

First President's Committee Meeting, 4:00 PM, June 25, 2015

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

Some suggestions were brought up to the committee and were referred to the proper committees for consideration at their respective meetings on Friday.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 4:46 PM.

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First Board of Directors Meeting, 4:46 PM, June 25, 2015

Chairman of the Board Carolyn Cormier-Stoute called the meeting to order and Recording Secretary Krista Mathews called roll. Present: President James Bridges, 1st VP Joanna Schimek, 2nd VP Damon Veach, Secretary Krista Mathews, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Marti Graves, Directors: Carolyn Cormier-Stoute, Lillian Lopez-Farara, Dave Wallin, Fred Roush, Paul Felsberg, Pat Merritt, Ann Peltier; Immediate Past President Damon Veach. Absent: Director Bradley Christian, Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Jeanette Elliff.

A discussion of the items brought up to the President's Committee were discussed, and passed on to their respective committees for consideration at meetings to be held on Friday.

President James Bridges announced the recently appointed Florida Grafter for the Seedling Evaluation Committee David Craig.

Chairman Stoute polled the board members and none had any further business to discuss.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Committees as a Whole, 9:00 AM, June 26, 2015

President James Bridges called the meeting to order. The Mayor of Punta Gorda Carolyn Freeland and Punta Gorda City Manager Howard Kunik joined us for the Invocation and Pledge to the Flag. They welcomed all attendees to their city by naming June 26, 2015 American Hibiscus Society Convention Day.

Budget Committee: Walter Bisselle

The chairman furnished copies of the Annual Report for the Fiscal Year June 1, 2014 through May 31, 2015, which included the proposed budget for the Fiscal Year June 1, 2015 through May 31, 2016. It was announced that the society had our first surplus of \$278 in years. Reasoning for this surplus could be the generosity of the members during the raffles and auctions at the Convention and Fall Meeting of 2014. Numbers also show that Handbook Sales were up. The society also cut some expenses by decreasing the cost of printing and mailing the Seed Pod as well as cutting the cost of the Society insurance by getting rid of the Umbrella Policy. A copy of this report will be made a part of these Minutes.

Bylaws Committee: Damon Veach

The Chairman announced that there were no new bylaw changes.

Chapter Growth Committee: Damon Veach

The chairman stated that the Virgin Islands chapters are in the process of getting started again. There is also some interest in a chapter in California. Lake Charles, LA is also working on getting a chapter going. As of this meeting they have 5 members, and in order to be considered a chapter they must have 10 members.

Publications Committee and Show Packets: Paul Felsberg

The chairman announced that the handbooks are down to one storage unit as of this meeting. It was also announced to notify Roland Gaudet as soon as the date of your chapter show is known so that they get their show packet on time.

Facebook is a good way to promote the society. The official American Hibiscus Society Facebook page is functioning well. Lillian Lopez-Farara is the administrator of the page. She would like to see the chapters post their monthly meeting announcements as well as their show and sale dates on the official page. The official AHS page has the AHS logo as its profile picture and the name is American Hibiscus Society Page. James Bridges also has an Official AHS

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daily postings Facebook page. The name of that page is the American Hibiscus Society. This page has more support than ever. All other Facebook pages are not Official pages of the AHS.

There have been some issues on the International Hibiscus Society and non-official AHS Facebook pages. Problems explode instantly on Facebook. It has been reported that shows, judges, and directors are being bashed on these sites. A motion was made and seconded, to bring up to the Board of Directors to write a letter to Facebook to pull all non-sanctioned AHS groups off of Facebook. The vote was unanimous.

International Hibiscus Society is just a cyber society. They have no official meetings. The nomenclature of the IHS is the official nomenclature although the AHS can have their own nomenclature. Anyone wanting to register a seedling on both nomenclatures must send a registration form to both IHS and AHS.

Membership/MAL: Walter Bisselle

The chairman announced that the dues and chapter lists are still coming in, so the membership numbers are not going to be accurate until the Fall Meeting 2015. The St. Thomas and St. Croix chapters are back in the society, and they even paid their back dues. There are 110 MAL memberships, 80 of which are paid memberships. The others are past society presidents and other life members.

