

American Hibiscus Society

**Embassy Suites
Fort Myers, Florida**

**Annual Convention
June 22 – 25, 2018**

First President's Committee Meeting, June 21, 2018

President Damon Veach called meeting to order and recording secretary, Joyce Melebeck, was absent. Joanna Schimek recorded minutes. Nancy Kopp was appointed by Damon Veach in place of Pat Merritt who was absent. Joanna called the roll. Present: President Damon Veach, 1st VP Carolyn Cormier-Stoute, 2nd VP Fred Roush, Executive Secretary Joanna Schimek, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Directors: Bradley Christian, Nancy Kopp, Ann Peltier, Todd Alvis, David Craig, Connie Roush, Gloria Mikulenska.

Board of Directors Meeting, June 21, 2018

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The Board discuss on disposing of slides donated by Winn Suldony. Todd Alvis reviewed half the box and most of the slide are personal. A motion was made by Joanna Schimek and Seconded by Carolyn Cormier-Stoute to dispose of the slide. Motion: Passed

Fred Roush brought up that we need a new by-law committee to review and update the by-laws. Will discuss when the new officers get inducted.

Carolyn Cormier- Stoute brought up that we should rotate convention from Florida to Texas, or Florida to Louisiana. A vote was taken and passed.

With no further business. A motion made and second. Meeting adjourned.

Committee Meeting as a Whole, June 22, 2018

President Damon Veach welcomed everyone. The color guard from Fort Myers Sheriff's Office opened the first session. The invocation was by Carolyn Cormier-Stoute. Present: President Damon Veach, 1st VP Carolyn Cormier-Stoute, 2nd VP Fred Roush, Executive Secretary Joanna Schimek, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Directors: Bradley Christian, Nancy Kopp, Ann Peltier, Todd Alvis, David Craig, Connie Roush, Gloria Mikulenska.

Budget Committee: Walter Bisselle

Copies of the Budget Report from June 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018 were made available to those that were present.

Bylaws Committee: Fred Roush

With the fall meeting gone changes of the bylaws need to be done. Will start changes once new officers are inducted. See the Seed Pod July 2018 issue, page 5.

Bylaw Change Proposal:

A motion was made and second to create a category between Collector and Open Collector to be called "Master Collector" that would be for exhibitors possessing between 76 – 300 cultivar varieties. Pursuant to bylaw procedure this proposal is published herein and will be put to a vote by the members at the 2019 Convention. If passed, it would become effective for the 2020 show season.

Publications: Todd Alvis

Sales of our tropical hibiscus handbooks are \$6.00 to the chapter. You can contact Roland Gaudet or Walter Bisselle for handbooks.

Pat is working on a new hibiscus flash drive.

The Seed Pod: Todd Alvis

Todd delivered an update on The Seed Pod. The Society is looking for someone to accept the position of Editor. Greg McClain volunteered to assist Todd, Ann Peltier, Rita Hall and Pat Merritt. Any items to be included in The Seed Pod should be submitted to the committee, not directly to the printer.

Show and Judging Rules: Carolyn Cormier-Stoute

Judges manual needs to be updated.

Judges are reminded that they must judge at least two shows and attend a Judges' Seminar each year to maintain credentials. The exception to this is the Island Chapter judges only need to judge one show each year and attend a seminar. There is a Judges' Seminar held at each Annual Convention. For those judges not attending the convention, seminars will be on the best efforts basis.

Discussed making a training video that would be uniform across all chapter.

Seed Bank: Don Bernard

The Seed Bank Shipped over 3000 seeds to enthusiasts in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Fiji, Malaysia, Mauritius, Philippines, Spain, Sweden and Thailand. We have noticed an increase in shipping to U.S. growers in the states of AZ, CA, GA, MA, MO, WI, WV and well as MAL's and Chapter members in FL, LA and TX. A big THANKS to Frank Heffernan, David Craig, Gary Mathews, Don Bernard, George Fister, Betty Bingham and Steve Sinanan. Please continue to send seeds to Don Bernard. Address in Seed Pod.

Convention: Joanna Schimek

Two Venues were presented to the members. The members voted for the South Shore Resort in League City, TX.

Seedling Evaluation:

Committee Members are: Cindy Adkins, Chairman, Ann Peltier, Gary Mathews, Sam Andrews, Paul Zinzer, Joyce Melebeck and Sandra Barr.

