

Follow agenda

Welcome:

Good afternoon American Peony Society Members! This is Nate Bremer, Interim APS President. I'd like to welcome everyone and thank you for participating in our 'replacement' General Annual Membership Meeting and Elections. I do hope everyone has been able to remain healthy and that your gardens have provided needed enjoyment in these unprecedented times.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic this meeting is normally held after the convention banquet. The General Annual Membership Meeting provides a chance for APS members to learn about the activities in which the Society has been involved in over the last year, as well as, provide financial updates, membership information and other key points. Basically a summary business meeting.

As this meeting is being held via teleconference, it has some inherent challenges, namely sound quality and identifying the person speaking. While challenging, the format will allow APS to fulfill our obligation to its bylaws in reporting annual activities. That said, a couple of points that may be helpful on this call:

- 1) We'll follow the agenda provided the website as closely as possible to allow the meeting to be carried out efficiently and hopefully make it a short one, so we can get back to our busy summer lives.
- 2) If you would like to speak, please loudly announce your full name slowly and wait to be acknowledged by me so we can hear what you have to say without interruption.
- 3) Switching your phone to mute is helpful to reduce background noise if you are not speaking. Of course turn mute off if you'd like to speak. I'd would like to encourage anyone to speak if they would like to do so.
- 4) To provide clarity and detail, the website has links to Board of Director's Meetings and committee report summaries from the past year. These are available for review at any time through the member portal.

At this time I would like to call the Annual General Membership Meeting to order and proceed with the agenda items as stated on the website.

- 1) **2020 General Annual Membership Meeting** Minutes – Cory Tischman
- 2) **President's Report:**

APS has experienced a number of changes over the past year and I'm excited to report the society is in good shape.

- 1) Lore Sampson, stepped aside as President and Director in June and will be sorely missed. Lore's involvement in the society has provided numerous positive changes and additions to

member programs, namely our new website, revisions to the Award of Landscape Merit, the Mentorship Program, Social Media presence and the Bulletin. Her enthusiastic planning of conventions have provided members with outstanding opportunities to experience 'All Things Peony', as Lore would say. As a highly active flower show participant she's forward member participation, especially in flower arrangement classes. Lore's pursuit of excellence is something we've all benefited from and hope you are able to thank her for her extended service!

- 2) Carol Adelman has served as an APS director for 16 years and has made notable contributions to the peony world through her continued ambassadorship. Carol graciously opened her Directorship position on the Board this next term so a new candidate could participate as a Director. Carol also is a prodigious flower showman and has served as the Society's Awards chair. Thanks go to Carol for her longtime support in making APS all it can be.
- 3) Hazel Cook has served as APS's Corresponding Secretary for the last few years and is also stepping away from directorship to allow another member to become a Director. Hazel will continue her good work as Corresponding Secretary, answer numerous questions running the gamut of 'All things Peony'. Thanks go to Hazel for her support and membership guidance.
- 4) Numerous other players have made notable contributions to APS programs as well through Committee work, officer assignments and other supporting activities. I'd like to thank the following people for their ongoing support and volunteerism
 - a. *Kris Jurik – treasurer, keeping our finances clean!
 - b. *Scott Parker – highly active seed program
 - c. *Mary Muellner – auctions and BOD secretary minutes
 - d. *Carol Adelman – Awards
 - e. *Linette Sorrentino – Membership Chair, Convention Steering, auctions, Exhibitions
 - f. David Sorrentino – website, auctions, Conventions, Exhibitions
 - g. *David Maltby – convention, ALM, advice
 - h. *David Michener – conventions, advice, organizational duties
 - i. *Cory Tischman – International Outreach, Secretary Minutes
 - j. *Mike Miller - Books and Publications
 - k. Reiner Jakubowski – Nomenclature, Registrar, historical records
 - l. *Kent Tretheway – Mentorship Program, Flower showmanship education
 - m. *Adriana Feng – ALM, Peony Registry images
 - n. Kim Bremer – Publicity, Bulletin Editor
 - o. *Lore Sampson – Editor, Contributor
 - p. Henry Chotkowski – Lemoines studies
 - q. Craig Aiken – Convention planning, Social Media
 - r. Brandie Orchard – Social Media
 - s. Steve Smith – Photography, Social Media
 - t. Lynn Gessling – Social Media
 - u. *Piet Wierstra – Commercial Members
 - v. Lois Girton – Bulletin Group
 - w. Sharon Schmitz – Member Advertising

- x. Cate Crawford – Supporting Editor
 - y. Larry Argatoff – Supporting Editor
 - z. All Donors to APS – Auction plants and items, monetary donations and planning time
- 5) More members are becoming involved and APS is better for it. Of note, we've had an increased number of article submissions for the Bulletin from members, creating community and diversity in content. Please consider becoming involved by sharing your experiences and expertise through the Bulletin. Kim Bremer, APS' lead editor welcomes your inquiries and submissions. She'd love to hear from you.
 - 6) A special thanks go to Roy Klehm and David Buzzell for their generous donations of hundreds of images for the APS' online Peony Registry. The registry now boasts the most accurate collections of registered and historically important peonies available and is being used on a worldwide basis.
 - 7) More than 100 new peonies were registered last year and were published in the Directory of New Peonies. This year, Reiner Jakubowski, the Registrar of New Cultivars reports an addition of 80 at this time. A big thank you goes to Reiner for his continued good work keeping registrations detailed, accurate and organized.
 - 8) The Member Portal is now available for member use and is able to provide additional detailed content. Additionally many of APS' organizational reports are now available for membership to review. Numerous pieces of peony literature and programs are also available along with surveys and other content for membership to use in their pursuit of peonies. Making past Bulletins available for members continues to be studied and we hope have something in the coming months.
 - 9) Unfortunately this year's convention in Chicago was cancelled due to the pandemic and APS is hopeful future health impacts can be managed next year. Next year, the APS' Convention is being planned to be held in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area of Minnesota. Minnesota boasts many wonderful peony gardens and traditionally has been one of the major peony growing areas in the United States. Linette and David Sorrentino are spearheading this convention's activities and look forward to hosting you for this event. Stay tuned for more in coming Bulletins and on the website for this exciting opportunity.
 - 10) Future Conventions are being planned for
 - a. Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum, Michigan – 2022, Contact David Michener if you are able to assist
 - b. West-Central New York – 2023, Contact Craig Aiken if you are able to assist
 - c. Chicago Botanic Gardens – 2024
 - d. Ohio – 2025
 - 11) This year's Gold Medal Peony is 'Hillary', hybridized by Roger Anderson of Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. Congratulations go to Roger for the introduction of this fine Itoh Hybrid.
 - 12) Donations to auctions have been extremely generous this year and help to defray costs of our publications, website and conventions. Please consider making a donation to the fall online auction as funding is a continual concern as APS grows.

13) Lastly, thanks to our supportive membership. Few non-profits are supported completely by their membership and APS is lucky to have so many caring and interested members. With your continued participation and support APS is able to keep spreading the love of peonies.

2020 Annual Treasurer's Report- Kris Jurik

Committee & Program Reports - Do any of the directors have reports they would like to share with membership or have additional information other than what is reported on the APS Member Portal website?

Unfinished Business – Does anyone have unfinished business they would like to bring to the group?

New Business – Are there any members who have new business to discuss at this time? Please feel free to email me (Nate) if you do and prefer not to bring it up at this meeting.

Elections – Please vote through the Membership Portal if you have not done so already. Election balloting will close at the end of this meeting.

Motion to Adjourn.