It was brought up that some chapters still owe the Society money for their show ad in The Seed Pod.

The Seed Pod: Rita Hall

The chairman announced that the Seed Pod is now being printed by Buffalo Graphics, which is also the mail house. There were some errors in the first printing by the new printer due to having to make some cuts. The officers names and contact information were left out as well as the Fort Meyers show ad being cut from a full page ad to a half page ad. Time and Money are being saved by the addresses being printed on the Seed Pod during printing, although there was an issue with Excel in the first printing that caused some members to receive 3 and some to receive none. All members have now received at least one issue of The Seed Pod.

The Seed Pod is always looking for articles. A big Thank you to Cindy Adkins for her article Texas Bloomers as well as Pat Merritt for the color photos that we have for The Seed Pod.

Seed Bank: Don Bernard

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The seed bank has been busy since the last Convention. Donations from hybridizers have just kept up with the many requests from around the world. Mailings are in bubble-wrap

envelopes to protect the seeds. Also included is a brief instruction sheet provided in Spanish and English to aid in germination and seedling growing. Parentage and Hybridizer are included as well. A big Thank You to all the hybridizers who provided seeds to the seed bank for distribution. The seed bank will accept any seeds from the past two years, preferably labeled with parentage and hybridizer.

Seed bank efforts for the New Year include updating the seed propagation mailing insert to include mailing cost for possible reimbursement, and include in the seed mailing AHS information for MAL membership. Also AHS should re-evaluate seedling entry requirements to encourage hybridizers and seed donations. Suggestion also to add an article in the fall or spring issue of The Seed Pod on hybridizing and seed donations in the cooler months.

Any hybridizer who would like to donate their extra seeds can send them to Don Bernard, 2414 Sundown Lane, Lantana, FL 33462. Any gardener who would like to request seeds can email their request to lantanalandscape@bellsouth.net.

Show and Judging Rules Committee: Joanna Schimek

All members of the committee were present.

Consequences of judges not following rules and procedures were discussed.

A motion was made and seconded that if a judge is observed breaking the rules, it should be brought to the attention of the show director. First offense the judge in question will be given a warning. Second offense will result in the judge losing their judging credentials for two years and will have to start over as a novice judge after the two year-suspension is up. After discussion the vote was unanimous.

A motion was made and seconded that the table tally clerk will notify the show director if a judge is observed judging their own blooms. First offense the judge will be removed from judging for the duration of the show. Second offense all their blooms will be disqualified and they will lose their judging credentials for two years, and they will have to start over as a novice judge after the two-year suspension is up. After discussion the vote was unanimous.

A motion was made and seconded to specify proper placement of blooms on the wires and blocks for showing. The bloom must be placed on the wire with the bloom facing upward. After discussion the vote was unanimous.

A request was made to post the show and judges rules on the website. Also suggested was having a place online to discuss rules. After discussion it was agreed that the show and judges rules should not be a secret. After this discussion, it was agreed to distribute the show and judges rules out to the members of chapters as well. A motion was made and seconded

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that the Show Chairman at each show will educate any new exhibitor how to exhibit at shows and distribute a bullet point's handout that will be compiled by Joanna Schimek. After discussion, the vote was unanimous.

A suggestion was made to require miniatures to fit through a 3" ring, which would eliminate a poorly grown regular bloom being shown as a miniature. After discussion it was agreed to leave the miniature rule as stated that any bloom that fits through the 5" inch ring can be shown as a miniature. If the bloom is known and normally grows as a regular 1 point can be taken off for size making it a 9 point gold unless there are other problems with the bloom.

With no further business to discuss, on motion made and seconded, meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Historian and Archives: Barbara Hagen-Smith

The archivist Barbara Hagen-Smith encourages groups with old information not to throw it away, but to send it to her to put in the storage unit. There is a storage unit full of information on chapters and the society all the way back to the beginning. We have added many photos to the nomenclature from photos and slides found in the storage unit.

