

## American Hibiscus Society

**Embassy Suites  
Baton Rouge Louisiana**

**Annual Convention  
June 22 – 25, 2017**

### **First President's Committee Meeting, 4 p.m., June 22, 2017**

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

The president announced that Recording Secretary Krista Mathews resigned because her work schedule would not allow her to attend meetings. He appointed Joyce Melebeck to replace Miss Mathews, and that Pat Merritt would take and prepare the Minutes for this Convention.

Marti Graves is the new Chapter Presidents' Coordinator.

### **Old Business**

The issue of errors in The Seed Pod was addressed. Although the copy is corrected and proofed several times before it is printed and mailed, occasionally gremlins will slip into the process. The proofers do not necessarily proof static material in each issue. The President's Committee appointed two additional proofreaders, Todd Alvis and Ann Peltier, who will read each proof-copy and send corrections to Pat Merritt. She will transmit these corrections to the printer. A final proof will be signed off on by each of the three proofreaders before sending it to print and mail.

A suggestion was made to add the Policies and Procedures Manual to the American Hibiscus Society's web site. This document will need to be updated before this is done.

### **New Business**

Rita Hall received a request from the Virgin Islands Chapter to reduce the number of shows in which judges must participate to maintain their credentials from two shows to one. This Chapter only sponsors one show each year, thereby

### First President's Committee Meeting (continued)

making it impossible for them to fulfill this requirement. After discussion, on motion made and seconded, the request was approved for the Island Chapter.

President Veach announced that Lillian Lopez-Farara (Islands) resigned from the Seedling Evaluation Committee because of business pressures, and that he has replaced her with Joyce Melebeck (Texas) who was an alternate. Janelle Alvis (Louisiana) also asked to be removed from this Committee because her husband Todd has or will have seedlings under evaluation nearly every year and she is disqualified from evaluating his work. The president appointed Sandra Barr (Louisiana) to replace Janelle. The President's Committee unanimously approved these changes.

President Veach appointed Gloria Mikulenska (Texas) as a Director to complete Cindy Wilson's (Texas) unexpired term on the Board.

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

### **First Board of Directors Meeting, 4:45 p.m., June 22, 2017**

Chairman of the Board Pat Merritt called the meeting to order and called the roll. Present: President Damon Veach, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Carolyn Cormier-Stoute, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Fred Roush, Chairman (and Acting Recording Secretary) Pat Merritt, Executive Secretary Joanna Schimek; Directors: Todd Alvis, David Craig, Connie Roush, Gloria Mikulenska, Bradley Christian, Nancy Kopp, Ann Peltier. Absent: Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Immediate Past President Jim Bridges, Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Wanda Schmoyer.

The full Board approved the appointment of Gloria Mikulenska to the Board of Directors to complete the four-year term ending in June 2020.

The Chairman reminded the Directors of the commitment made at the 2016 Convention in Houston to contact each Chapter in their region for articles on current activities for The Seed Pod.

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

**American Hibiscus Society**

**Embassy Suites Hotel  
Baton Rouge LA**

**Annual Convention  
June 22 – 25, 2017**

**Committee Meetings as a Whole, June 23, 2017**

President Damon Veach asked Parliamentarian Ann Peltier to read the objectives of the American Hibiscus Society. The invocation and Salute to the Flag followed. Acting Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Damon Veach, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Carolyn Cormier-Stoute, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Fred Roush, Chairman of the Board Pat Merritt, Executive Secretary Joanna Schimek. Directors Todd Alvis, David Craig, Connie Roush, Gloria Mikulenska, Bradley Christian, Nancy Kopp, Ann Peltier. Absent: Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Immediate Past President Jim Bridges, Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Wanda Schmoyer.

**Budget Committee: Danny Fontenot for Walter Bisselle**

Copies of the Interim Report June 1, 2016 – April 30, 2017 were made available to those present and are made a part of these Minutes.

**Bylaws Committee: Fred Roush**

Second VP Roush read the bylaws amendments as published in the January issue of The Seed Pod. After discussion, all amendments were approved unanimously. See the January 2017 issue of The Seed Pod or the Minutes of the 2016 Fall Membership meeting for a complete copy of these amendments.

