

AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

Hilton Garden Inn
Brandon FL

Fall Membership Meeting
November 12 – 14, 2010

FIRST PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE MEETING, 5 P.M., NOVEMBER 12, 2010

President Don Mixon had just been released from the hospital, so he called the meeting to order and turned its conduct over to 1st Vice President Fred Roush. Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Don Mixon, 1st VP Fred Roush, 2nd VP Deb Spencer, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman of Directors Kathy Grandoff, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Val Longson. Absent: None.

New Executive Secretary

Executive Secretary Val Longson is retiring, and President Mixon appointed Cindy Erndt as the new Executive Secretary. The President's Committee affirmed this appointment unanimously. Several of the tasks now performed by this position will be spread out among other AHS members, such as, Joyce Comingore will handle the updates to the Policy and Procedures Manual, Val and Walter Bisselle will continue to handle show results, Mary Bridges will keep the VIP list updated, and we are looking into having a meeting planner in each State and the Islands.

Parliamentarian

First VP Roush next appointed Ed Flory as temporary parliamentarian for this meeting in the absence of Paul Felsberg, who is recuperating from heart surgery.

DVD Reprint

At the June meeting, the Committee approved an amount of \$800 to reprint 500 copies of the DVD Catalogue. The quote from the printer chosen was \$1,004.88. The Committee voted unanimously to approve this new amount.

An inquiry received from a Chapter officer about purchasing a supply of the DVD's to use as a fund raiser at shows was referred to the Publications Committee.

The Seed Pod

The current printing and pre-press work on The Seed Pod has been running about \$3,000 per issue for 1500 copies. We only need 1,000 copies, but the printer would not give us a price break so we have been sending the excess to Chapters for their use. Editor Rita Hall has found a new printer, Ideal Printing, who will do both pre-press and printing in-house for \$1,374 per issue for 1,000 copies. The initial design costs will be \$375, with subsequent issues running from \$100 to \$150 per issue.. On motion made, seconded and unanimously approved, the Committee voted to change to Ideal Printing for the January issue of The Seed Pod. The editor will report to the Board at the June 2011 Convention on the new printer. A letter will be written to Travis Publishing thanking them for their work in the past.

FIRST PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE MEETING (con't.)

Show and Judging Rules Committee Changes

First VP Roush recommended the removal from this Committee of Randy Cox, Pete Conrad and Bobby Dupont , and the addition of Krista Mathews. Committee appointments and removals are made at the discretion of the president, and President Mixon deferred to 1st VP Roush who chairs this committee.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

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FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 6 P.M., NOVEMBER 12, 2010

Chairman of the Board Kathy Grandoff called the meeting to order and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Don Mixon, 1st VP Fred Roush, 2nd VP Deb Spencer, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman of Directors Kathy Grandoff, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Val Longson; Directors Joyce Comingore, Ed Flory, Wanda Schmoyer, Mary Bridges, Mario Francis, Damon Veach; Immediate Past President Eddie Griffith; Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Damon Veach. Absent: C. J. Melebeck.

Chairman Grandoff asked for motions to approve the following President's Committee recommendations:

DVD reprint increase in funding from \$800 to \$1,004.88

Selection of a new printer for *The Seed Pod*

On motions made and seconded, these recommendations were unanimously approved.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

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COMMITTEES AS A WHOLE, 9 A.M., NOVEMBER 13, 2010

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

In the absence of Chairman Paul Felsberg Editor Rita Hall chaired this meeting. Present: Walter Bisselle, Fred Roush, Rita Hall. Absent: Paul Felsberg, David Tate, Roland Gaudet, and Jo Conrad.

Ideal Printing is the new printer approved by the Board for The Seed Pod. Their quote for the same quality product was nearly half of the cost of the pre-press service and printer we have been using. The editor will report to the Board at the June 2011 Convention when two issues will have been completed.

The Tropical Hibiscus Handbook continues to sell well via PayPal. Roland Gaudet gets the orders out very timely.

