



President's Report

11/5/2020

- 1) The late summer and autumn season has been a busy time for most of us and APS typically slows for this period. I'd recommend we practice and publicize the August 1 through the end of October period as being a time when our Society has limited activity. While we're busy, so were many of our members who have shared numerous instances of successes with their peonies. I have received many emails and phone calls this fall stating gratitude (at least one case of "ecstasy") for APS' work – the thanks really go to BOD members for their selfless work...THANK YOU. Additionally numerous members (and non-members) have noted the responsiveness of APS and appreciate the efforts! Keep up the great work – you may not hear about it, but our members are taking notice.
- 2) APS BOD has agreed to increased dues on one year memberships by \$5.00 and all other memberships will see no increase. Due to the large number of renewals Linette and Kris have to deal with on a yearly basis, it makes sense to lessen the load by luring members into a longer term membership. While longer term membership would need to be renewed as well, they do not require repetitive annual service – lessening the workload. David Sorrentino or I will rework website tables and membership products to reflect changes.
- 3) The APS BOD has also agreed to drop the 10 year membership option. While this is convenient and is a great savings, this membership duration is too great and many things can change which impact costs, distribution and production. Members who have paid for 10 year memberships prior to the end of the year will have their memberships be honored of course. David Sorrentino or I will rework website tables and membership products to reflect changes.
- 4) The Bylaws, BOD Meeting Summary Minutes and Yearly Financial Report will be printed as an addendum in the next Bulletin. APS has not done this in some time and it probably was inadvertently dropped. In any case, we should be doing this and will begin to do so again.
- 5) Kris Jurik is checking into requirements for non-profits to have mailboxes in the state they have their charter. APS has one in Missouri, but there is no member in the area to monitor it. The P.O. Box is also a disconnect from the reality, as APS is not a localized entity. Additionally the mailbox in Missouri often collects and holds mail for some time until it is forwarded to Kris (or she picks it up). All in all it is worth looking into other options.
- 6) New Peony Registrations this year have been on par with last year and Reiner has been busy. The New Cultivar Registration Directory has been popular with members and commercial members are now starting to request advertising space in the publication. All good signs we are on the right track.
- 7) Advertising in the Bulletin has been on the rise this fall. Sharon Schmitz, our advertising director has done a great job communicating and coordinating with commercial members. If you get a chance to thank her please do so.

- 8) Hathi Library Trust option for viewing Bulletins to 7 years ago was approved by the BOD and David Michener is getting the details worked out. Looks promising and should be a great benefit for APS Members. Thanks for making this happen David.
- 9) APS' Fall Online Auction went super from my perspective. APS benefited greatly as did our members, who seem to enjoy bidding! Thanks to Mary Muellner, Lois Girton, Jill Stevens and David Maltby for their great work organizing the auction.
- 10) Linette (membership) and Kris (Treasurer) remain busy and will see some heavy workloads ahead with annual renewals. Thanks to Kris and Linette for their outstanding work – APS appreciates it, but so do our members.
- 11) ALM...Adriana probably could use some assistance corralling and working with judges to get evaluations in. We are all so busy and filling in evaluations during bloom season is certainly a strain. In 2021, I'm hopeful APS can move forward with this program. If you'd like to assist Adriana, please let her know.

Thanks for the great year and I look forward to working with all of you in the future. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if something is on your mind. I can promise to listen and give your thoughts attention.

Nate Bremer

APS President