



## American Peony Society Annual Board of Directors Meeting Minutes April 18, 2024 | 6:30 p.m. CDT

### Call to Order / Roll Call

Voting Members in Attendance: *Craig Aiken, Cory Tischman, David Michener, Jill Stevens, Kent Tretheway, Leena Liljestrand, Lois Girton, Lynn Gessling, Nate Bremer, Nick Maycher, Sheryl Lawson, Scott Parker, Steve Smith*

Non-Voting Members in Attendance:

Absent Members: *Brandie Orchard, David Sorrentino, Linette Sorrentino, Mary Muellner, and Piet Wierstra*

A regularly scheduled meeting of the American Peony Society (APS) was held on April 18, 2024 via teleconference (Zoom). It began at 6:32pm 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 February 15, 2024. The minutes were submitted to be ratified with a motion made by Nick Maycher, seconded by Lois Girton, which carried unanimously.

### Officers' Reports

President's Report – Nate Bremer

- **See Report**

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Treasurer's Report – Lynn Gessling

- **See Report**
  - Put \$50,000 in a money market account, which will be making 4.05% on it.
  - Lynn requested the fixed annuity for Edward Jones to be transferred to US Bank account but hasn't been completed yet. Will eventually transfer the rest of the Edward Jones account to US Bank money market account.
  - **See 'Motions'**

### 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

- **See Report**

Awards Committee Report – Steve Smith

- **See Report**

Book & Publications Report – Mike Miller

- No Report

Bulletins & Editorial Committee Report - Kim and Nate Bremer

- No Report

Commercial Members Committee Report - Piet Wierstra

- **See Report**

Convention Steering Committee Report – Linette Sorrentino

- No Report

Exhibition Committee Report - David & Linette Sorrentino

- No Report

International Outreach Program Committee Report - Leena Liljestrand & Nick Maycher

- **See Report**

Membership Report – Liz Best

- **See Report**

Mentorship Committee Report – Kent Tretheway

- No Report

Nomenclature Committee Report - Jordan Kabat

- **See Report**

Nominations Committee Report – Cory Tischman

- **See Report**

Reference Garden Committee Report - Lois Girton, Nick Maycher, David Michener, Steve Smith, &

- **See Report** Brandie Orchard

Scientific & Horticultural Studies Committee Report - David Michener

- No Report

Seed Distribution Program Report – Scott Parker

- No Report
  - Currently already 84 sales since new listed being posted

Social Media Committee Report - Craig Aiken

- No Report

Speakers & Programs Committee Report - Lois Girton

- No Report

Website Committee Report - Nate Bremer

- **See Report**

## **Correspondence – Sheryl Lawson**

- **See Report**

## **Unfinished Business**

- WPS, MPS, and APS groups seeking update on donations to University of Michigan “Peony Research Project”
  - David Michener noted he will have a report typed up to submit to the groups by somewhere next week or so.

- Currently have a 53-page research paper that was created and will be adding more information to be submitted to a journal.

## New Business

- Awards for 2024 (Personal and 2025 Gold Medal) - Steve Smith
  - Gold Medal (GM) Information & Procedures (see document)
    - **See 'Motion' section**
  - Excellence Award (EA) Information & Procedures (see document)
    - **See 'Motion' section**
  - Determine Gold Medal winner for 2025
    - No discussions on candidates
    - Winner: 'Lancaster Imp'
  - Determine Excellence Award (tentatively named, not official) for 2025
    - No discussions on candidates
    - Winner: 'Perfection'
- Retirements from Board of Directors in June
  - Craig Aiken and Leena Liljestrang
- Social Media
  - Needing a new social media administrator as Craig Aiken is retiring from the role. Please contact either Craig or Nate Bremer if someone is interested.

## Discussions

- insurance coverage for APS organizational liability - Lynn Gessling
  - Through USLI (United States Liability Company Insurance). This is coverage for Directors and Leaders of APS. Cost: \$918.00.
- Minnesota Convention – Nate Bremer
  - Directors should be present at the flower show to answer questions
  - Directors should be present to help with clean up for the flower show
- Liz Best requesting assistance during heavy January renewal periods
  - Mary Muellner volunteered to help but still looking for other interested individuals
- APS no longer processes credit card payments directly (as of 2019)
  - Members need to use the website or send a check to pay for anything and have no way to process credit cards (i.e., credit card readers).
- Institutional Memberships – Lois Girton
  - Hoping to offer this as a benefit as part of their reference garden program. She noted the proposed changes to allow them to have access to membership portal and sign up for events.
  - There are currently gardens that want to be part of the reference garden program.

## Motions

**Motion:** I, Steve Smith, make a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by: David Michener. Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion:** I, Cory Tischman, make a motion to approve the Gold Medal (GM) Information & Procedures document as written. Motion seconded by: Lois Girton. Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion:** I, Nick Maycher, make a motion to accept the Award Committee's initiative to create a new award recognizing emergent cultivars as per written proposal and criteria, with a name for the award to be determined at a later date as per board recommendation. Motion seconded by: Lois Girton. Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion:** I, Nate Bremer, make a motion to accept the proposed changes to the institutional membership benefits as proposed to the following, "Institutional memberships are for one organization at a single mailing address and include one printed Bulletin which may be made available to the public through their library system. The membership will be associated with the email address of one individual (staff or volunteer) who will have access to the Member Portal but does not include public access to the Member Portal. The institution designates the individual associated with the membership, including any needed re-assignments. Other benefits are available, as noted under Member Benefits, but no voting rights are included. Institutional memberships are available to libraries, botanical gardens, arboreta, gardening organizations and educational facilities. The American Peony Society (APS) is not responsible for re-mailing Bulletins and Directories which are returned due to address changes, lost in the mail, stolen or **not** delivered to a member for any other reason." Motion seconded by: Nick Maycher. Motion carried unanimously.

## Adjournment

Nate Bremer moved that the meeting be adjourned and this was agreed upon at 7:52pm CST.

**Next Meeting: June, 2024 at the Annual Convention via in-person. Specific date and time to be determined.**

Minutes Submitted by: Cory Tischman