



## American Peony Society Teleconference Meeting September 3, 2020 | 6:30 p.m. CDT

### Call to Order / Roll Call

Present Members: Craig Aiken, Nate Bremer, Hazel Cook, Lois Girton, Kris Jurik, Leena Liljestrand, David Maltby, Mike Miller, Mary Muellner, Brandie Orchard, Steve Smith, David Sorrentino, Linette Sorrentino, Jill Stevens, Cory Tischman, and Kent Tretheway

Absent Members: Adriana Feng, David Michener, Scott Parker, and Piet Wierstra

Guests in Attendance: None

The American Peony Society (APS) met on September 3, 2020 via teleconference. It began at 6:32pm CDT and was presided over by Nate Bremer as President, with Cory Tischman as Recording Secretary.

### Reading & Approval of Minutes

Cory Tischman submitted the minutes from the August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting with one correction. A motion was made to be ratified with the new correction, and the motion carried unanimously.

### Officers' Reports

President's Report – Nate Bremer

- See attached report
  - Wanted to encourage BOD to speak up or ask questions during the meeting, and make motions vs discussions
  - Would like to do a publications review end of the year

Treasurer's Report – Kris Jurik

- See attached report
  - Kris noted a correction in her treasurer's report; dates need to be changed
  - Hotel deposit refunded for Chicago convention and was deposited into APS account
  - Biggest expense since the last meeting was to Web Fitters
  - Down in a little bit cash from the last three years

### Committees and Special Projects Reports

- Membership – Linette Sorrentino
  - See attached report
    - APS membership up to where it was from a few years ago
    - A lot of new memberships coming from online and social media
    - Suggested making a perk for 3-, 5-, and 10-year memberships
      - Possibly raise price for 1-year membership
    - David Maltby asked if there was increase in membership due to the online auction
      - There were a little over a dozen new members
    - Discussion regarding individual vs institutional memberships and how votes are counted
    - Lifetime memberships have been discontinued for last 10 years
- Convention – Linette and David Sorrentino

- see attached report
  - Artistic Design classes have been established
  - Countryside Garden Peony Farm and Swenson Garden set for public tours
  - Jill Stevens and Sorrentinos' have been set for private tours
  - Working on arrangements to see Hidden Springs Flower Farm and Solaris Farms after the convention for international members
  - Continuing work on duties for different subcommittees for the exhibition planning and hope to it get finalized soon
    - Convention planning checklist uploaded to APS Google Drive
    - Convention planning manual behind schedule and will be worked on after upcoming (APS, MPS, WPS) auctions
  - Working on possible alternatives due to COVID-19
    - Hard date to cancel
      - Still on the hook for \$10,600 if we cancel now
      - Cancel by May 9th would need to pay \$31,000
      - Possible to get some money back if travel is banned due to COVID-19
  - Lois Girton on Speakers Bureau committee to work with convention line up
- Mentorship Program – Kent Tretheway
  - Have about 3-4 working mentorships
  - 2-3 are in the works
    - One in disease management prevention
    - Two for hybridizing

## Correspondence

- No new correspondence

## Unfinished Business

- Hathi Trust /Bulletins – Nate Bremer
  - Discussed copyright sundown date for bulletins
    - David Maltby and Kent Tretheway would like it to be sooner than 10 years for incentive for new members
    - Linette Sorrentino wants 10 years or longer
    - Lois Girton would like to have it at 5 years or older
    - Nate will send out electronic voting survey to get feedback in next few days
  - David Michener sent two documents for BOD to review
    - There is a license and bulletins are still protected from commercial use and can be only be used for personal use
- Fall Auction – Mary Muellner
  - Not as far as long as she would hope to be but is reaching out to people to help get things going
  - Dates for the auction: Open October 8<sup>th</sup> at 12pm and close 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm CDT
  - Idea of including international members
    - Potential costs (shipping, phytosanitary certificate, etc.) and reimbursement to sellers
  - Leena has possible ideas that she will email later
  - Reinforced promotion of auction and donations through social media and Mailchimp
    - Using Auctria for notifications to membership regarding auction details

- Awards – Steve Smith, Brandie Orchard, and Craig Aiken
  - Discussion and decision needs to be made about how to award people
    - See President's Report
      - Lack of awards over the years
    - Nate sent list of awards and discussion to create new awards
      - Possibility of getting medals
      - Nate and awards chairs will get together maybe in November to solidify plans
    - David Sorrentino suggested adding Exhibition Awards to this committee or creating a subgroup to service this, thus combining all awards to a single group.

## **New Business**

- Remote Board of Director Meeting format
  - teleconference vs. internet conferencing; meeting frequency, days and times
    - Continue with same time and day of the week per the survey
    - Frequency to move to quarterly with potential for special meetings
    - Move to online video conferencing
      - Nate will set up in next meeting before November
- Committee and Program participation/work
  - Encouraged information to be sent prior to meeting for each person and committee/program
  - Encouraged BOD to talk to Nate if there needs to be changes or modifications for duties list
- TO-DO-LIST
  - Can be found on Google Drive at:
    - <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1iYWLW5GuA4QGVXAHwEaJKjmOjgd9RDfs>
    - Went over current to-do-list with BOD, where they are at, and updated the list

## **Motions**

- No motions were made

## **Board of Adjournment**

Nate Bremer moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:49pm CDT.

**Next Meeting: November 5, 2020 at 6:30 CDT via Zoom.**

Minutes Submitted by: Cory Tischman