



American Peony Society

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2022 | 6:30 p.m. CDT

Call to Order / Roll Call

Voting Members in Attendance: *Brandie Orchard, Craig Aiken, Cory Tischman, David Michener, Jill Stevens, Kent Tretheway, Kris Jurik, Linette Sorrentino, Lois Girton, Lynn Gessling, Mary Muellner, Mike Miller, Nate Bremer, Nick Maycher, Scott Parker, Steve Smith, Piet Wierstra*

Non-Voting Members in Attendance: *David Sorrentino, Sheryl Lawson*

Absent Members: *Leena Liljestrand*

A regularly scheduled meeting of the American Peony Society (APS) was held on August 25, 2022 via teleconference (Zoom). It began at 6:31pm CDT and was presided over by Nate Bremer as President, with Cory Tischman as Recording Secretary.

Reading & Approval of Minutes

Cory Tischman submitted the meeting minutes from the BOD meeting on June 2, 2022. The minutes were submitted to be ratified with a motion made by Lois Girton, seconded by David Michener, which carried unanimously.

A motion to ratify Annual General Membership Meeting Minutes and 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Minutes (**See 2022.06.04 APS General Annual Meeting & Election Minutes; Summarized and Compiled Minutes for 2021-2022**) was carried unanimously by the BOD.

The motion to Ratify allows the BOD to approve, by majority vote at a regular meeting (or properly called special meeting) with a quorum. After the motion is carried, the Board of Directors has legally acknowledged the action (minutes and proceedings of 2020-2021) and no further action is required. The ratified minutes and proceedings are officially accepted into the American Peony Society's records. A record of this meeting is found on the Ratification MEMO to be placed in 2022 Minutes.

Officers' Reports

President's Report – Nate Bremer

- **See Report**

- Nate inducted the new BODs, and everyone in attendance agreed to do so. Nate made emphasis with point #2 in his report, and encouraged BODs to be open with each other, staying on top of tasks, and asking for help. Kris will be retiring from the Treasurer position in December and Linette would like to retire from the membership position. Asked the BOD to look at potential members that may be a good fit for either position.

Treasurer's Report – Kris Jurik

- **See Report**

- Doubled income compared to two years ago. There are still some expenses rolling over in June and July. Audit will happen in the first week in November and will submit the

report once it is completed. Starting to receive donations, which will be reflected in the reports. Nate will look into the amount nonprofits can hold onto without concerns in auditing.

Committees and Special Projects Reports

Auction Report – Jill Stevens, Lois Girton, & Mary Muellner

- No Report
 - Lois Girton noted there is a need for more donations for the fall auction. Jill noted there are 48 lots for the US. Nick Maycher noted there are under 20 donations for the Canadian auction. There are three donations for the European Auction. Nate offered to donate grafts for the auction but will need someone else to mail them out. Steve Smith will post something on Facebook about the fall auction, and the social media team will coordinate coverage on other social media platforms.

Award of Landscape Merit (ALM) Committee Report – Cory Tischman & Jill Stevens

- No Report

Awards Committee Report – Steve Smith

- No Report

Book & Publications Report – Mike Miller

- No Report

Bulletins & Editorial Committee Report - Kim and Nate Bremer

- No Report
 - Articles and announcements for the last Bulletin of the year due mid October. Peony Cultivar Directory will be large this year due to many submissions. The Editor (Kim) and ICRA are looking at options for publishing them and will need to produce two separate publications.

Commercial Members Committee Report - Piet Wierstra

- No Report

Convention Steering Committee Report – Linette Sorrentino

- No Report

Exhibition Committee Report - David & Linette Sorrentino

- No Report

International Outreach Program Committee Report - Leena Liljestrang & Nick Maycher

- No Report

Membership Report – Linette Sorrentino

- **See Report**

Mentorship Committee Report – Kent Tretheway

- No Report

Nomenclature Committee Report - Reiner Jakubowski

- No Report

Nominations Committee Report – Cory Tischman

- No Report

Scientific & Horticultural Studies Committee Report - David Michener

- No Report

Seed Distribution Program Report – Scott Parker

- No Report
 - Discussed taking down the seed list on the APS website. Scott noted the need for more seed suppliers. Overall, the seed sales have been very successful.

