



American Peony Society

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2022 | 6:30 p.m. CST

Call to Order / Roll Call

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

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

Absent Members: *Kris Jurik (excused, see 'Discussions')*

A regularly scheduled meeting of the American Peony Society (APS) was held on December 6, 2022 via teleconference (Zoom). It began at 6:33 pm CST 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 August 25, 2022. The minutes were submitted to be ratified with a motion made by Lois Girton, seconded by Nick Maycher, which carried unanimously.

Officers' Reports

President's Report – Nate Bremer

- **See Report**
 - Nate noted that that with upcoming elections that only the recent trend of President serving two consecutive terms and suggested moving towards one term Presidential terms

Treasurer's Report – Lynn Gessling

- **See Report**
 - Transfer to Lynn as Treasurer with accounts had some snags but has been figured out with some problems with paying bills but will be figured in the next few weeks.
 - Some investments have taken a hit due to the stock market but still have plenty of money available.

Committees and Special Projects Reports

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

- No Report

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

- **See Report**

Bulletins & Editorial Committee Report - Kim and Nate Bremer

- No Report

Commercial Members Committee Report - Piet Wierstra

- No Report

Convention Steering Committee Report – Linette Sorrentino

- **See Report**

Exhibition Committee Report - David & Linette Sorrentino

- No Report

EU Auction Committee Report – Leena Liljestrand

- **See Report**

International Outreach Program Committee Report - Leena Liljestrand & Nick Maycher

- No Report

Membership Report – Linette Sorrentino

- **See Report**
 - 588 memberships that will lapse for 1/1/23. Overall numbers have continued to go up with a number of membership renewals coming up. Numbers have doubled since over the last years.

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

Social Media Committee Report

- No Report

Speakers & Programs Committee Report - Lois Girton

- No Report

Website Committee Report - Nate Bremer

- **See Report**

Correspondence

- **See Report**
 - Had 36 emails and people seem to have a real interest in the website and seeking out varieties of peonies.

Unfinished Business

- To-Do List
 - Thank you cards are on their way – Brandie Orchard
 - Find Replacement for Linette Sorrentino
 - Linette has been Membership Chair since 2015, and Linette puts a lot of time in with conventions and needs the extra time. Nate Bremer suggested putting out names to look into and Nate will reach out to them.
 - Bylaw revisions will be done this winter
- New York Convention (May 31 to June 4, 2023)
 - That meeting was held on 12/1 and the planning is going well. Linette Sorrentino noted she looked at garden clubs in New York and said she is talking to some on getting vases for the flower show and possibly help. Lois Girton noted she is working on creating a brochure to give out to the garden clubs. January 9, 2023 deadline for Q1 bulletin for any convention information. David Sorrentino is working on the online registration.

New Business

- Consensus Items
 - **See Motions**
- Donation Monies
 - David Michener discussed the logistics with the donations of the APS, WI Peony Society, and MN Peony Society to the University of Michigan to support peony research and either options (honorarium or a prize) go to Nastya Vlasava vs the University of Michigan as there is already an endowment for lab equipment, travel, etc. and there are concerns about auditing as her dry appointment is non-compensational.
- Set BOD Meetings for 2023
 - Nate Bremer suggests the 2023 meeting dates: 2/9, 5/11, convention, 8/3 (ratify minutes for the year), 11/9

Discussion

- Publications
 - Nate Bremer discussed moving away from publications due to taking up space and selling very few publications, and ultimately get rid of the books. Linette Sorrentino suggests

maybe some of the regional societies take some to give them to their members. No decision has been made. Nate will type up a plan and distribute plan to BOD to make a decision.

- Resignation of Kris Jurik as Treasurer
 - Lois Girton noted that there was confusion over Kris Jurik's resignation as Treasurer. Nate believed she wanted to resign as a Director as well, which was incorrect. Nate will call Kris and apologize for the confusion and communicate the reasons for the mistake. Kris remains a Director, unless she opts out.
- Convention Flower Show
 - Piet Wierstra suggested looking into corporate sponsors for awards. Linette Sorrentino noted the prep and show will be long days due to the schedule and noted a schedule will be printed.
- ICRA Cultivar Registration Fee Changes
 - **See Proposal by Jordan Kabat**
 - Overall unpaid costs and time are astronomical and creates a severe impingement of the APS infrastructure. Discussed variations on raising prices and other options. Nate and Jordan Kabat will explore this further.

Motions

Motion: I, David Michener, make a motion to accept the fiscal year report (July 2021- June 2022). Motion seconded by: Piet Wierstra. Motion carried by unanimous vote of BOD.

Motion: I, Nate Bremer, make a motion to accept the resignation of Kris Jurik as APS Treasurer and confirm Lynn Gessling as the new APS Treasurer. Motion seconded by: David Sorrentino. Motion carried by unanimous vote of BOD.

Motion: I, Lois Girton, make a motion to accept the consensus items (see below). Seconded by Brandie Orchard. Motion seconded by: Brandie Orchard. Motion carried by unanimous vote of BOD.

1.) Nate Bremer motions for the purchase of coin envelopes for use by Scott Parker in packaging seeds. \$17 per case. 10 cases. Upline. \$170 plus some shipping.

2.) Nate Bremer motions for the purchase of a label printer to be used by Scott Parker for labeling seed packages. Dymo thermal printer and labels. Estimated cost: \$130.00 (printer), case of 10 labels \$190.00. Total cost: \$320.00

Motion: I, Lois Girton, make a motion to accept recommended dates by Nate Bremer for the 2023 BOD meetings. Motion seconded by: Brandie Orchard. Motion carried by unanimous vote of BOD.

Adjournment

Nate Bremer moved that the meeting be adjourned and this was agreed upon at 8:22pm CST.

Next Meeting: February 9, 2023 via Zoom at 6:30pm CST

Minutes Submitted by: Cory Tischman