completed after the end of the fiscal year (June 30th)

#### President's Report

- No report was submitted

#### Committee Reports

- All submitted reports can be found the APS website.

### Election of Officers to the BOD for the Term of 2022-2024

- The following Directors were nominated and volunteered for the following officer roles:
  - President: Nate Bremer
  - Vice President: David Sorrentino
  - Treasurer: Kris Jurik
  - Recording Secretary: Cory Tischman
  - Corresponding Secretary: Hazel Cook

Linette Sorrentino made the motion to vote for the current officers by slate in lieu of voting by ballot. David Michener seconded the motion. No discussion was made. The vote carried unanimously.

The Board of Directors then voted by simple 'yes' or 'no' to approve of the slate of officers, which passed unanimously.

### Announcements

- Reiner Jakubowski announced his desire to retire from his position as the APS Registrar after his service to the APS for the last 18 years. Nate Bremer shared he had appointed Jordan Kabat as the new Registrar.
- Covington Press is no longer in business; it was the APS's layout and print provider for the Bulletin. Steve Conklin, who had worked at Covington Press, has opened up his own business and will continue to offer layout and printing services. Kim Bremer, Newsletter Editor, is looking into backup options with other printing companies and is getting quotes.

## Correspondence

- No report was made

## Unfinished Business

- The to-do list will be reviewed at the next meeting on August 25, 2022

## New Business

- Michelle Ovans of Beaver Dam, WI contacted Nate Bremer about having the APS Convention in 2025. Linette Sorrentino expressed concern about the 2024 Convention in Minnesota and 2025 Convention being located too close geographically. More discussion to be made before a decision could happen and Linette will reach out to Michelle.

## Discussions

- Discussions were based on the responses from the APS Board of Director Profile questions that had been completed.
  - David Sorrentino expressed concerns about the, "...impact and role that conventions play into the membership. Are these conventions outdated given the current state of modern society? Is there something else that would fulfill this type of event?"
    - Discussion was made about possibly creating multiple events, regional events, or decoupling the garden tour/flower show from the rest of the convention, while getting more people involved and decreasing the costs and barriers for members to participate.
  - The APS bylaws are in the process of being updated by a committee involving Nate Bremer. Cory Tischman and Mary Muellner thus far, and an invitation was extended to other Board of Directors if interested. Any changes made will be presented to the Board of Directors first and then once finalized, will be submitted through the bulletin and/or website for members to view and eventually discuss and vote on to be ratified.
  - The Award of Landscape Committee (Cory Tischman and Jill Stevens) is in the process of overhauling the program to streamline the process of cultivars being nominated, judged, and awarded. The scorecard was recent updated and changes to the number of cultivars was changed as well – cultivars will be judged over three years and only five cultivars will be nominated each year for judging.
  - Brandie Orchard expressed interest in connecting members and non-members into the APS, and addressing barriers to hesitancy for people or businesses wanting to join.
  - Work is being done to continue improvements to the APS website with providing information and being able to search for information.

## **Adjournment**

Nate Bremer moved that the meeting be adjourned and this was agreed upon at 05:07 pm CDT.

**Next BOD meeting: June 4, 7:00 CDT in person at the General Annual Membership Meeting**