



Board of Director's Minutes and Proceedings – 2020-2021

Compiled & Summarized Minutes: July 2020 to April 2021

APS traditionally has had one comprehensive Board of Director's meeting held each year, either before or after the General Annual Membership meeting. In recent years additional Board of Directors meetings have been held throughout the year to facilitate and support a growing APS presence. Due to larger amounts of information generated during these meetings, the following **Annual Meeting Minutes** reflect important decisions impacting the society as whole and will not contain detailed committee reports, discussions and planning details. For further details concerning reports and discussion please visit the APS Member Portal website at: <https://americanpeonysociety.org/member-portal/pages/member-resources/bod-minutes-reports/>.

Ratification of 2019-2020 Minutes and Proceedings was carried out August 3, 2020 following the Annual General Membership Meeting via Zoom on August 1, 2020. Minutes were ratified by attending BOD members.

Board of Directors: Brandie Orchard, Cory Tischman, David Maltby, David Michener, Jill Stevens, Kris Jurik, Leena Liljestrand, Linette Sorrentino, Lois Girton, Mary Muellner, Mike Miller, Nate Bremer, Piet Wierstra, Scott Parker, Steve Smith, Craig Aiken, Kent Tretheway, Adriana Feng (on leave of absence).

Executive Committee: Nate Bremer-President; David Sorrentino-Vice President; Kris Jurik-Treasurer; Cory Tischman-Recording Secretary; Hazel Cook-Corresponding Secretary.

Program, Committee Chairs and Structural Operations Volunteers (°=Chairperson):

- 1) Membership: Linette Sorrentino °
 - 2) Award of Landscape Merit: Cory Tischman ° & Jill Stevens °
 - 3) Awards: Steve Smith °, Craig Aiken, Brandie Orchard
 - 4) International Outreach: Cory Tischman ° & Leena Liljestrand °
 - 5) Auctions: Mary Muellner °, Jill Stevens, David Maltby & Lois Girton
 - 6) Scientific Studies: Jim Sampson °, David Michener °, Lois Girton
 - 7) Website: Nate Bremer ° & David Sorrentino °
 - 8) Speakers and Programs: Lois Girton °
 - 9) Mentorship Program: Kent Tretheway °
 - 10) Exhibitions and Shows: Linette Sorrentino ° & David Sorrentino °
 - 11) Convention Steering & Planning: Linette Sorrentino ° & David Sorrentino
 - 12) Individual Conventions: Linette Sorrentino, David Sorrentino & David Michener – Michigan 2022; Craig Aiken – New York 2023; Linette Sorrentino, David Sorrentino – Minnesota 2024.
 - 13) Bulletin Editor Group: Kim Bremer °, Lois Girton, Sharon Schmitz, Jill Stevens, Kate Crawford, Larry Argatoff, Jim Sampson, Jerri O'Connor.
 - 14) Layout, Design and Printing (paid to outside entity): Covington Press
 - 15) Social Media: Steve Smith ° (Facebook APS mainpage & Pinterest); Craig Aiken °, Liz Best °, Lynn Gessling ° (Facebook APS Group); Brandie Orchard ° (Instagram);
 - 16) Nomenclature: Reiner Jakubowski ° (Registrar)
 - 17) Historic Resources: Reiner Jakubowski °
 - 18) Seed Program: Scott Parker °
 - 19) Books and Publications: Mike Miller °
 - 20) Commercial Members: Piet Wierstra °
 - 21) Nominations and Elections: Cory Tischman °
- °= Chairperson(s)

