



## 2023.02.09 APS President's Report

Nate Bremer

Peonies and APS are running hot! A good thing if you are a member – perhaps not so much if you are an APS leader. That said, lets keep onboarding more help!

- 1) Special thanks to Kris Jurik and Lynn Gessling for ably manning the transfer of treasurer. This has been anything, but an easy process. What we've learned is that bank and financial institutions are not cooperative and are not helpful in transferring ownership and information. US Bank has been extremely difficult to work with and a new bank should likely be in our future. At this point we are working with them until we can gain control of the existing accounts and get caught up. Kris and Lynn have been instrumental in the process and I appreciate their continued **persistence and resilience**.
- 2) Leadership changes. APS has done well with the numerous leadership changes over the past year, but I can't say any of them have been easy handoffs. As the world changes so does the complexity of any leadership position and there really isn't a formula that will satisfy all changes. However, its apparent that when there is an exchange of leadership roles "LEAD TIME" and "TRAINING" will alleviate many issues. In other words, its helpful for current leaders to provide plenty of lead time if they would like to relinquish a role they perform for the Society. In most instances we've done this, but it should be front-in center of all of our minds.
- 3) Seek member assistance and involvement. As we carry out our committee and project duties I recommend drawing in as many members as possible. This helps the society in many ways, most of all it acquaints others with tasks in case of a leadership change (a training exercise). Additionally, members really like it! Conventions continue to be problematic for planning and getting more member involvement would seem key to relieve leaders of some of the heavy duty lifting.
- 4) BYLAWS... We've been working on these to clarify some obvious weak points, incorrect language usage and conflicting statements; plus bring them up to modern day standards. For the most part, the intent of the Bylaws have **not** been changed, so there really isn't a great deal of concern for operational changes. Please see attachment. I would like to get approval of the BOD sometime early this spring to make changes and then they will have to be presented to the membership for approval (hopefully the AGMM at the NY Convention).
- 5) Nominations for open BOD slots is now taking place. Cory Tischman is the Nominations and Elections chair and could use some help. This year is a light one – there are four possible openings on the BOD. Three are currently occupied by: Nate Bremer, Kris Jurik and Linette Sorrentino. Their terms end at the Annual General Membership Meeting. I'm hoping all three of us who are currently BOD members will continue in their roles. Continuation or discontinuation will require all of us to inform Cory Tischman before March 1. Please let Cory know of your intent as soon as possible. There is also one open Director slot we have not filled to date. All BOD positions are open to any Member of the Society if they go

through the nomination process. Membership elects Directors at the Annual General Membership Meeting. Its unlikely we will see other nominations and if we do, its likely it would only be one. Having all BOD slots filled by able bodies is quite helpful and I believe has led to many positive changes for APS. **That said, if you know of someone you believe would be an asset to the Society in the form of a Director, please ask-push-sell them on running for the position by contacting Cory Tischman at: [aps2@americanpeonysociety.org](mailto:aps2@americanpeonysociety.org).**

- 6) Record keeping... Recently, while working on some Bylaw content, I was in need of some information from past BOD and Committee meetings (held prior to 2019). Needless to say, I came up empty, as there was no central repository for this information prior to 2019. On the upside, documents since 2019 are, for the most part, complete and may be found in the ADMIN Documents on the APS website. These documents are viewable and downloadable by any Director or Officer. Leaders may also upload their documents into folders with designations and I highly recommend it. These past documents can be quite helpful in tracking down old decisions and discussions.
- 7) **Lastly, I wish everyone a successful, happy and healthy 2023. You folks have supported the many changes in the Society and our members/peony world are reaping the benefits. Mission accomplished!**

Respectfully,

**Nate Bremer**  
**APS President and Director**