With no further business, a motion was made and seconded, meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Lunch was provided by the Harry Goulding Chapter at Hurricane Charley's Restaurant, a short walk from the convention center.

A judges' seminar was conducted after lunch by Marti Graves – 5 new judges took the judge's test afterwards.

Seedling Evaluation Committee – Cindy Adkins

The chairman Cindy Adkins called the meeting to order. Six of the ten members of the committee were present.

Curt Sinclair brought up a proposal that the committee be dissolved and that the society use a beauty contest, where the whole society decides on the Seedling of the Year. The suggestion was discussed, but overturned due to the fact that the purpose of the committee is to evaluate the growth of the plant. With a beauty contest, no one will know if the plant grows well or if it is even still in existence after it wins Seedling of the Year.

Discussion to evaluate rule made at the fall meeting of 2014 brought up some issues with the timing of getting wood to the grafters within 30 days of the winning show. A motion

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was made and seconded to extend the time of getting word of the Best of Show Seedling to the grafters by the end of the Fall Meeting instead of 30 days after the show. This change is due to

the heat during the summer months, and some of the shows occur as the heat of summer is starting. The rest of the rule stands as made at the fall Meeting of 2014.

If a grower/hybridizer would like to opt out of seedling evaluation he/she should enter the bloom as a regular bloom and not in the seedling category, and release it without going through evaluation.

It was agreed by the committee members in attendance that it is not practical to get replacement plants for the 2012 class, since the winners will be decided in June of 2016. The committee also agreed that they will be provided 2 plants at no charge and that the third must be purchased.

Discussion of the Class of 2012: Drop Catherine's Dragon, Cherry Vanilla Sundae, Double Herm Geller, Sweet Sandy. Many evaluators do not have plants or have very small plants, and are unable to evaluate them.

Discussion of the Class of 2013: Drop Almost Lost, Michelle Marie, and Derby Hat. The evaluators present agreed that the scores were low enough or not enough evaluators were able to evaluate the plants due to either not having the plant at all, or the plant being too small.

Discussion of the Class of 2014: Many of the evaluators either did not have plants, or the plants were too small to evaluate. There is still time to get plants to the evaluators. None dropped at this time.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Nomenclature: Pat Merritt

The chairman states that at this time the AHS has no one working on the database. We have hundreds of pictures to be added.

Chapter President's Committee Meeting

All chapter presidents or designees were present. All chapters are working on some kind of outreach for new members such as visiting local garden centers and informational tables at Epcot International Flower and Garden Festival. Incentives for joining chapters would be to give a free handbook and/or plant at the first meeting they attend. Ideas for advertising show and sale dates were brought up. The James Hendry Chapter had magnetic signs made and placed on a member's car to advertise their show date and location. Newspaper articles and radio show plugs are being used by the Central Florida Chapter for their 2016 show and

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sale. A suggestion was also brought up that each chapter having a Facebook page to advertise meeting dates and show and sale dates might be helpful for advertising. Also posting these items on the Official AHS Facebook page would promote the Society as well as the chapters.

You can send your information on meetings and show dates to Lillian Lopez Farara for posting on the Official AHS Facebook page.

Most chapters are now accepting credit cards at their plant sales, which has increased sales.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM.

Second President's Committee Meeting, 4:35 PM, June 26, 2015

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

A motion was made and seconded, to decrease the number of members on the Seedling Evaluation Committee to seven instead of ten. After discussion the vote was unanimous. Members removed from the committee were Don Florus, Carlos Reynolds, and Mark Gore.

With no further business, on motion made and seconded, meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM.

Second Board of Director's Meeting, 4:55 PM, June 26, 2015

Chairman Carolyn Cormier-Stoute called the meeting to order and Secretary Krista Mathews called roll. Present: President James Bridges, 1st VP Joanna Schimek, 2nd VP Damon Veach, Recording Secretary Krista Mathews, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Marti Graves, Directors: Carolyn Cormier-Stoute, Lillian Lopez-Farara, Dave Wallin, Fred Roush, Paul Felsberg, Pat Merritt, Ann Peltier; Immediate Past President Damon Veach. Absent: Director Bradley Christian and Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Jeanette Elliff.

