

First President's Committee Meeting, 5pm November 7, 2014

President James Bridges called the meeting to order and recording Secretary Krista Mathews called the roll. Present: President James Bridges, 1st Vice President Joanna Schimek, 2nd Vice President Damon Veach, Recording Secretary Krista Mathews, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Marti Graves, Chairman of Directors Carolyn Cormier – Stoute.

President James Bridges had a few items to discuss with the President's Committee. All items were referred to their proper committees or tabled for discussion in June.

The President's Committee did motion and second a proposal to hold the Fall Membership Meeting in Tampa, FL every year. The vote was unanimous.

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

First Board of Directors Meeting, 5:50pm, November 7, 2014

Chairman of the Board Carolyn Cormier – Stoute called the meeting to order and Recording Secretary Krista Mathews called the roll. Present: President James Bridges, 1st Vice President Joanna Schimek, 2nd Vice President Damon Veach, Recording Secretary Krista Mathews, Executive Secretary Marti Graves, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Directors: Carolyn Cormier – Stoute, Lillian Lopez Farara, Wally Neef, Fred Roush, Paul Felsberg, Pat Merritt, and Ann Peltier. Absent: Bradley Christian.

Chairman Stoute polled the board members and none had any business to be brought before this committee at this time.

Paul Felsberg did announce that the Conrad – Sunrise chapter is no longer having a fall show at Mounts Botanical Gardens.

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

Committees As A Whole, 9am, November 8, 2014

President James Bridges began the meeting with the Optimist Creed, and welcomed everyone to the Fall Membership Meeting.

Budget Committee/Treasurer's Report: Walter Bisselle

Copies of the November 2014 Budget Bits were provided by the treasurer, a copy of which is made a part of these Minutes and will be posted on the AHS website. Our revenues are up due to an increase in publication sales as well as The Seed Pod advertising. However, there has been a drop in chapter dues in the Islands. The MAL dues are down as well, but they go by anniversary date. The CD has not been touched as of yet, and we are cautiously optimistic that we won't have to this year.

Membership Overview: Walter Bisselle

Membership is about the same in all areas. Dues are down in the Islands. Rita Hall mentioned that no meetings or shows are scheduled as of yet in the Islands. The Michael Bernard Acadiana Chapter has the most members. The new Port St. Lucie Chapter has 20 members and would like to become involved with the AHS. Walter Bisselle will look into charter information for them. 15 – 20 MAL members pay their dues through PayPal each year.

Show and Judges Rules Committee: Joanna Schimek

There were a couple of items of business referred to this committee from Friday evening's President's Committee Meeting.

The proposal that a senior judge can become a master judge after 5 years of judging will be discussed further at the June National Convention.

A motion was made and seconded to cut the requirement to keep senior judging status from judging 3 shows to judging only 2 shows a year. The vote was unanimous.

There was a discussion about changing the showing classes to: An exhibitor can show as an Amateur for 2 years, as a Collector for 2 years, and must move up Open Collector after those 4 years with no plant limit. A motion was made and seconded to leave the classes as they are for the time being. The vote was unanimous. The directors for each area are going to poll members/exhibitors about the classes. We will discuss this further at the June National Convention. Walter Bisselle and Val Longson have agreed to go through all the show registration forms and get the number of Collector and Open Collector blooms and exhibitors by show and area.

A suggestion was made to go back to our respective chapters, and do a Judges' Seminar as a program to keep the judging status of those judges who are unable to attend the Fall Membership Meeting or the June National Convention.

A discussion was brought up about changing showing classes. All exhibitors have to do to change their class is to contact Roland Gaudet for a new permanent number for their new class.

A Show Director's Seminar was held following this meeting.

Chapter President's Committee: Jeanette Elliff

It was brought up that annually each chapter should be doing an audit. Many chapters use the treasurer's report as an audit monthly. Wanda Schmoyer suggested approaching the idea of an audit gently as to not offend the treasurer. Dave Wallin suggested a letter from the AHS stating that an audit is required. Many chapters have multiple members who are allowed to sign checks for the chapter. Many chapters are now accepting credit cards at plant sales.

Florida Chapters have been putting ads in Florida Gardening Magazine for \$40 a chapter.

The Seed Pod: Rita Hall

We are in need of articles for The Seed Pod. There was a price increase in the last printing of The Seed Pod due to an increased number of pages. We are checking into other printers. Rita Hall thanked Pat Merritt for doing the editing of The Seed Pod.

Publications Committee: Paul Felsberg

Please contact Roland Gaudet for exhibitor cards and show packets. Fred Roush suggested adding a sheet to the show packet about the changes to the seedling showing rules. Paul Felsberg suggested adding a place to write the number of seedlings in the show packet to include them in the bloom count.