Discussion on the inquiry about using the DVD Catalogue for fund raising led the Committee to set a price of \$5 per DVD to Chapters, who may then sell them at their shows for a price determined by each individual Chapter. The DVDs will remain a gift to new members.

A question was asked about the Nomenclature Book that the judges used at shows in the past. This was referred to the Show and Judging Rules Committee.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

TREASURER'S REPORT

There is no formal treasurer's report at the fall meeting, but Treasurer Walter Bisselle gave a brief overview of a "Budget Bits" handout. Chapter dues are up over last year; MAL dues are down slightly; publication sales are lagging; The Seed Pod advertising is improving; some Chapters are booming, others not so much. Credit card fees are skyrocketing, and we will use the AHS web site to encourage wider use of PayPal to pay for memberships, Chapter dues, show packets, and publications.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chairman Deb Spencer called the meeting to order and Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: Deb Spencer, Pat Merritt, Tom Miller, Mario Francis. Absent: Bobby Dupont, Dave Flanders. Mario Francis, president of the St. Thomas Chapter, presented a proposed membership manual he is developing for his Chapter.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

COMMITTEES AS A WHOLE (con't.)

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Chairman Deb Spencer called the meeting to order, and Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: Deb Spencer, Rita Hall, Ed Flory, Mario Francis. Absent: David Tate.

Chairman Spencer presented five proposed Bylaws amendments:

- 1) To amend Article VII Government, Section 1 Insert new item b, all following items will be re-lettered.

b. Voting. For business conducted between meetings, the Board of Directors may take any action within its jurisdiction by mail, fax, Internet, or any other suitable electronic media. A reasonable amount of time will be allowed for each Director to cast their vote.

Reason: By allowing Internet votes the Board of Directors and President's Committee will be able to conduct business and vote on items that need to be taken care of between meetings.

- 2) Section 2 Officers and Duties:

d. Recording Secretary:

(1) Recording Secretary shall:

(a) Record proceedings of all meetings for the membership, the Board of Directors and President's Committee.

(b) Record all votes of the Board of Directors and President's Committee at meetings, by mail, fax, Internet or by any other suitable electronic media by listing motion, Director's/President's Committee members' name and how they voted.

(c) Provide copies of all proceedings to the Executive Secretary for proper distribution no later than thirty (30) days after such proceedings.

Reason: Will keep all Internet votes recorded for review by other AHS members if a question regarding a vote occurs.

- 3) Article VIII Committees, Section 1 General Activity

Reword item b to exclude the "sunshine law."

b. Each committee will function under an "open door" policy. During voting, however, if the Committee Chairman feels that a discussion should involve only the Committee

members, the Committee Chairman may direct the space be cleared of all but Committee members. Non-Committee members attending a meeting may not voice any opinion or in any way intrude on the meeting unless specifically recognized and called upon by the Chairman. Disruptive individuals may be expelled from the meeting.

Reason: The Florida Sunshine Laws only apply to those companies that do business with various City and State agencies, of which the AHS is not one. Therefore, the Sunshine Laws do not apply to the AHS.

4) Seedling Evaluation Committee:

Add: It will be the Seedling Evaluation Committee's duty to determine the eligibility of a seedling for SOTY. If for some reason it is determined that a seedling should be disqualified, it will be the responsibility of the Seedling Evaluation Committee Chairperson to notify the hybridizer of the disqualification.

Reason: It should not fall to the Show Directors or other Show Committee members to have to contact the hybridizer to inform him of the disqualification.

5) Article X Meetings

Section 2

a) The Board of Directors shall hold an Annual Meeting during June. At the time of the Annual Meeting, the committees of the Society may meet at the call of the President, the Committee Chairperson, or a majority of the Board of Directors. The date and place of the next Annual Convention shall be among the last items on the agenda of each Annual Convention.

Reason: With the cost of travel and hotels it has become cost-prohibitive for many members to attend two meetings a year. By only having one meeting a year it will encourage more members to attend the yearly meeting.

After discussion on these proposed amendments, on motion made and seconded, each amendment was approved for submission to the President's Committee.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

COMMITTEES AS A WHOLE (con't.)