The motions passed by the various committees at their meetings earlier in the day were presented to the Board for ratification. After discussion, on motions made, seconded, and unanimously approved, all motions were ratified. See committee meeting Minutes for details.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

First General Session, 9:00 AM, June 27, 2015

President James Bridges welcomed everyone to the First General Session, led everyone in the pledge to the flag and asked Pat Merritt to deliver the invocation.

Please see the Minutes of the various committees for details of the actions taken. Only new discussions will appear in this section of the Minutes.

Financial: Walter Bisselle

With cost cutting, raffle and auction income, and handbook sales, we had a surplus at the end of the year. We have not had to touch our CD in over a year. It was proposed that we use this year's treasurer's report as the budget for next year.

Bylaws: Damon Veach

There were no changes to the Bylaws.

Damon Veach has received the show dates for 2016 for the three Louisiana chapters as well as the Central Florida chapter. He asked that as soon as the chapters know their show dates for 2016 to notify him, so that a tentative show date list can be added to The Seed Pod as soon as possible.

Membership/MALS: Walter Bisselle

Chairman was asked if chapters with Life Members, who do not have to pay for the AHS part of the membership can charge the \$5.00 chapter dues. It was agreed that this would be feasible.

Nomenclature: Pat Merritt

This committee is now pursuing new avenues to get the American Hibiscus Society nomenclature going.

Publications: Paul Felsberg

It was asked of all chapters once they know their show dates for 2016 to notify Roland Gaudet to receive their Show Packet in a timely manner as to not be in a situation of not having it prior to the show date.

Show and Judges Rules: Joanna Schimek

Chairman announced that five new judges took the judges test and passed. We have five new judges in training.

It was suggested and agreed that amateur exhibitors must be present at an AHS sanctioned show to be allowed to exhibit blooms. All other exhibitors, with the permission of the show director, that have extenuating circumstances may have a willing person exhibit their blooms for them.

Chairman has agreed to provide the chapters with a list of do's and don'ts at shows for the education of bloom exhibitors.

Nominating Committee: Marti Graves

We have formed a committee with a representative from each of the chapters. Any society member who would like to run for an office, please let the nominating committee know. November will be the deadline for all candidates.

2015 Fall Membership Meeting and the 2016 Convention: Marti Graves

The 2015 Fall Membership Meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Brandon, FL November 6 – 8, 2015.

On a vote taken by the membership in attendance, the 2016 Convention will be held at the Omni West Houston June 23 – 26, 2016. There can also be a trip to a cowboy ranch added to the weekend for an extra charge.

Chapter President Reports:

British Virgin Islands: Lillian Lopez-Farara

Chapter had been disbanded for over a year. There had been talks to dissolve the chapter. Lillian Lopez-Farara took over as president. The chapter now has 11 members.

Central Florida: Gary Mathews

The chapter is doing well. We have 11-14 members that come to our meetings. Our meetings are held at the South Seminole Nursery in their picnic grove. We do not pay for our meeting location.

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The chapter show was held April 4, 2015. It was very nice, but lightly attended probably due to being held on Easter weekend. 217 plants were sold. The 2nd Annual Epcot show was held on May 2, 2015. Disney management has asked us to present a show every year for the foreseeable future.

Conrad – Sunrise: Maureen Buono for Jo Conrad

Our chapter has had a good year. We have 40 memberships. We have quite a few new young members who actually come to meetings and are not just names on the membership list. We even have a new member on the Board of Directors who brings fresh new ideas and input. Meetings are held year round. We hold mini shows and plant raffles at all of our meetings, which are fun.

Gulf Coast: Walter Bisselle

Our chapter held our 50th Annual Show on May 16, 2015. It was a good show for the exhibitors, but the public did not turn out despite our centrally located venue and newspaper coverage being nonexistent. We have only 10-12 members who do the work of the chapter. On July 7, 2015 we will be holding our last meeting before summer break, and we will be determining where we go from here.

