



# Presidents Report

BOD Meeting 02.17.2022

Nate Bremer

- 1) 2021 was a very successful year for the Society, even with the Pandemic's impacts on the last two conventions. Many new members have been on-boarded and enthusiasm is high coming into 2022. APS' presence in the peony world has grown through Social Media, The Bulletin, Website, Peony Registry, Awards, Mentoring, Online Meetings and through word of mouth. Many members are aware of the advances we've made in administration of the Society and are appreciative on many levels.

One area which continues to be problematic is the perception by some members that APS is a "for profit" subscription organization. A fair number of communications I've personally been part of indicate a misunderstanding of our all-volunteer status (most non-profits have paid admin). This is understandable to a certain extent since some people see membership as a subscription to a publication (The Bulletin). Yet some long term members believe they are "owed" the services a "for profit" business might supply. I've corrected a number of members who have exhibited rather brutish behavior with the statement: **"Please remember our Society is operated by volunteer members who receive no monetary benefits and provide services to membership in their free time. We do the best we can, but sometimes do make mistakes, which we correct as best we can."** While we've made statements to our membership in regards to this, I recommend we reinforce the fact leadership and all support members are VOLUNTEERS and are not paid in anyway.

- 2) REMINDER: As discussed and agree upon the last 2 years...
  - a. **BOD members are asked to speak their minds** at meetings and not let things slide by. This was precipitated by problems occurring prior to 2020 in the form of poor communication.
  - b. **Make MOTIONS** during BOD meetings to make agreements official
  - c. **Check the To-Do List** for unfinished tasks
  - d. **ASK for help**, we have a good sized BOD and there are bound to be people who would be glad to assist if asked.
  - e. **VOLUNTEER** to help those who ask.
  - f. **Read and reply to emails within a day or two**, as applicable to your work with APS.
  - g. **Be sensitive to timelines/deadlines.** Meeting or not meeting timeline/deadlines impacts others and may be perceived as disrespectful if not attended to in a timely manner.
- 3) President's Goals for 2022:
  - a. Delegate – Trust. Allow Program/Committee Chairs and members to carry out work without monitoring.
  - b. Continue work with Program/Committees to refine and problem solve.
  - c. Enjoy PEONIES and people - less administrative work.
  - d. Recruit more volunteers to assist with the many tasks APS has going.
- 4) Michigan Convention. We'll need all "hands on deck" and I'm hopeful most of you are able to attend. There are numerous needs which need to be met – most when we arrive and are not too intrusive to an enjoyable convention. A couple of things on my mind are:
  - a. Detailed Schedule. Are we ready?
  - b. **Greeters and Registration** (Brandie Orchard, David Maltby, Kris Jurik, Kim Bremer, others?). Before members arrive we'll need to have information, name tags and other things ready. Additionally we'll need a registration location to distribute and greet attendees. Signage? Volunteers?

- c. **Auction** (Mary Muellner). Since we do not know if Lore and Jim Sampson will be attending, we do not know the status of an auctioneer (Jim has done this ably the past several years). Since they are not receptive to my communications in most instances, perhaps someone could inquire whether they would consider attending and helping with the auction. They are welcome and I'd love to see them join in.
- d. **Volunteer Manger(s)**. Much of the work of a convention tends to fall upon a few people and spreading these duties between Directors would be helpful. One area which I believe would be beneficial to the society (especially involving members) is to put together a work schedule in area we could use assistance. Major areas include: Flower Show (Linette and David will have list of needs), greeting and registration at the hotel, hospitality room, APS sales/information table (books, seeds, information, memberships, etc...) and much more. Just an idea and it wouldn't take all that much time to get people on board.

Nate Bremer  
APS President