



Presidents Report

BOD Meeting 8.26.21

Nate Bremer

Busy, busy, busy! That seems to be the thread that runs through all of our lives at this time of year and especially this one. My hopes are that everyone has had a good summer and may have found some time to relax. APS has been busy on a number of fronts since our last meeting and we have some more things coming up in October and then again in spring.

- 1) **Next Bulletin.** Kim informs me that all content for the next Bulletin will need to be in to her by October 15 (normal deadline date for Q4). She would like the preview for the next convention to be in this issue so members can make plans. Last year the pandemic got in the way of complete planning and the article was a preview. She'd like to get everything that is needed in this issue as this seems to be in line with what members would like. If this is something that cannot be accomplished I'd recommend we do a short preview and then permanently announce that complete details for the convention will always be in the in Q1 issue.
- 2) **Annual General Membership Meeting.** This meeting will be held: Thursday, October 14, 2021; 6:30 p.m. CST via Zoom. Signup for the meeting may be found on the Portal Page "Meetings" ; go to <https://americanpeonysociety.org/2021/08/annual-general-membership-meeting/> and click the Annual General Membership link, login and proceed. An announcement of the AGMM will be in the next Bulletin which should reach members before the meeting. As president I'll have the business meeting put together and also make available a summarized BOD meeting minutes document for the year. Annual reports from all committees and programs will be required and we'll make these available online as well. The meeting itself will be short this year, as our activities have been relatively limited in scope. Included in the meeting (it would be nice if those in charge of these areas would present a brief overview, rather than me murdering them:
 - a. **Treasurer's report (Kris)**
 - b. **Membership report (Linette)**
 - c. **Michigan Convention overview (David Michener?)**
 - d. **Auction report and request for donations to be included at the live auction at the Michigan Convention (Mary or another member of the committee)**
 - e. **State of the Union (Nate)**
 - f. **Awards Announcements... Personal and Gold Medal (Steve).** We'll present personal awards again and hand out medals at the next convention to give proper recognition of recipients.
 - g. **Miscellaneous (Nate or any other BOD member who would like to present)**
 - h. **Announcement that Board of Directors election for the terms of Nate Bremer, Kris Jurik and Linette Sorrentino close at the end of the meeting. PLEASE VOTE PRIOR TO THE MEETING IF POSSIBLE.** This information may also be found 'Meetings' page.
- 3) **2020-2021 Ratification of Minutes/Proceedings and Induction of renewed BOD members.** We'll do this immediately following the AGMM. We'll Log of from the AGMM meeting after adjournment and I'll create a separate meeting so that non-BOD members are not involved or listening in.
- 4) **Corresponding Secretary.** Hazel has been busy this year answering many questions in a wide range of topics. Thanks for the excellent work Hazel and I hope this has not been overwhelming!
- 5) **Fall Online Auction.** Thanks go to the Auction Committee for putting on a great event. Lois Girton and Jill Stevens stepped in for Mary Muellner while she attends to family matters. Special thanks to Lois for getting the Auctria Auction together for members.

Virtual Convention. Many members were involved in this at various levels and seemed to enjoy the options.

- The Zoom meetings were well received and many members indicated they would like further options for this type meeting during the winter months.
- Local members of the Minnesota/Wisconsin area were able to attend open gardens for tours at Jill Stevens' garden, Michelle Ovens' Garden and Swenson's Gardens – members enjoyed that were able to travel enjoyed them immensely. Thanks go to these people for putting on a great event.
- Nick Maycher and Cate Crawford have put in a great amount of time on the Virtual Photo show. We've seen good participation by members and it seems to have fill a need. **Nick and Cate will need our help judging.** I'm waiting for instructions at this time from Nick as to how we will go about this.
- APS received \$1975.00 in Sponsorship donations from members for the Virtual Convention. Thanks go to those members (they are listed on the website).

6) **Thanking our MEMBER workforce.** A number of members are heavily involved in society activities and provide a large service to our membership. If you are able to send an individual thank you note or email to any or all of them they would certainly appreciate it, knowing the BOD recognizes their efforts. The danger of thanking people, is missing someone. I know of many others who have made contributions, but wanted to outline some of those that come to mind immediately.