**Publications: Pat Merritt for Roland Gaudet**

Sales of our Tropical Hibiscus Handbook are remaining steady via PayPal and at our shows. Work on a new Hibiscus Catalogue to be produced on a flash drive is progressing.

**The Seed Pod: Rita Hall**

The AHS Treasurer Walter Bisselle furnishes the mailing list each quarter to the printer and the names and addresses are printed on the last page as it is being printed. If you are not receiving your issues, please email Mr. Bisselle at [wbisselle@aol.com](mailto:wbisselle@aol.com). Now that show season is over, hybridizers of each winning seedling must send a picture of the Best of Show Seedling at your show, along with its pertinent information, to Rita Hall at [rita.hall9937@gmail.com](mailto:rita.hall9937@gmail.com). This information will appear in the January 2018 issue. Directors are reminded to contact Chapter presidents in their region for articles about their chapter

activities. Two more proofreaders have been added to reduce the number of errors. Show ads and vendor ads help defray the cost of printing.

**Show and Judging Rules: Carolyn Cormier-Stoute**

Judges are reminded that they must judge at least two shows and attend a Judges' Seminar each year to maintain credentials. The exception to this is the Island Chapter judges only need to judge one show each year and attend a seminar. There is a Judges' Seminar held at each Annual Convention. For those judges not attending the convention, seminars will be on a best efforts basis.

**Seed Bank: Todd Alvis for Don Bernard**

Don Bernard was ticketed to travel to Baton Rouge for the convention, but his flight was cancelled because of the threat of Tropical Storm Cindy. The Seed Bank shipped over 2500 seeds to enthusiasts in Canada, Columbia, Fiji, Germany, India, Malta, Philippines, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom, Uruguay and many U. S. States. The greatest number of requests come from the Philippines and these States: AL, CA, FL, IA, IL, NC, OK, SC and TX. We also had a significant increase in requests from Chapter members and MALs. The supply provided by hybridizers has barely kept up with the demand for seeds. Many thanks to Frank Heffernan, Greg and Marti Graves, Gary Mathews, Todd Alvis, David Craig, Jim Gedicke, George Fister and Betty Bingham for sending many seeds. Please continue sending seeds to Don Bernard at his address in The Seed Pod. They are appreciated by so many.

**Nomenclature: Pat Merritt**

CJ Melebeck reported that we no longer have an AHS Nomenclature site. All seedling registrations must be made through the International Hibiscus Society at [www.internationalhibiscussociety.com](http://www.internationalhibiscussociety.com). Pat Merritt requested that Mr. Melebeck furnish her a copy of the American Hibiscus Society's database.

Jim Gedicke presented a Judges' Seminar.

**Convention 2018: Joanna Schimek**

Two properties were presented to the membership for the 2018 Convention. Both hotel room rates are \$119 per night, including a full breakfast. The vote of the membership will be on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>.

Embassy Suites Hotel  
Fort Myers FL

Hilton Garden Inn  
Tampa FL

**Seedling Evaluation: Cindy Adkins**

Committee members are: Cindy Adkins, Chairman; Greg Graves, Ann Peltier, Gary Mathews, Sam Andrews, Paul Zinzer, Joyce Melebeck and Sandra Barr

The Class of 2013 will provide the SOTY for 2017. The final candidates are A Mother's Dream (Dupont/Gerlich), A Mother's Love (Dupont/Gerlich, Arabian Knights (Barry Schlueter), Sgt. Seth Trahan (Buddy Short).

Class of 2014: All committee members turned in their votes. Keep all and evaluate in the fall.

Class of 2015: Drop Cajun Silver Negligée, Dust Storm and Wings of Fire for lack of wood for evaluation plants.

Class of 2016: Drop Midnight Love, Purple Hushpuppy and Tahitian Murphy's Law and VIVI 500 for lack of wood for evaluation plants.

The members added to the committee as new or replacements will evaluate as follows: Joyce Melebeck will begin with 2015 and 2016 plants (she was previously an alternate and was already evaluating some plants), Ann Peltier will start with 2016 forward, Sandra Barr will begin with the Class of 2017.