- 1) **9/3/2020 BOD Meeting.** Attending Board of Directors may be found in full minutes and the meeting was held via phone conference call. Cory Tischman Recording Secretary. Nate Bremer, president, presided.
 - General planning meeting including: Convention planning (Michigan), Hathi Trust access to past bulletins, fall auction, personal awards, committee reports and projects. No motions were submitted or carried.
 - Decision to move BOD meetings to Zoom platform vs. teleconferencing.
 - Membership reporting – in good condition
 - Treasury reporting – in good condition
 - No motions brought forward
- 2) **11/5/2020 BOD Meeting.** Attending Board of Directors may be found in full minutes and the meeting was held via video conferencing. Cory Tischman Recording Secretary. Nate Bremer, president, presided.
 - General planning meeting including: Convention manual planning in process, Michigan Convention planning update, Hathi Trust access to past bulletins, personal awards, committee reports and projects. Budget process in the works.
 - Decision to move BOD meetings to Zoom platform vs. teleconferencing.
 - Membership reporting – up 200 members from last year
 - Treasury reporting – in good condition
 - BOD meetings have been moved to a quarterly schedule for 2021.
 - Motions:
 - Motion: David Michener moves that the Board of Directors of the American Peony Society release the copyright of the Bulletin of the American Peony Society in a rolling retroactive 7-year window. Scott Parker made an amendment to the motion: "Furthermore, David Michener of the Board of Directors is authorized to resolve this with the Hathi Digital Trust." Seconded by Nate Bremer. No discussions were made. The motion with the amendment carried with unanimous in favor.
 - Motion: David Maltby moves to accept the 2021 meeting dates as stated in the agenda for the APS BOD. Seconded by David Michener. No discussions were made. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3) **2/11/2021 BOD Meeting.** Attending Board of Directors may be found in full minutes and the meeting was held via video conferencing. Cory Tischman Recording Secretary. Nate Bremer, president, presided.
- General planning meeting including: Committee reporting, budget planning, cancellation of Minnesota 2021 convention due to Covid-19 Pandemic, Registry sponsorship, Awards, commercial member opportunities.
 - Membership reporting – continued growth
 - Treasury reporting – in good condition
 - Motions:
 - **Motion:** Nate Bremer made a motion to cancel the live 2021 APS Convention in Minnesota and to have the APS plan a new alternative convention, including virtual components, for 2021. No discussions were made. The motion carried with unanimous in favor.
 - **Motion:** Nate Bremer made a motion to accept Webfitters proposal to have the APS place **“POWERED BY webfitters. WEBSITES, APPLICATIONS, & DIGITAL MARKETING”** in the APS’ Peony Registry heading for purposes of a trade for maintenance services (sponsorship). No discussions were made. The motion carried with unanimous in favor.
 - **Motion:** David Maltby made a motion to accept submitted proposal by Steve Smith regarding the purchase of APS medals for personal awards. Discussion made over metal choices. The motion carried with unanimous in favor.
 - **Motion:** Nate Bremer made a motion to roll “The Peony of the Year” into the Gold Medal Peony, resulting in the Gold Medal Peony being awarded a year prior to its designation and discontinuation of “The Peony of the Year”. No discussions were made. The motion carried with unanimous in favor.
- 4) **4/22/2021 BOD Meeting.** Attending Board of Directors may be found in full minutes and the meeting was held via video conferencing. Cory Tischman Recording Secretary. Nate Bremer, president, presided.
- General planning meeting including: Committee reporting, Virtual Convention planning.
 - General Membership meeting via Zoom in October.
 - Hathi Library and Bulletin access is available for use by membership (David Michener).
 - Discussion of unregistered peonies being distributed with duplications and issues surrounding information available to gardeners.
 - Virtual Convention plans in works and will be planned by Nate Bremer, then implemented due to short time scale.
 - Membership reporting – continued growth
 - Treasury reporting – in good condition
 - Motions:
 - **Motion:** Scott Parker made a motion for APS to support Nate Bremer’s proposal to allocate up \$400.00 to spend to use 4Imprint to produce approximately 72 to 100 mugs for the APS to use. Piet Wiersta seconded the motion. No discussions were made. The motion carried with unanimous in favor.
- 5) APS begins a new fiscal year with the end of the April 4, 2021 meeting. All minutes subsequent to this date will be presented at the next Annual General Membership Meeting (planned for the Michigan venue convention).
- 6) **Induction and Ratification Meeting for 2020-2021**
- Call to Order / Roll Call
 - Present Members:
 - Guests in Attendance: None
 - The American Peony Society (APS) Annual General Membership Meeting and Elections was held on October 14, 2021 via a Zoom internet conference. 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 a summary of meeting minutes from July 2020 to April 2021. The minutes were submitted to be ratified with a motion to accept, made by Linette Sorrentino, which carried unanimously.
 - Officers’ Reports – No reporting required or submitted at this meeting.
 - Motions
 - In accordance with the bylaws, the Board of Directors of the American Peony Society reconvened immediately following the Annual General Membership Meeting on October 14, 2021. Linette Sorrentino made a motion to accept the 2020-2021 minutes and proceedings of the American Peony Society as presented at the General Annual Membership Meeting held on October 14, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. CDT. David Michener seconded the motion. No discussion was made. The motion carried unanimously.
 - Elections
 - The following Director Candidates have been elected by membership attending the General Annual Membership Meeting on October 14, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. CDT: Linette Sorrentino, Kris Jurik & Nate Bremer. The above members were in attendance and all 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”.
 - Board Adjournment