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS' COMMITTEE

Chapter Presidents Coordinator Damon Veach called the meeting to order and Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Chapters present or represented: BVI, Gulf Coast, Harry Goulding, James Hendry, Lone Star, MB Acadiana, New Orleans, Red Stick, Space City, St. Croix, St. Thomas, Sunset, Tampa Unbelievable. Absent or unrepresented: Central Florida, Conrad Sunrise, Golby Reasoner.

Formal Chapter reports are not given at the fall meeting, but each representative gave a brief overview about their Chapter's activities.

St. Thomas President Mario Thomas gave a report on the British Virgin Islands Chapter's first show; a chartered plane and a ferry boat were used to get judges to Tortola. He thanked Rita Hall for making the trip to judge the show and for conducting a judges' seminar for all of the Island Judges. Mr. Francis is also working on forming a Chapter on St. John's. In March 2011, a 2012 Convention Committee will meet to begin planning the 2012 Convention in the Islands, likely at the Marriott Frenchman's Reef Hotel. At this time, Spirit Airlines has a \$239 round-trip fare from Tampa FL.

Space City Chapter President and Convention 2011 Committee Chairman Cindy Erndt asked each Chapter to consider donating \$40 or \$50 each to purchase plants for the raffle and auction.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE

Acting Chairman Marti Graves called the meeting to order and Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: Marti Graves, Pat Merritt, Cindy Erndt, Tom Miller, Eddie Griffith. Absent: Sam Andrews, Lynn Andrews, Fern Betancourt, C. J. Melebeck.

We have had some difficulty with LSU. The economic downturn has hit schools very hard and most of the personnel working on our database have been early retired. Chairman Sam Andrews and Committee member Lynn Andrews have been overburdened in their work in the bankruptcy field and have not had any time to devote to this project. AHS Director C J Melebeck is a professional programmer and has come to our rescue. He has obtained a copy of the database from LSU and is very familiar with it. He is working on it at this time and hopes to have it ready shortly after the first of next year. Tom Miller was asked to determine what is needed to place it on a server and get that information to President Mixon in order for the President's Committee to act on it

After discussion, on motion made, seconded and unanimously approved, the Excel

COMMITTEES AS A WHOLE (con't.)

Nomenclature file containing text only (no images) will be sent to Tom Miller for posting as a pdf file on the AHS web site.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

SHOW AND JUDGING RULES COMMITTEE

Chairman Fred Roush called the meeting to order, and Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: Ed Flory, Marti Graves, Bonnie Orpi, Pat Merritt, Zelma Neef. Absent: Paul Felsberg, Krista Mathews.

The Committee went over the Miniature List discussing additions and subtractions. Added were: Exotic Peppermint, Lavern Bent, Reggae Breeze. Removed: Peach Blow. To be researched: Cool Breeze (Wind)?, Jane Carter. Chairman Roush asked that additions to the list be sent to him in order to keep the list updated.

Judges were reminded that they need to judge at least three shows a year and attend one seminar. If this is not possible, contact the 1st VP who can waive this requirement on a case-by-case basis.

After a discussion about making sure there are no identifying characteristics on Seedling Cards (handwriting, bloom name, hybridizer name, etc.) it was suggested that the Show Director turn the cards upside down and number them on the back before judging begins.

For those Show Directors who wish to use stickers for numbering the Gold Seal blooms, the label to use is Avery 5418.

At the BVI show in October, there was a tie in a Sweepstakes class. Both exhibitors had the same number of Golds, Blues, and Reds. Both were awarded tri-colors. This will be a rarity at the larger shows, so no ruling was made.

Show Chairmen were reminded to tell hybridizers that if their seedling wins a Best of Show Seedling award, they need to provide whoever will graft plants for the Seedling Evaluation Committee members enough wood to graft at least 10 plants.

