



Report: President

Date: 4/1/2024

Submitted by: Nate Bremer

Thanks to all BOD members for all their work during this busy period – I know everyone has busy lives!

As usual there are many projects and initiatives being worked on behind the scenes. The Minnesota Convention is looking very promising for attendance and its many interesting components – thanks David and Linette and all who are involved.

Nominations for awards, have been completed for the year. Awards are important for the society to promote the peony and more and more would-be peony enthusiasts are using them as a guide for purchases. Personal communications with other commercial growers indicate that cultivars which receive award designations are seeing an uptick in sales and customers often refer to the APS lists when making purchases.

We have a big year for turnover of leadership. We'll be losing Craig Aiken and Leena Liljestrand as Directors and I'd like to acknowledge appreciation for their work to promote the peony and supporting APS – you folks have impacted many people in the peony world! New Directors will be elected at the Annual General Membership Meeting and I look forward to the infusion of new ideas and ways of doing things. At the annual BOD meeting (we are going to attempt a short one at the convention) we'll induct the new Directors and also elect our next executive committee. As president, I'd like to thank everyone on the executive committee for their great support over the past four years and a couple who have indicated they will continue in their current capacities. A new President, Vice President and Recording Secretary will need to be elected due to term limits, as described in the bylaws. I look forward to their new ideas and ways of promoting the peonies.

I'd also like to thank my wife, Kim, who ably commands the Editor position for the society. She freely contributes many hours to the Bulletin and the Peony Directory. Much of her work goes on behind the scenes and living in the same household gives me a unique view into the volume of work and expertise required to pull off our quarterly Bulletin. She'll continue in this capacity for the foreseeable future and I'm hoping to provide more assistance after retirement from the president position. A number of leaders within the society work closely with Kim and I appreciate the assistance and contributions they provide (she appreciates it as well). If you are able to contribute, please do so – it makes her job more enjoyable and shows support for the main membership benefit in our society.

The Society is in great shape and there is a tremendous amount of work being done, all of which cannot be included here. So, thank you!

As we move into this busy spring period, please know APS appreciates your contributions. Personally, I wish everyone a happy and healthy year and look forward to seeing all who are able to attend this year's convention.

Warmest Regards,

Nate Bremer