## American Hibiscus Society

**Embassy Suites  
Baton Rouge Louisiana**

**Annual Convention  
June 22 – 25, 2017**

### **First General Session, 9 a.m., June 24, 2017**

President Damon Veach called the meeting to order with the Invocation and Salute to the Flag. Acting Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll: Present: President Damon Veach, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Carolyn Cormier-Stoute, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Fred Roush, Chairman of Directors Pat Merritt, Executive Secretary Joanna Schimek; Directors: Bradley Christian, Nancy Kopp, Ann Peltier, Todd Alvis, David Craig, Connie Roush, Gloria Mikulenka. Absent: Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Immediate Past President James Bridges, Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Wanda Schmoyer.

The elimination of the fall membership meeting necessitated a housekeeping vote to elect a new Chairman of the Board of Directors at the Annual Convention in even-numbered years. This has been done in the past at the fall meeting. On motion duly made and seconded, this passed unanimously.

Second VP Fred Roush reminded Chapter presidents to turn in their show dates for 2018.

### **Committee reports are in the Committees as a Whole section of these Minutes**

President Veach appointed a Nominating Committee to identify and select candidates for office to serve the Society for 2018 – 2020. The members appointed are:

Texas: Gloria Mikulenka and Barbara Poche'

Louisiana: Ryan Perry and Danny Fontenot

Florida: Nancy Kopp and Dave Wallin

The vote for a location for the 2018 Annual Convention was

Embassy Suites in Fort Myers FL: 23

Hilton Garden Inn in Tampa FL: 19

## **Chapter Reports**

### **Central Florida: David Craig for Gary Mathews**

Krista Mathews is the new Chapter Secretary. Member Dixie Resnick won Commercial Sweepstakes at the Epcot show. Our show will be April 7, 2018.

### **Conrad Sunrise: No Report**

### **Gulf Coast: No Report**

### **Harry Goulding: Jane Jacobs**

We are having more socials and less formal meetings, and are attracting younger members. A good year for our Chapter with 39 members. The Peace River Botanical and Sculpture Garden will open in October 2017, and our Chapter has been invited to participate. We designed a hibiscus garden, donated and planted 90 hibiscus plants. We will also continue to maintain the plants in the garden.

### **James E. Hendry: Nancy Kopp for Patricia Myers**

Our show once again proved that publicity does work. It was a huge success, with 360 plants sold in 45 minutes and 20 new memberships signed up. Our fall plant sale will be October 14.

### **Lone Star: Ottmar Schimek**

We had our first show this year at a new and challenging location. Both shows were successful and our treasury is healthy. One show was in Bellaire and the other at our familiar location in Sugar Land. We sold a combined total of 750 plants. Our membership is 31 households.

### **Michael Bernard Acadiana: Buddy Short**

We have 42 full members and 22 associate members, with about 60% very active. Each August is our new member barbecue at the Short's home. Our monthly meetings and newsletters focus on "what's going on with your plants today." An annual visit to Dupont Nursery is always a highlight, as is our participation in Festival Des Fleurs and, of course, our annual show and plant sale. We gave a free plant to any veteran attending the show and 37 plants found new homes. Our Chapter is doing very well.

**New Orleans: Jim Gedicke for Bob Gerlich**

NOLA Chapter celebrated a milestone this April with our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Hibiscus Show and Plant Sale. Membership participation is very high, but our increasing need is to recruit and train new judges. We lack a coherent discussion on consistent judging standards, with the general tendency to be overly generous in awarding Gold Seals. We lost two of our most ardent supporters this year, Wally Barr and Bobby Dupont. They will be sorely missed.

**Space City: Joyce Melebeck**

Our 48 member-households presented two shows this year, in April and May. We had to change our shows from Sunday to Saturday because of the facility not being available on Sundays any longer. We average about 30 members at each monthly meeting, and our treasury is healthy.

**Sunset: David Craig**

Our membership is up, our finances are up! We recently moved our show to the Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center. We are planning a plant sale with a focus on membership recruitment. At our shows, our members are too busy on show duties to work on membership drives.

With no further business, the 2017 Annual Convention was adjourned.