



## American Hibiscus Society National Convention June 20 – 22, 2024

### Welcome

- All Board Members Present
  - Todd Alvis, Carolyn Cormier-Stoute, Frank Sullivan, Joyce Melebeck, Joanna Schimek, and Walter Bisselle
- Director Meeting
  - 2018-2024
    - Present – Greg Graves, Nancy Kopp, & Ottmar Schimek
    - Absent – Sandra Barr
  - 2021-2026
    - Present – Micki Dougherty, Gloria Mikulenska, & Karen Sullivan
    - Absent – Ryan Perry

### New Business

- Why is convention held in June?
  - Chapters are still holding shows into May, as blooms are still nice
- Convention Agenda not being published early
  - Due to scheduling classes and training conflicts
- Email sent out for start time on Thursday at 4PM
- Board will try to have a tentative agenda sent out prior to start of convention, in addition to creating a *Seed Pod* with a general idea of classes that will be held
- Seed Pod Editor
- New Chapter – Carnival Coast
- Historian

## **Publications**

- Update the current inactive / deceased judge member list.
  - Carolyn to assist Frank
- Approximately 2,800 handbooks in storage
  - \$5 a book, plus shipping to chapters
- Show packets
  - 16 packets were sent out for this year shows
  - Commercial & Amateur cards needed
    - Approximate \$4,000 cost
- Show ribbons
  - Gold Star Trophies in Baton Rouge
    - Has been found to have the best price
- Permanent Numbers –
  - Contact Frank Sullivan via email

## **Carnival Coast**

- President Tim M Okeefe wants to start a new chapter in LA under American Hibiscus Society
  - Would be geared toward social media presence
  - Must have at least ten members with no members at large
- Todd Alvis made motion for Tim M Okeefe to start up new chapter under American Hibiscus Society with a start up fee in the amount of a \$1,000 donation and 100 handbooks
- Nancy Kopp second
- All in favor – unanimously
- All opposed – none
- Motion passes

## **American Hibiscus Society Historian**

- Beth Meehan would like become the new historian for the American Hibiscus Society
  - History is her passion
- Todd Alvis made motion for Beth Meehan to become the new historian.
- Frank Sullivan second
- All in favor – unanimously
- All opposed – none
- Motion passes

## **Category Classification**

- The class you start the show season out with, is the one you must end the season with you
  - You are not allowed to back and forth through the show season
  - Amateur class is the only one you can not go back into

## **Social Media**

- Let's try to increase interaction with your club social media pages
  - Is a big part of drawing members to our clubs
  - Spread hibiscus awareness!

- More interaction will lead to more people seeing club postings
  - Comment, like, Q&As, and review posts

### **Seedling Evaluation Committee**

- No meeting held. Not enough members to have a quorum. Oral presentation held
- Consist of 9 evaluators
  - 3 in Louisiana, 1 in Alabama, 2 in Florida, & 3 in Texas
  - Best of Show seedling winners go up for Seedling of the Year award.
  - Seedlings are evaluated twice a year.
    - Once in fall & once in spring.
  - Categories
    - Size of plant, appearance, bloom feature, and bloom frequency.

### **By-Law Change - Seedling of the Year Award**

- Change to Seedling of the Year Award
  - The Hybridizer, Grower, & the shower all get recognized.
  - The provider of the plants will be given the Seedling of the Year award and if the Hybridizer or the Shower wants a duplicate plaque they can purchase at (AHS cost).
  - Both the Hybridizer & the Grower will be listed on the plaque.
- Published in the Seed Pod
- Todd Alvis made motion for a change in the By-Law for the Hybridizer, Grower & the Shower all be recognized
- Karen Sullivan second
- All in favor – unanimously
- All opposed – None
- Motion passes

### **Show & Judging**

- Senior judges
  - Attend 2 shows per year
  - Annual judges' training. One is held during convention each year.
  - Each club is required to conduct a Judges' training at the club level by March of every year.
    - Sign in sheet for attendees
    - Give or email to 1st VP Frank Sullivan

### **Seed Pod**

- Todd Alvis – Resigned from editor.
- Need following positions - Todd & Ryan will assist if needed
  - Editor
  - Co-editor
  - Proof readers
- Possible paid position. In the past AHS paid up to \$600 for this position
  - No motion made – Tabled until positions have been filled.

## Seed Bank

- Don Bernard gave update
  - Volume stabled with requests
  - Donations have been consistent with seeds
  - Shipping increased from \$20 - \$30 for international orders & \$15 - \$20 in the states
  - Made about \$500 - \$600 for this year.
  - Covention 2025 if any member wants to order seeds prior Don will bring them to convention to save on shipping costs.

## Treasure Report

- Have seen back on report 5% interest
- Balance sheet shows \$13,000 cash on hand but, it is more like \$20,000.
  - Need to pay for convention
  - Behind on Seed Pod
- Over all sitting very comfortable

## Chapter Reports

- Red Stick
  - Dupont Nursery opened up for members & provided a luncheon
  - Show was not our best one
- Harry Goulding
  - Re-establishing FaceBook page
  - Setting up a web page
  - Show / Sale was fairly good
  - Roughly 27 new members
- Space City
  - Currently have 99 members
  - This year has been a roller coaster w/many activties & shows
  - Chapter over all is doing pretty good
- Sunset
  - Recieved good feedback from memberships & sale
  - After our show / sale we held a informative meeting to help with taking care of your new plant
  - Our goal is to keep growing membership
- James E Hendry
  - Held show/sale & other sales
  - Increased our Amateur participation
  - 25% increase in membership
- Lone Star
  - Show this year was not well attended as it was not well promoted
    - Will increase promotion of our show
  - Sold out of plants in record time this year.

- Mike Bernard Acadiana
  - Fantastic head table this year at our show
  - 87 full members
  - Created a new Website
- Coastal Hibiscus of Destin
  - Learned a lot
  - First show went well but did not sell out of plants
- New Orleans
  - 76 full members
  - Held grafting party
  - Hosting the 2025 convention
- Mathews-Fallman
  - Held three shows / sale (not selling out of plants) & attended two plant festivals
  - Growing members & promoting our shows / meetings on social media
- Conrad-Sunrise
  - First show / sale since covid. Great success
  - Sold out of plants within first three hours
  - Increasing social media posts for sales / shows and posting of blooms

**Todd Alvis made motion to adjourn our 2024 convention @ 3:00pm**

**Joanna Schimek second**

- All in favor – unanimously
- All opposed – None
- Motion passes