If a member of the Society who exhibited many years ago returns to exhibiting, does he/she start over in the Amateur Class or pick up where he/she left off? Once the Amateur's two years are up, he/she cannot become an Amateur again. They pick up exhibiting in the class in which they appropriately belong based upon number of varieties grown or commercial status.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned

COMMITTEES AS A WHOLE (con't.)

A Judges' Seminar followed this meeting.

Cindy Erndt presented a PowerPoint show about the 2011 Convention.

SEEDLING EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Chairman Greg Graves called the meeting to order, and Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: Greg Graves, Kathy Grandoff, Cindy Erndt, Annelle Cox. Absent: Sam Andrews, Pete Conrad, David Tate, Bradley Christian.

The chairman first discussed the Class of 2007 to narrow it down to the final candidates for 2011 SOTY. They are:

American Maid
Cloudy Days
Major Exception
Nitro-Express
Secret Mission

There will be one more evaluation on these final five in early spring 2011.

Class of 2008, which will produce the Seedling of the Year for 2012: Drop:

Bayou Rose
Belle Michelle
Sorority Girl
Space Station
Pearls and Lace.

Class of 2009, which will produce the Seedling of the Year for 2013.

Drop Fortuna Fancy for lack of wood.

The cut-off date for this class was June 2010, except for Black Rainbow and Pecan Cream. These won at fall shows and the deadline for plants was extended to this meeting (fall 2010).

Butterscotch Brownie's deadline was extended to November 2010 due to a crop failure.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

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SECOND PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE MEETING

President Don Mixon called the meeting to order and Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Don Mixon, 1st VP Fred Roush, 2nd VP Deb Spencer, Recording Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman of Directors Kathy Grandoff, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Val Longson.

Bylaws Committee Recommendations

The president presented the proposed bylaws amendments to the Committee for their approval to send to the Board of Directors. Please see the Minutes of the First President's Committee meeting for a full description of these amendments.

Proposal 1: Internet Voting. An amendment was submitted and approved to wit: A reasonable amount of time would be allowed for each Director to discuss and subsequently cast their vote. For those without Internet access (only one at this time), snail mail will suffice. Approved unanimously.

Proposal 2: Recording Secretary. Approved unanimously.

Proposal 3: Sunshine Law. Approved unanimously.

Proposal 4: Seedling Evaluation Committee. Approved unanimously.

Proposal 5: Eliminating the fall Membership Meeting. Approved with one opposed.

A proposal from the Nomenclature Committee to send the Excel text file of the nomenclature database to web master Tom Miller for posting on the AHS web site was approved unanimously.

Tom Miller was asked to investigate a host server for the Nomenclature database.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the Nomenclature Committee was authorized a budget of up to \$3,000 to accomplish this task.

These were approved to be sent to the Board of Directors for their consideration.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

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SECOND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Chairman of the Board Kathy Grandoff called the meeting to order and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Don Mixon, 1st VP Fred Roush, 2nd VP Deb Spencer, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman of Directors Kathy Grandoff, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Val Longson; Directors Joyce Comingore, Ed Flory, Wanda Schmoyer, Mary Bridges, Mario Francis, Damon Veach; Immediate Past President Eddie Griffith; Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Damon Veach. Absent: C. J. Melebeck.

Bylaws amendments one through four were approved unanimously. Bylaws amendment number five was carried eight for, five against.

The Nomenclature Committee's requests were approved unanimously, including the funding of up to \$3,000.

Nomination for Chairman of the Board

In the event Bylaws Proposal 5 passes, a motion was made and seconded to elect a new board chairman at the June Convention instead of the fall membership meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Nominations for Chairman of the Board: Kathy Grandoff and Ed Flory. By written ballot, Kathy Grandoff will remain Chairman of the Board of Directors.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

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GENERAL SESSION, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2010

President Don Mixon called the session to order, and made a motion that the Minutes of the meetings at the June 2010 Convention be approved as posted on the AHS web site. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The 2011 Convention will be held June 16 – 19 at the South Shore Harbor Resort in League City TX., a suburb of Houston.

President Mixon thanked everyone for coming to the fall Membership Meeting.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia B. Merritt, Secretary