



## American Peony Society

### Annual Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

#### August 3, 2023 | 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, Linette Sorrentino, Lois Girton, Lynn Gessling, Mary Muellner, Nate Bremer, Nick Maycher, Scott Parker, Sheryl Lawson, Steve Smith*

Non-Voting Members in Attendance: *David Sorrentino*

Absent Members: *Leena Liljestrand, Piet Wierstra*

A regularly scheduled meeting of the American Peony Society (APS) was held on August 3, 2023 via teleconference (Zoom). It began at 6:30pm 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 May 31 and June 3, 2023. The minutes were submitted to be ratified with a motion made by Nate Bremer, seconded by David, which carried unanimously.

### Officers' Reports

President's Report – Nate Bremer

- **See Report**
  - Commercial Growers Code of Ethics has been discussed at the APS Convention and will be rolled out soon with other commercial growers.

Treasurer's Report – Lynn Gessling

- **See Report**
  - The Treasurer's Report was submitted to be ratified with a motion made by Cory Tischman, seconded by Lois Girton, which carried unanimously.

### Committees and Special Projects Reports

Auction 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

- No 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

- 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**
  - From 2018 to 2023, the number of members doubled. 735 members will lapse in 2024. Linette will be turning over membership to Liz Best. New York has 99 members and Washington and Minnesota have 70 members each. Have 94 commercial members.

Mentorship Committee Report – Kent Tretheway

- No Report

Nomenclature Committee Report - Jordan Kabat

- No Report

Nominations Committee Report – Cory Tischman

- No Report

Scientific & Horticultural Studies Committee Report - David Michener

- No Report

Seed Distribution Program Report – Scott Parker

- Income has gone up drastically since the automation being implemented on the website. Number of seed sales has doubled since last year.

Social Media Committee Report - Craig Aiken

- No Report

Speakers & Programs Committee Report - Lois Girton

- No Report

Website Committee Report - Nate Bremer

- No Report

## Correspondence – Sheryl Lawson

- 60-70 emails since the last meeting. Topics of inquiries about the following: seed sales, bulletins, peony health, locating peonies, and identifying peonies.

## Unfinished Business

- To-Do List
  - Brandie Orchard suggested having a guest membership for peony promoters, influencers, and connecting them more with the society and getting them involved.
  - 501(c) 3 application has been completed but has not been enacted. Still in the process with the IRS. It could take 6+ months.
  - Dissolution for Missouri Incorporation was resubmitted by Nate Bremer and is currently in the process of being reviewed.
  - David Michener and Lois Girton discussed what to expect out of a public peony garden and suggested possibly have two levels – one being a display garden, and other being a reference garden. Will be working on presenting more at a future meeting, possibly with a list of gardens.
  - Nate Bremer is still working on the new email system of the society but waiting on 501(c) 3 application to be enacted first.
- Ratification of Annual General Membership Meeting Minutes:
  - Ratification of Annual APS Minutes Memo: 2023.08.03 Annual BOD Meeting
  - In accordance with the bylaws, the Board of Directors of the American Peony Society convened for an Annual Directors Meeting (2023.08.03) following Annual Membership meeting on Saturday, June 3, 2023 in Syracuse, New York. For the purposes of ratifying minutes and proceedings of the fiscal year 2022-2023, ratification is taking place through a video conference meeting, dating August 03, 2023 at 6:30 P.M. In attendance: (see ‘Call to Order/Roll Call’)
  - The motion to Ratify (See ‘Motions’) 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 2022-2023) 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 will be placed in the APS Administrative Document Storage, within the APS website.
- Induction of Elected Directors
  - The following Director Candidates have been elected by membership attending the General Annual Membership Meeting on June 3, 2023 in Syracuse, New York: Linette Sorrentino, Nate Bremer. The above inductees agreed to the following statement:

- *As newly elected Directors to American Peony Society's Board of Directors do you accept the challenge to provide educational opportunities and support Society activities to improve the 'Peony' as stated in our mission and bylaws, and to work in good faith as a representative of the organization. And do you promise to work toward goals as set by the Board of Directors and membership through committee and project work. If so, please answer "I will".*

## New Business

- APS Cancellation and Refund Policy - Nate Bremer
  - **See Document**
    - Suggestion to apply cancellation money to future conventions. Nate asked BOD to look over the document and give suggestions by September 17th.
- Fall Auction: September 21 to 24 via Auctria
  - Five donations so far and Lois Girton is setting up the website and writing up the solicitation email, and will be ready to go August 15th. Would like to have all donations in by September 10th.

## Discussions

- Request for Bigger Plants
  - **See Document**
    - BOD asked to help with locating missing plants on the list.
- 2024 Convention – Minnesota - David and Linette Sorrentino
  - June 5-9, 2024. Information will be in the next bulletin and pricing needs to be set.
- 2025 Convention - Wisconsin - David and Linette Sorrentino
  - Numbers were sent to the Beaver Dam Chamber of Commerce. They are working on securing a tourism grant to help with the show. The Chamber of Commerce will be doing a lot of the advertising.

## Motions

**Motion:** I, Linette Sorrentino, make a motion to accept and ratify the 2022-2023 fiscal year minutes and proceedings of the American Peony Society as presented at the General Annual Membership Meeting held on June 3, 2023, in Syracuse, New York. Motion seconded by: Nick Maycher. Motion carried unanimously.

## Adjournment

Nate Bremer moved that the meeting be adjourned and this was agreed upon at 8:07pm CDT.

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

Minutes Submitted by: Cory Tischman