



# Presidents Report

BOD Meeting 11.04.2021

Nate Bremer

- 1) **Never allow me to schedule a meeting in September or October!** This is probably the same thing you are thinking. September and October should be officially designated as “off limits” for any one growing peonies. Digging, order preparation, auctions, field clean up, replanting, shipping, propagation, seed collecting, inventory and numerous other tasks get packed into these two months and are easily the busiest time of the year (even busier than bloom season for us). If I ever schedule something during these months – have me committed to an asylum!
- 2) **Directors and Meeting obligations and Annual General Membership Meeting.** Thanks to all Directors able to make the Annual General Membership Meeting and the Ratification Meeting. Your presence is important for our members to see (even though we only had a few) and it also provides the message “we are in this together and support each other”. Your presence at meeting makes me feel supported and have resources to answer questions beyond my expertise. We fulfilled our obligations to the bylaws and hopefully can move on to a more “live” meeting next year. Please note, if you are not able to attend a BOD meeting, it is important to let us know prior to the meeting. I realize we all have busy lives and unseen obstacles present themselves, but as directors we have an obligation to attend meetings. Zoom did appear to cause some issues this time around due to the registration requirement for the AGMM. If you were not able to get on to the meeting, it may have been because you did register prior to the meeting – my apologies for not making this clearer. This year’s Zoom meeting went very well and no big items presented themselves of note. See Cory Tischman’s minutes for details.
- 3) **Michigan Convention Auction Needs.** We’ll need all “hands on deck” and I’m hopeful most of you are able to attend. There are numerous needs which need to be met – most when we arrive and are not too intrusive to an enjoyable convention. A couple of things on my mind are:
  - a. **Auction.** Since we do not know if Lore and Jim Sampson will be attending, we do not know the status of an auctioneer (Jim has done this ably the past several years). Since they are not receptive to my communications in most instances, perhaps someone could inquire whether they would consider attending and helping with the auction. They are welcome and I’d love to see them join in.
  - b. **Volunteer Manger(s).** Much of the work of a convention tends to fall upon a few people and spreading these duties between Directors would be helpful. One area which I believe would be beneficial to the society (especially involving members) is to put together a work schedule in area we could use assistance. Major areas include: Flower Show (Linette and David will have list of needs), greeting and registration at the hotel, hospitality room, APS sales/information table (books, seeds, information, memberships, etc...) and much more. Just an idea and it wouldn’t take all that much time to get people on board.
- 4) **Encourage Volunteerism of Members.** This is one of my personal goals for the year and I believe we can get many more members (non-leadership) doing things. Members generally like to be involved and it is a great help to the society for them to participate. At the same time we are sowing the seed for future leaders through member experience. Since the convention is actually live this year, I believe this is perfect opportunity for all of us to make connections.