



American Hibiscus Society National Convention June 22 – 25, 2023

Welcome

- Missing Board Members due to health (Joyce, Anne, & Carolyn)
 - Carolyn – Has stepped up and filling two positions (The Parliamentarian & 1st VP) on the board

Change to the Seedling of the Year

- Needs to recognize the Hybridizer, the Grower, and the shower. As currently only the Hybridizer is acknowledged by the AHS.
- Todd Alvis made a motion for the category Seedling of the Year that the Hybridizer, Grower, & the shower all gets recognized. A duplicate plaque (at AHS cost) if the Hybridizer or someone wants one. Also both the Hybridizer & the grower would be listed.
 - Needs to be written in by-laws so it is fair – This takes a year
 - Needs to be in the Seed Pod and voted on.
 - All passed with support (4 out of 7 present, Zero votes for No)
 - To be passed on to the directors

Website

- Website is very cumbersome and people are trying to buy seeds but cannot figure out how to do so or where to even go to in the website.
- Website is not being updated
 - Needs addressing with Tom Miller – Not in attendance

Storage

- Frank Sullivan addressed that the AHS has a historical storage room and no one knows what is in it or where it is located. The only thing known is that it is somewhere in Chapel Hill. Been working on this now for three years to close it out, as the AHS is paying for this and we don't know anything about it.
- Frank Sullivan on second storage unit – Located at 5850 S Military Trail, Lake Worth, FL. This unit is 5x5x5 which stores the Hibiscus Handbooks & Show Packages.

Nominations

- Todd Alvis has tried to get every chapter President to provide a member they would want on the nominating committee in order to provide much diversity. Would like everyone represented. Also would like see the officers equally represented as well as even the islands (which we do not see much activity from) all to be included. Meeting will take place July 23rd.

Membership

- Need to start to push for membership. How to obtain members & to keep them.
- Examples were given
 - Go onto your local regional gardening sites & post to see who responds
 - Look up profiles who comment & see what they are growing
 - Opens up windows for local chapters & AHS.
 - Facebook Posts with information, Bloom postings. Post events your chapter is having.

Director Meeting

- Quorum is noted.
- Todd Alvis made motion
 - The seedling evaluation should acknowledge the Hybridizer, Grower, & Shower. Whoever is providing the plants should be the one who gets the reward. We as the society will provide the award to who provides the plants, but we give you the chance if you want an award to go to one of the other people that we will provide it at cost. By-Laws would have to be changed.
 - 2nd by: Gloria
 - All in favor – everyone, Disagreement – No one
 - Needs to go into the Seed Pod to be voted on next year.

Emerald Coast Chapter

- Sandy Lichauer (President) is starting up a new chapter (Destin, Fort Walton Beach, Florida).
 - 102 response who are interested with a possible 40 members.
- Greg made motion for AHS to donate 100 Hibiscus Handbooks to this chapter to help with promoting members.
 - 2nd by: Frank (as we had 100 books on hand)
 - All in favor – everyone, Disagreement – No one
- Joanna proposed we give this chapter \$500 to help with startup. Discussion was made for this to be increased. Walter brought up that National to give and that \$500 is not a loan but given as a startup. Further discussion was made to up the ante.
- Walter made motion - \$1,000 to be given to Emerald Coast Chapter for startup.
 - 2nd by Todd Alvis
 - All in favor – everyone, Disagreement – No one
- Frank Sullivan – gave 100 Hibiscus Handbooks at convention directly to Sandy.

By-Laws

- Frank Sullivan – Been quite since last year.
 - Louisiana wanted to cut out the Red X which was not approved, so this will continue to be used.

- Policy & Procedure manual needs to be updated. The ones on the website are out of date.
- Updated By-Laws were sent to Tom Miller and a year later they still have not been updated. Tom Miller is the only one who owns the website and has the domain to take care of this.
 - Discussion was had to see if this can be changed or if we can start a new website. We need to approach Tom Miller to get this taken care of.

Show & Judging

- Beth suggested that they would like to see Gold Ribbon on show entry cards (after being judged) again instead of gold dots.
 - This is up to each individual chapter how they want to do this and the chapters are the ones who provide the ribbons etc. The Gold, Blue, & Red ribbons that are used on show entry tickets have each individual chapters name on them not AHS.

Judges Training

- Marti Graves – provided the AHS Judge Training. This allows all states to be on the same page when it comes to judging blooms.
 - Proper why to show a Bloom
 - How to Judge the Bloom
 - Correct deduction of points to determine if the Bloom is a Gold, Blue, Red, or X
 - Examples were shown with group discussion on what was wrong with the bloom and what color is given.
 - Seedling cards do not have to be turned over?

Seed Bank

- Don Bernard gave update
 - Increase in orders with donations being sufficient
 - About a dozen of hybridizers that seen in seeds
 - Seeds are being currently being ordered through PayPal or directly through the mail which come from US and International Countries.
 - During the pandemic we probably lost half of our foreign countries. Increase maybe due to Facebook posts.
 - Average cost in US \$5.00 and about \$15 overseas to ship seeds
 - All MAL & Members can request seeds once a year at no cost, just need to email Don Bernard.
 - 2,430 seeds in the past 6 months have been shipped.
 - Increase in postage has changed the requirements in ordering through PayPal from \$5.00 to \$20.00 for US orders. Overseas went from \$15.00 to \$30.00.
 - \$1,850.00 was able to be put back in AHS treasury.
 - Copies of donors were given