Harry Goulding Chapter: David Wallin

Our chapter had a good year. We now have 35 members. We participated in three Home and Garden Shows at the Charlotte Harbor Event Center, which gets us into the public eye and sometimes recruits new members. We also had two picnics and a Christmas party (joint party with the Gulf Coast Chapter). Our annual Mothers' Day show was a success, and we recruited one new member. We had a lot of support from our neighboring chapters getting ready for this year's convention.

James E. Hendry: Wanda Schmoyer

Our chapter has been quite successful. We started by awarding Barbara Oster with her national award for writing the best newsletter in all of AHS. Our first meeting in October had 38 guests attend as well as 17 members. Kathy Grandoff was our guest speaker and the subject was "Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Hibiscus but Were Afraid to Ask." We held several hibiscus talks throughout the Fort Meyers Area, which focused on hybridizing and growing. One Garden Club donated \$100 to our chapter, which we donated to the convention to cover the cost of the goodie bags. We tried a plant sale in the fall at our regular meeting location, in which Curt Sinclair supplied the plants and all the plants were sold out in the first 45 minutes. Advertising does work. This year's show was held at a new location, on a new day,

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with a new plant vendor (Big Bad Flower). All 650 plants sold, but we had a low turnout probably due to the changes. We did show profit in the end even after \$2200 was collected from sponsors as well as over \$1800 in value for door prizes. We have approximately 58 members as more come in daily.

Lone Star: Marti Graves for Jeanette Elliff

We added six new memberships at our show this year. We were able to move back to the facility at Hermann Park in September at totally renovated, beautiful facilities. The facility is now known as McGovern Centennial Gardens. Our Christmas party was held at the home of Gloria and Mike Mikulenska and was catered by Cindy Wilson and Joanna Schimek. The Lone Star chapter donated \$1,000 to the Waimea Arboretum Foundation in Haleiwa, HI. Our long time member, Dave Mitchell had a two-day sale of plant and garden supplies, and raised a large amount of funds, which he donated to the Lone Star Chapter. Lone Star is excited that 10 of their members will be attending this AHS Convention.

Mike Bernard Acadiana Chapter: Ann Peltier for Sandy Scheuermann

Our chapter continues to grow as we picked up 16 new members since last year's convention. Fall 2014 brought our 3rd annual calendar compiled from our monthly member photo contests, which continues to be an excellent fundraiser for our chapter. Spring was busy with a 2-day Festival des Fleurs in April and our annual show in May along with joining the other Louisiana and Texas chapters for their shows. We will all gather mid-summer at our New Member Barbecue as we welcome our new members, relax and enjoy the camaraderie of our hibiscus friends.

Red Stick Hibiscus Association: Janelle Alvis for Damon Veach

Our chapter continues to grow. We had two very profitable shows this season. In March, we had a huge booth at the LSU Spring Garden Show, and we followed that with a very successful show and sale in May, also on the LSU campus. In February, all of the Louisiana chapters joined together in a special open house at Dupont Nursery. This is an annual gathering that is promoted by the New Orleans group. We also participate in two grafting parties each year sponsored by the New Orleans group, and we also enjoy Christmas parties given by RSHA and New Orleans and a summer barbecue with the Lafayette group. We also awarded our third scholarship to a deserving horticulture student. This is something we worked on for several years, and Anna Ribbeck, an LSU student, was the latest and a repeat recipient. We will continue to work with all the state colleges and universities to assist Junior, Senior, or graduate students with scholarships. This is an important program and one that brings good publicity to our society.

Space City: Carolyn Cormier-Stoute for Joyce Melebeck

Our chapter had another good year. We continue to have 40+ members at each of our monthly meetings. We have increased our social atmosphere which has also increased member presence at our monthly meetings. Our program presenters provide our members with presentations on the care of hibiscus and elimination of harmful insects through the use of insecticides and organic methods. We reduced the number of shows from 3 to 2, which had very little impact on our revenue. Thank you to our local members and friends from Louisiana chapters who manage to attend our shows and make them so successful.

St. Croix: Rita Hall

We had a successful show. Our membership is small, but dedicated. We did not order our show packet until days before the show. It was faxed and duplicated at the show venue. President is learning to serve as treasurer.