Roland Gaudet is optimistic that we will be able to get rid of one of the storage units for the handbooks.

Handbook sales are up since starting the sale. A motion was made and seconded to sell the handbooks for \$6 each for a full case lot of 24 to Florida Gardening and Curt Sinclair. The vote was unanimous.

The James Hendry Chapter is selling the handbooks for \$12. Louisiana chapters are giving a handbook to all paying new members due to the handbook being sold to chapters for \$6.

Seedling Evaluation Committee: Cindy Adkins

The Class of 2011 was discussed and the following bloom was dropped from consideration: Starry Night. The reason for this elimination was that Bobby Dupont pulled it due to poor performance.

The Class of 2012 was discussed and the committee agreed that there is not enough information to drop any of these blooms at this time.

The Class of 2013 was discussed and the following bloom was dropped from consideration: Majestic Sunset. The reason for this elimination was that Bobby Dupont pulled it due to poor performance. Jorge Ortiz is asking that Mayan Princess be reinstated into evaluation. Matt Martindale now has 5 plants and will have 5 more for the committee soon. A motion was made and seconded to give Jorge Ortiz a second chance with Mayan Princess. The vote was unanimous. Cindy Adkins will notify him that he has until the end of March to get plants to the committee.

There were a couple items of business referred to this committee from Friday evening's President's Committee Meeting. A motion was made and seconded to enforce the new seedling rule of the Best of Show Seedling winner to pay \$50 and have enough wood for 10 plants or have 10 plants growing that the hybridizer will ship to the committee members. This will become effective with the first show of the 2015 season. The vote was unanimous. Fred Roush stated that he will announce to all exhibitors about the new seedling showing rule at the beginning of each show.

The rule that the Best of Show Seedling must be named before going to the head table is already in effect. It just needs to be enforced. This was referred back to the Show and Judging Rules Committee.

A motion was made and seconded that if an evaluator's plant dies that the evaluator's numbers for that plant will be pulled, and if there are less than half of the evaluators left that the plant will be dropped.

Nomenclature Committee: Pat Merritt

The discussion of doing away with the AHS nomenclature was tabled until the June National Convention. Pat Merritt will be contacting CJ Melebeck and will work with him and others to preserve this important piece of AHS history

Bylaws Committee: Joanna Schimek

There are no changes to the bylaws at this time.

President's Committee: James Bridges

No further business to discuss at this time. Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous.

Second Board of Directors: Carolyn Cormier – Stoute

A motion was made and seconded to reduce the number of shows required to keep senior judge status from 3 shows to 2 shows. The vote was unanimous.

The Board of Directors has agreed to go back to their respective areas and get feedback from their members/exhibitors about the showing classes. This will be brought back up at the June National Convention.

Clarification was made for the start date for the new seedling showing rule will be January 1, 2015. A motion was made and seconded. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was made and seconded to hold the Fall Membership Meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn in Tampa, FL for the foreseeable future. The vote was unanimous.

Carolyn Cormier – Stoute was nominated to continue as the chairman and the vote was unanimous.

Carolyn Cormier – Stoute announced that the raffle raised \$800 for the AHS. Special thanks were given to Big Bad Flower, Dupont Nursery, Exotic Hibiscus, Unbelievable Hibiscus, and the Lone Star Chapter for donating plants for the raffle.

With no further business for the day, the meeting was adjourned.

Final Session, 9 am, November 9, 2014

President James Bridges called the session to order and asked Carolyn Cormier – Stoute to give the invocation and Wally Neef to lead the Salute to the Flag.

The discussion about changing the number of directors to 1 in the Islands, 3 in Florida, 2 in Louisiana, and 2 in Texas must be published in the Seed Pod and changed by the Bylaws Committee. Board of Directors did vote. There were 6 yes votes and 1 abstention.

There was some discussion on attracting new members. Some ways to attract new members would be a catchy title in your ad in the local paper, handing out membership applications to all new people who attend meetings and shows, and handing out business cards with chapter contact information on them.

President James Bridges asked Executive Secretary Marti Graves to give details of the June 2015 Convention. The convention will be held in Punta Gorda, FL June 25 - 28, 2015, at the Sheraton Four Points. A list of things to do and a discount book for the Punta Gorda area were given to all the members in attendance. The Fall 2015 Membership Meeting will be held in Tampa as voted.

Hilton Garden Inn
Tampa, FL

Fall Membership Meeting
November 7 – 9, 2014

The president thanked everyone who attended and donated plants and items for the raffle and auction. There were many and everyone was thrilled to take home several.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the Fall Membership Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Krista L. Mathews, Recording Secretary