

**AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY**

**Hilton Garden Inn  
Tampa FL**

**Fall Membership Meeting  
November 8 – 10, 2013**

**FIRST PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE MEETING, 5 P.M., NOVEMBER 8, 2013**

President Damon Veach called the meeting to order and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Damon Veach, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Rita Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Joanna Schimek, Recording Secretary Pat Merritt, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Ann Peltier. Absent: Chairman of Directors Carolyn Cormier-Stoute.

Parliamentarian Paul Felsberg reminded everyone that a motion must be made and seconded before discussion on a matter can begin.

AHS Archivist Barbara Hagan-Smith has been searching the archives for missing pictures in the Nomenclature data base and has located about 300 images so far. When she finishes searching the archives and updates the file, Pat Merritt will email the Excel file of missing images to all Board members so that they can assist with locating more of those missing pictures.

On July 17, 2013, President Damon Veach sent an email to the President's Committee with a proposal that all payments for unreceipted expenses be stopped immediately. The AHS treasury cannot sustain making these quarterly payments. The proposal was seconded and the vote carried unanimously. This email vote was ratified by the Committee at this meeting and will be sent to the full Board for its ratification.

The president announced that the updated Judge's Manual was available for those judges who did not receive one from Pat Merritt via email.

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

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**FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 5:15 P.M., NOVEMBER 8, 2013**

Director Mary Bridges called the meeting to order in the absence of the Chairman and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Damon Veach, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Rita Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Joanna Schimek, Secretary Pat Merritt, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Ann Peltier; Directors Mary Bridges, Fred Roush; Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Jeanette Elliff. Absent: Directors Mario Francis, Carolyn Cormier-Stoute, Lillian Lopez-Farara, C J Melebeck, Julliette Frasier-Salter, Wally Neef; Immediate Past President Don Mixon.

A motion was made and seconded to ratify the vote sent by the President's Committee to the Board of Directors for their consideration. After discussion, the email vote of the President's Committee to discontinue payments for unreceipted expenses was approved by the Board unanimously. Legitimate receipted expenses will still be reimbursed.

**New Business**

A Seed Bank Chairman to replace Bob Carran who died last month was deferred to the First General Session.

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 9, 2013

President Damon Veach welcomed everyone to the Fall Membership Meeting.

BUDGET COMMITTEE: Walter Bisselle

Copies of the November 2013 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 web site. With the discontinuance of payment for unreceipted expenses, the AHS will save approximately \$7,200 during the course of this fiscal year. Our revenues are down due to a drop in Chapter dues and publication sales. MAL dues are steady. The only publication we have to sell is the Tropical Hibiscus Handbook and it is ten years old, revised and republished in 2003.

THE SEED POD: Rita Hall

We need advertisers and articles. The new mailing house is doing everything that Katie McClain did. There was a brief discussion about sending The Seed Pod to members online, but the consensus was that people want the paper copy to keep. We would still have to send some copies to members without Internet access and the 1,000 copies we now pay for are no more expensive than if we ran just a few. The copies left over after distribution to members are sent to Chapters for their use in membership recruitment

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: Paul Felsberg

The "51 Years of American Hibiscus Society History" is now available on a 32-gigabyte flash drive. The DVD discs will no longer be offered. The flash drives are \$125 for domestic and \$140 for foreign orders, all shipping and handling included. To order send an email to Treasurer Walter Bisselle at [wbisselle@aol.com](mailto:wbisselle@aol.com)

Those who want a permanent exhibitor number, please contact Roland Gaudet at [rolmiclin@aol.com](mailto:rolmiclin@aol.com) before January 15, 2014. These numbers must be requested before the show packets are printed and assembled.

NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE: No Report

BYLAWS: Joanna Schimek

There are no bylaws changes at this time. The updated bylaws are under construction and will be available at the June convention.

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS' COORDINATOR: Jeanette Elliff

All chapters are searching for ways to increase membership. Fred Roush requested that each chapter send him a one-page chapter history with chapter name, when founded, location, meeting dates and times, meeting venue, etc. These will be posted at the Florida State Fair Show. Wanda Schmoyer, president of the James Hendry Chapter in Fort Myers, brought a beautiful hibiscus quilt made by one of their members that will be raffled at their June 2014 show. Proceeds will go to their chapter treasury.

**NATIONAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Jeanette Elliff**

The slate of candidates to serve the AHS for 2014 – 2016 is:

<b>President:</b>	<b>Jim Bridges Deb Spencer</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:</b>	<b>Lillian Farara Joanna Schimek</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:</b>	<b>Damon Veach</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Krista Mathews</b>
<b>Directors:</b>	<b>Bradley Christian (nominated from the floor) Paul Felsberg Nancy Kopp Pat Merritt Ann Peltier Liz Vaughn Dave Wallin</b>

Nominations were closed. Ballots will be mailed to all members in early spring 2014 and counted at the 2014 Annual Convention in Lafayette LA.

**SEED BANK**

We are all very sad about the death of our dear friend and Seed Bank Chairman Bob Carran last month. He served the AHS for many years as an outstanding Seed Bank Chairman. Our condolences to his family.

Don Bernard of the Conrad Sunrise Chapter has volunteered to be our new Seed Bank Chairman and was so appointed by President Veach. Fred Roush has all of Bob's records and equipment and will get them to Don Bernard.

**SHOW AND JUDGING RULES COMMITTEE: Rita Hall**

Updated judge's manuals were available for those who did not receive them via email. All new judges-in-training passed their tests and can continue with their training. The requirements are observing at three shows before moving up to Novice, then judging three shows as a Novice Judge, and then judging three shows as a Junior Judge before becoming a Senior Judge. This must be done over a two-year period, and can no longer be fast-tracked.

A Judges' Seminar was held following this meeting.

**SEEDLING EVALUATION COMMITTEE: Cindy Adkins**

The Class of 2012 was discussed and the following blooms were dropped from consideration: Angel Juliette, Flaming Glory, Lovely Lauren, Night Treasure and Veiled Prophet. Various reasons for these eliminations are lack of wood, weak plant, poor performance, and lack of plants to evaluate.

In the Class of 2011 the following were dropped: Pete Conrad, Tropical Memories, Aussie Gift, and Plum Mist. Again, the cause of these being eliminated was lack of plants/wood to the evaluators.

The Class of 2013 was briefly discussed, but it is way too early to make any judgments.

The Class of 2010 will produce the Seedling of the Year for 2014. These blooms were eliminated: Connie Mae and Lime Cloud. The final four for consideration for SOTY for 2014 are: Double Delite (Don Florus), Mustang Sally (Cindy Adkins), Red White and New (Don Florus) and Vesuvius (Barry Schlueter).

Chairman Adkins will write an article for the January issue of The Seed Pod explaining the procedure for growing and entering seedlings, what is expected of the hybridizers, the time line for getting plants/wood to the evaluators.

Cindy Adkins was nominated to continue as chairman and the vote was unanimous.

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**FINAL SESSION, 9 A.M., NOVEMBER 10, 2013**

President Damon Veach called the session to order and asked Jeanette Elliff to give the Invocation and Paul Felsberg to lead the Salute to the Flag.

The president thanked everyone who brought raffle plants. There were many plants and everyone was thrilled to take home several.

President Veach asked Executive Secretary Ann Peltier to give the details of the June 2014 Convention. The convention will be held in Lafayette, Louisiana June 19 – 22, 2014, at the Hilton Hotel. We have had a convention at this venue in the past and it was very well received. On the current rotation the fall 2014 meeting would be held in Texas.

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

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia B. Merritt, Recording Secretary**