St. Thomas: Rita Hall

We had a successful show. Membership is building up, now at 25. The show only had one director and no assistant.

Some issues with the island chapters include increasing their membership, because they already have a small population and keeping judging status as the islands only have 2 shows and if you can't make one it presents a problem as it is not easy to travel between the islands. We also have a concern with the \$50 fee for seedlings, but we never have enough wood to send, so it really is not a problem.

Sunset Chapter: Fred Roush:

Chapter president sang his report to all attendees. Our show on May 24, 2015 was a huge success. Many plants were sold. Plants were provided by Affordable Hibiscus. Members helped selling plants and educating patrons of the show on growing these beauties.

The afternoon was ours to tour Punta Gorda or just relax.

Awards Banquet, June 27, 2015

The Harry Goulding Grafting Award was given to **Greg Graves**; presented by Gloria Mikulenska.

The Norman and Beverly Brubaker Award for the 2014 Judges' Favorite Bloom was given to **Bayou Rose**, Bobby Dupont/Father Bob Gerlich, hybridizers; presented by Paul Felsberg.

The Norman Reasoner Award for Most Amateur Exhibitors at a Show in 2014 was given to **Sunset Chapter**; presented by Damon Veach

The A.B. Morrison Award for an Exhibitor with the most Best of Show seedlings in 2014 was given to **Carlos Reynolds** and **Don Florus**; presented by Cindy Adkins.

Gold Seal Sweepstakes Awards:

Amateur:

Islands: **Robert Boynton**

Florida: **Kelly Blevins**

Texas: **Todd and Janelle Alvis**

Louisiana: **Todd and Janelle Alvis**

Collector:

Islands: **Susan Sheehan**

Florida: **Nancy Kopp**

Texas: **Joyce and C.J. Melebeck**

Louisiana: **Steffan Callegan**

Open Collector:

Islands: **Lillian and Mikey Farara**

Florida: **Connie and Fred Roush**

Texas: **Deb and Nick Spencer**

Louisiana: **Buddy and Kathleen Short**

Commercial:

Islands: **Tina Robert**

Florida: **Carlos Reynolds**

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Texas: **Don and Carolyn Florus**

Louisiana: **Dupont Nursery**

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Seedling of the Year for 2015

Sixth Place:

Continental Dream

Carlos Reynolds, hybridizer

Fifth Place:

Swamp Cloud

Dupont/Gerlich, hybridizer

Fourth Place:

Music Queen

Don and Carolyn Florus, hybridizer

Third Place:

Grape Cola

Sam Andrews, hybridizer

Second Place:

Masked Bandit

Carlos Reynolds, hybridizer

First Place:

Electric Pizzazz

Carlos Reynolds, hybridizer

The Nola Reynolds and Ann Mitchell Lifetime Achievement Award:

Pat Merritt

Presidential Citations, presented by James Bridges:

Outstanding Service Award: **Lillian Lopez-Farara**

Outstanding Executive Secretary Award: **Marti Graves**

Second General Session, 9:00 AM, June 28, 2015

After the invocation and salute to the flag, President James Bridges welcomed everyone to the last session of the 2015 Convention. He thanked everyone for the raffle and auction donations. He also thanked David and Dee Wallin for all they did to get ready for the convention and throughout the entire convention.

Lillian Lopez-Farara brought up the fact that she will soon need assistance in updating the Official AHS Facebook Page. She is hoping for a committee to work on this.

Executive Secretary Marti Grave is asking for volunteers to help get auction and raffle items together for the next meeting. It was agreed that the host chapter should assist the Executive Secretary in doing this.

Treasurer Walter Bisselle reported that the raffle brought in \$1,530 and the auction brought in \$2,055.50

Marti Graves reminded everyone to turn in their name badges to her for use at the Fall Membership Meeting.

With no further business, on motion made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the 2015 convention was adjourned as Fred Roush (Chapter President Sunset Chapter) did his Kate Smith impression and sang God Bless America with all attendees.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista L. Mathews
Recording Secretary

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