2014 Winners announced at banquet, June 23, 2018

Bronze Goddess – Don Florus

Cinnamon Seas – Dupont / Gerlich

Fire Glow – Connie & Fred Roush

Love's Delight – Dupont /Gerlich

Space Cowboy – Don & Carolyn Florus

2015 Class – Dropped Neela's orange, not enough evaluators and Special Friend, had lowest score.

2016 Class – Wonderful Daughter – not enough evaluators.

2017 Class – Cajun Mahogany Rose, unable to find plant, For June and Rose, no wood to make plants, Joy's Surprise and Pink Angle, no response from hybridizer.

New members added: Gloria Mikulenka, Margaret Nixon, Gail Price.

Chairman to be picked.

Chapter Reports

BVI

The islands of ST. Thomas and St Croix were devastated by category 5 hurricane. Hibiscus and other plants life was destroyed. Will take months to recover. They are part of the society and asking for help.

Central Florida – Gary Mathews

In September 2017, it was decided to rename the Central Florida Chapter. It will be changed to Mathews-Fallman in honor of Sheryle Mathews and Jane Fallman. The Chapter is planning on adding a new show. Also attracting new members who are young and willing to help.

Conrad-Sunrise Chapter – Maureen Buono

The Conrad-Sunrise Chapter meets 11 months of the year. At each meeting they have mini show. Winner receive a hibiscus as a prize. Also, raffle off 4 hibiscus. Have annual Christmas Party, instead of gift exchange, we gave donation which was sent to Puerto Rico by one of the members who has family that lives there.

Harry Goulding Chapter – Dave Wallin

This has been a good year for our club. We now have 40 members from Port Charlotte, Punta Gorda, North Port, Venic and Arcadia. Our members took part in 3 Home shows, October, January and April. Sold flowers and educated the public about the care of hibiscus and tried to recruit new members and advertise our shows.

Lone Star – Ottmar Schimek

We bought approximately 900 exotic plants from HVH and Matt Martindale. When plants where received, we had a potting party at our house to prep them. We will continue with our monthly meeting thru October.

Mike Benard-Acadiana –Ann Peltier

The Chapter continues to bloom with a good mix of experience and enthusiasm. Our members pull together to make a great presentation when greeting the public weather be at Festival des Fleurs, or our annual show, our newly added education seminars at area nurseries. This year our hibiscus show once again broke records in both sales and bloom count, 796 blooms plus 37 seedlings. Adding 15 new members only enhances our opportunities to continue our upper trend.

Red Stick Chapter– Damon Veach

The Chapter had one of their best show to date and the sale of all the plants provided by Dupont Nursery helped us to continue this nice tradition of support not only to the community but to Dupont Nursery and for our memory of our friend, Bobby Dupont. We have seen an increase in the membership of our chapter, and the interest in hibiscus seems to be definitely growing as well. It just shows that we are interesting and diverse group adhering to our motto – We Care, We Share.

Space City Chapter – Cindy Adkins

After all the obstacles we encountered from last year to this year, Harvey flooding, the cancelling of one show, and the death of Patina Pervin. We managed to get through all of it. We would like to thank one of our growers, Larry Bruner for having a show at his resident and giving the proceeds to the chapter. We sold out of plants at the April show with the exception of a few garden varieties. Still getting new memberships. Hopefully 2019 will be a better year.

Sunset Chapter – David Craig

In December Greg McClain was elected chapter president. His presidential and chapter goals for 2018 were shared. The chapter membership is up. Will be hosting 2 chapter shows. Our chapter members have high enthusiasm for hibiscus and have continued to share their experience and encouragement with our community and new members.

New AHS Officers took their oath to serve the AHS at the Banquet. New officers are:

President: Joanna Schimek

First Vice President: Todd Alvis

Second Vice President: Ann Peltier

Recording Secretary: Joyce Melebeck

2019 -2022 Directors – Nancy Kopp, Ottmar Schimek, Carolyn Cormier-Stoute and Fred Roush

No further business, the 2018 convention was adjourned.

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Second General Session, June 25, 2018

Gloria Mikulenska was named Executive Secretary by president, Joanne Schimek.

Fred Roush was elected Chair of the Board of Directors.

Motion made by Ann Peltier and second by Todd Alvis to adjourn.