Social Media Committee Report -

- No Report

Speakers & Programs Committee Report - Lois Girton

- No Report

Website Committee Report - Nate Bremer

- No Report
 - Need images of Craig Aiken and Lynn Gessling for the 'Leadership Page'. Website will get rework over the winter and Nate would like assistance and input

Youth Program Committee Report

- No Report

Correspondence

- **See Report**
- Secretary...Hazel Cook has resigned and Sheryl Lawson will take over as Corresponding Secretary through 2024. Per bylaws (although somewhat ambiguous) the Executive Committee decided upon a replacement.

Unfinished Business

- To-Do List
 - currently up-to-date with tasks. Will be revising bylaws in the winter.
- New York Convention (May 31 to June 4, 2023)
 - Nate Bremer discussed the need to share responsibilities for the upcoming convention and spreading the workload due to concerns of overloading one person. Discussion of getting a Zoom meeting between September 10-15 about the Convention planning to get information into the next bulletin. Need to get the signed contract and there is still time to make changes for rooms.

New Business

- Corresponding Secretary duties
 - Possibly start sending out thank you letters from the APS, and the BODs generally agreed on the importance of doing so. Sheryl noted she is okay doing so as long as she has the notes and who to send them to. David Michener also offered to help with sending out letters. Linette Sorrentino suggested a personalized APS thank you card that has information about the APS on the back. Nate Bremer asked Brandie Orchard to look into creating personalized APS thank you cards.

Discussion

- 2025 Convention – Beaver Dam – Linette Sorrentino
 - Linette has been working with the Beaver Dam Chamber of Commerce. She noted there is a place that is an option for exhibition but is a few miles out, the banquet and auction would be at another place, and sleeping arrangements would be at one of the hotels. Linette noted there is still some of the details needing to be worked out to determine if this site is viable. Linette will have more information for the next meeting.
- APS Power Point presentations for use by members - Lois Girton
 - Lois noted there haven't been any Zoom presentations, with the last being in summer 2021. Lois proposed five presentations, once a month, starting in January 2023, on Saturday mornings, which will allow for European members to participate. Currently in the process of finding speakers for the presentations.
 - Lois noted it was difficult to find people to talk locally as there have been requests in the past. Lois proposed "canned" powerpoints that some members might feel more comfortable to present locally. Discussed various ways to store and share the presentations.
- Assignment of Convention Sub-chairs – Linette Sorrentino/Nate Bremer/David Sorrentino
 - A list of 35 sub-chairs was created and sent out to the BOD and encouraged the BODs to see which ones may be of interest and to contact Linette Sorrentino. APS has 55 New York members, and to possibly reach out to them to see if anyone would be interested in volunteering for any of the chairs for the convention.
- Eleanor Tickner Donations
 - Donated her collection of books for the auction and possibly bottles for the exhibition. Will discuss further at the New York Convention planning meeting.
- Russian & Ukraine members
 - Due to the war, David Michener suggested continually sending bulletins due to the financial embargo. Currently six members are affected.

Motions

Motion: I, Mary Muellner, make a motion to accept and ratify the 2021-2022 fiscal year minutes and proceedings of the American Peony Society as presented at the General Annual Membership Meeting held

on June 4, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. CDT. Motion seconded by: Nate Bremer. Motion carried by unanimous vote of BOD.

Adjournment

Nate Bremer moved that the meeting be adjourned and this was agreed upon at 7:53pm CDT.

Next Meeting: December 8, 2022 via Zoom at 6:30pm CST

Minutes Submitted by: Cory Tischman