- a. Sharon Schmitz...**Commercial Advertising Manager.** Sharon has made huge progress managing CM ads, payments, answering questions, providing forms and other forms of assistance over the past year. Commercial membership and satisfaction has grown under her oversight.
- b. Craig Aiken, Steve Smith, Brandie Orchard, Liz Best, Lynn Gessling...These folks comprise our **Social Media Team.** They work on a daily basis to oversee our Facebook Home Page, Facebook Group and Instagram, Pinterest platforms. Much of our membership and other peony interested peony folks from around the world use these platforms regularly for information and social enjoyment. Many pieces questions are answered and society information is disseminated and they help to fulfill our mission of education and forward the peony. FB Group = 3.9k members; Pinterest = 17.6 monthly views; FB page = 6,063 followers; Instagram = 1,398 followers.
- c. Hazel Cook...**Corresponding Secretary.** Hazel has been very busy with correspondence this year and her efforts are very much appreciated. Questions are answered quickly or disseminated to members who may more easily answer. She serves as one of our "frontline" workers and is always courteous, no matter the issue.
- d. Kim Bremer...**Editor.** Kim is responsible for a myriad of duties involving the publication of the Bulletin including: editing, writing, image and article procurement, fact checking, publisher communication, scheduling, layout oversight and coordination of all aspects of the Bulletin. She works long hours putting together the Bulletin and working with members to provide wide ranging articles for the publication. Membership has provided many positive comments about the direction of the Bulletin as well. She works hard to make sure Bulletins go out on time and are balanced in content.
- e. Reiner Jakubowski...**Nomenclature, History and Registrar.** Reiner quietly serves many duties within the society which are important to our members. In recent years he has expertly dealt with a growing number of new peony registrations and is instrumental in the detail of content in new registrations. Hybridizers and peony information seekers have been impressed with the available information for peonies which were registered under his oversight of IRCA for APS. The New Cultivar Directory and Website's Peony Registry are popular and used heavily. Reiner also provides historical information for any questions APS members may have – much appreciated.
- f. Cate Crawford, Lois Girton, Jill Stevens, Nick Maycher, Jeri O'Connor...**Editorial Board.** Kim works with numerous people to put together APS' Bulletin. These people make her work easier and also provide

- much needed input, perspectives, technical assistance, content, proofing and outreach. Please note Jeri O'Connor is tasked with reaching out to local or regional societies for updates and has done this expertly.
- g. Kent Tretheway...**Mentorship Program**. Kent works to connect mentees with mentors. Not an easy job due to the number of available mentors. He could use some help procuring more mentors in the area of hybridizing. Participants have expressed their satisfaction with the program and the program fulfills APS' mission of education.
 - h. Kris Jurik...**Treasurer**. Kris works daily keeping APS' books in good working order. She monitors the website for new orders and memberships; provides documentation, welcome notes and numerous other services with each financial interaction. She produces reports and updates for the BOD and membership and provides oversight of everything financial. She interfaces with all and any entity within the Society that requires financial assistance (many). Additionally she travels to see APS' accountant for an annual audit each year. With the increase in membership and other activities this year, Kris has been extremely busy.
 - i. Linette Sorrentino...**Membership**. Linette has had an extremely busy year with a growing number of individual and commercial memberships. She keeps meticulous membership records and works with the treasurer, editor and any other entity which requires membership information. New members are always welcomed through email letters. Additionally, she mails numerous Bulletins throughout the year to members who have signed up for membership out of the main cycle. New Commercial Membership are at an all-time high (reason? – unknown)
 - j. David Michener, David & Linette Sorrentino, Craig Aiken, Kris Jurik & Kim Bremer. These folks are currently providing leadership/work on **APS conventions**. A growing interest in APS conventions make their work important for the society's mission and planning for opportunities is no easy task (I'm sure they can tell you). I'd invite any interested Directors to jump in and help where you can; the volume of planning and connections is daunting and these folks have already done much of the ground work.
 - k. Jim Sampson...**Science writing for the Bulletin**. Jim has done a wonderful job of writing scientific pieces for the Bulletin over the past year. He has provided much assistance to the editor in this endeavor and deserves recognition for crafting understandable and important emerging information for our members.
 - l. Leena Liljestrand and Cory Tischman... **International Outreach**. These folks have quietly begun to include more international content into our society's activities. Through Bulletin articles, social media and correspondence APS is seeing greater involvement by our international members and we are seeing growth in international membership.
 - m. Mike Miller...**Publications**. As the website has been more heavily travelled Mike's work has increased, much of it international mailing. Mike houses, oversees and manages all of APS' publications. He monitors the website for orders and expertly gets orders out through the mail.
 - n. Scott Parker...**Seed Distribution Program**. This year has been very busy for Scott with the availability of online ordering through the website (89 orders at this point). Scott produces lists, manages inventory, packages seeds, coordinates orders, mails orders and communicates with those who order seeds. The program has become extremely popular and membership is excited each year to add some new peonies to their garden through growing seeds.
 - o. Steve Smith, Craig Aiken, Brandie Orchard...**Awards Programs**. These folks have revamped the Awards programs and have done great work getting the word out, but also managing the incoming nomination information. Medals are now part of personal awards. They meet to vet award nominations and prepare needed information for the awards. I'm looking forward to this more organized/criteria based awards approach.
 - p. Lois Girton...**Zoom Meetings**. Lois has been of great assistance working out the use of online conferencing (Zoom). She cohosted many of the upcoming seminars and meetings APS puts and this

should help them to run more smoothly, creating a more enjoyable experience for those involved. I might add that Lois also assists Kim heavily in with Bulletin proofing, direction and insight (especially science related).

Nate Bremer
APS President