



The American Peony Society

Board of Directors Meeting | March 19, 2020 | 6:30pm (Central)

Conference Bridge:

United States: (712) 775-7031
Canada: (716) 293-9620 and then (712) 775-7031
Access Code: 220-302-666 #

Limits: This meeting will be limited to a maximum of 90 minutes. Any unfinished business will be resumed at our next meeting on May 21, 2020.

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

- In attendance: Carol Adelman, Nate Bremer, Hazel Cook, Adriana Feng, Kris Jurik, David Maltby, David Michener, Mary Muellner, Scott Parker, Lorē Sampson, Linette Sorrentino, Corey Tishman, Piet Wierstra
- Absent: Mike Miller, Kent Tretheway

II. **Minutes – Mary Muellner** Motion to dispense with reading of the minutes. Discussion regarding minutes timing and providing recording of meeting for Board members who missed the meeting.

III. Treasurer's Report – Kris Jurik

- Presentation of the Treasurer's report.
- Discussion about market losses and upcoming costs, including the need to raise funds to cover upcoming costs for printing of Bulletins and other planned expenses.

IV. **President's Report – Lorē Sampson** We are sad to learn that the Lemoine's Disease research project that Cullen Schaffer shared with us at last year's convention, has not been renewed. Henry Chotkowski relayed this information and implied there was not enough support to continue. Thanks to those of you that wrote letters in support of this important work.

V. Committee and Special Project Reports:

2020 Convention Planning – Chicago, Illinois – David Michener / David Maltby, CoChairmen

- Dates: June 11-14, 2020
- Show Location: Chicago Botanic Garden Show
- Accommodations: Embassy Suites, North Chicago, Deerfield
- APS Rates: \$129/king suite; \$149/double queen suite
- Convention registration fee - \$195/members (unchanged from 2019)

Discuss cancellation plans due to Covid-19 – Vote to Cancel

- General discussion about cancelling the convention now to prevent members and the Society further expenses.
- Discussion about contract details with Chicago Botanic Garden and Embassy Suites. Embassy Suites contract has the most financial impact. Planning to make every effort to cancel without incurring any costs.
- Brief discussion about re-scheduling the convention in the next open year -- 2023.
- Motion made and carried to cancel the convention.

Alternate activities:

- Hold an “Un-Convention-al” Auction for members using our online auction program. (Great idea! Thanks Mary!)
 - Discussed the idea of holding an online auction in place of the convention auction. Looking to provide some
 - Nate Bremer briefly discussed the APS Member Portal status. Portal should be going live in about a month.
- Hold a peony photography show on the new, APS Member Portal, including member voting for “people’s choice awards” in each category. (Great idea! Thanks Nate!)
 - Brief discussion about a photography show.
- Other ideas?

The Bulletin – Kim Bremer / Lorē Sampson

- The Bulletin publication schedule is up to date! Spring issue has been published and mailed.
- New advertising contract has been developed and is being used. Ad Manager Sharon Schmitz is working with commercial members to increase number of advertisers.

- New articles and photos are needed! Send us your ideas!!! (And don't forget to start taking early spring pictures now! Remember to take a few photos with "portrait" orientation for the front and back covers!)

Website Portal – Nate Bremer

- Nate is working with website committee to get this underway

Awards Committee – Carol Adelman, Nate Bremer Gold Medal Award – New guidelines have been developed and nominations are open for 2020

- New guidelines and a form were developed for the Gold Medal Award.
- Submissions will be sent to Carol Adelman.

VI. New Business: ???

- Election of Board Members. Corey Tishman is heading up the Nominating Committee.
- Next scheduled meeting is May 21, 2020. Would like to hold the planning session in June. Will discuss
- Seed Program - \$1,091 in proceeds. There is a few large orders, which will go out in the fall with plant orders going out in the fall.

VI. Motion to Adjourn

Motion made and seconded to adjourn.