

First President's Committee and Board Meeting, 5:00pm, November 11, 2016

President Damon Veach called the meeting to order with a pledge to the flag. Roll was called by recording secretary Krista Mathews. Present: President Damon Veach, 1st VP Carolyn Cormier-Stoute, 2nd VP Fred Roush, Recording Secretary Krista Mathews, Executive Secretary Joanna Schimek, Directors: Todd Alvis, David Craig, Connie Roush, and Ann Peltier. Absent: Chairman of Board Pat Merritt, Directors: Cindy Wilson, Bradley Christian, and Nancy Kopp, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Immediate Past President James Bridges. Ann Peltier will be sitting in as Chairman of Board in Pat Merritt's absence.

There was no old business to be discussed at this time.

New Business:

It was brought up by the board as to whether the Fall Meeting is necessary. Can all the society business be done in one meeting per year? There would also be a few Bylaws that would have to be amended in order to not have a Fall Meeting. Business usually conducted at the Fall Meeting include every other year the Seedling Evaluation Committee and the Board of Directors choose their chairman as well as the nominating committee meeting and notifying the rest of the society of their nominees. Not much is done at the Sunday morning meetings at neither the Convention or the Fall Meetings. More items could be done on the Sunday of the Convention. Some of the business in between the Convention can be done online. Need to go through bylaws and look at what bylaws need to be amended to get rid of the Fall Meeting. We don't want to eliminate the business at Fall Meeting. We just want to adjust when that business is done.

Motion was made and seconded to do away with the Fall Meeting. Six votes yes and three votes no. Motion carries. We will all need to explore pros and cons of not having a Fall Meeting. This now has to be published in the Seed Pod and discussed at the Convention, so we need to do our homework.

Jim Gedicke had sent out an email explaining the ideal number of members for the Seedling Evaluation Committee. The Ideal number of members would be eight. They now have seven members. The maximum should be ten members. Right now the committee has the following members: 1 MAL (Sam Andrews), 1 Islands (Lillian Lopez-Farara), 2 Texas (Greg Graves and Cindy Adkins), 1 Louisiana (Janelle Alvis), and 2 Florida (Gary Mathews and Paul Zinzer) evaluators. Ideally another evaluator should be added in Louisiana, so that there is two there as well.

Motion was made and seconded that the Seedling Evaluation Committee has a maximum of ten and a minimum of eight members. Also if any member of the committee has a seedling in evaluation they cannot evaluate any plants in that particular class. The committee will have two alternate evaluators to cover those evaluators for that class. The vote was unanimous.

Seed Pod printing issues were noticeable in our last Seed Pod. The results from the New Orleans Show and the Michael Bernard Acadiana Show had some Florida exhibitors as winners. These were clearly misprinted, which could have been a copy and paste error, but it made it past the editor. More eyes to edit the proof would be better.

American Hibiscus Society

Hilton Garden Inn
Tampa/Brandon, FL

Annual Fall Meeting
November 11-13, 2016

Motion was made and seconded to send the Seed Pod proof out to all the directors for editing as well as Pat Merritt. The directors will have three days to edit and return to Rita Hall. The vote was unanimous.

Motion was made and seconded to make space on the back cover of the Seed Pod to recognize new members, and remove deceased honorary members after a certain amount of time. The vote was unanimous.

Motion was made and seconded to do a "What's Your Chapter Doing" article from each chapter to be put in the Seed Pod. There would be four chapter articles in 3 Seed Pods per year and five chapter articles in one Seed Pod per year. Chapter presidents or appointed member would write the article and get it to Rita Hall in an allotted timeframe. The director in each area would be in charge of making sure each chapter gets their articles done in a timely manner. The vote was unanimous.

Fred Roush brought up about the fact that people cannot be banned from the Epcot show or any other AHS sanctioned event, and how the Epcot show should be unsanctioned for trying to take people off the gate entry list. No discussion began, and it will be brought up again tomorrow.

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

First General Session, 9:00 a.m., November 12, 2016

President Damon Veach called the meeting to order with a pledge to the flag and Ann Peltier read the AHS objectives.

Seed Pod Committee: Rita Hall

The October issue had many errors. It was suggested that the proofs also be sent to the directors for editing and give them three days to put in their edits. Articles are always welcome, and it was suggested to do an article from each chapter on what they are doing. The Seed Pod mailing has been change to a non-profit periodical mailing, which has cut our expenses. For the October issue, everyone will need to check their show results and notify Rita Hall of any corrections, so that they can be added to the next issue.

Extra copies of the Seed Pod are available. Contact Walter Bisselle or James Bridges for extra copies of the Seed Pod to give out at shows.

Please make sure the chapter show ads get to Rita Hall in a timely fashion, so that they make it in the Seed Pod on time.

The January issue will include the seedling winners from the 2016 show season, so if you were a winner please be sure that Rita Hall gets the parentage, description of the bloom (size and single or double), and a good picture of the bloom. Also if the bloom is for sale people would like to know which grower has it available.

Thank you to all those who help with editing and printing and all who contribute articles and pictures. This is your magazine your contributions are what make it interesting.

Publications Committee: Roland Gaudet

No Report at this time.

Bylaws Committee: Fred Roush

The following changes were discussed and a motion was made and seconded. The vote was unanimous on approving these changes to the bylaws. They will be published in the Seed Pod and voted on by the general membership at convention in June. The changes are as follows.

AHS Bylaws

Page 1 Article II Objectives

Change item 3 as follows.

3. To support the official nomenclature listing maintained by the International Hibiscus Society and register seedlings with the same.

AHS Bylaws
Page 4 Article VI
Change item d as follows.

d. Gather pertinent information concerning Society and chapter activities for publication. Each chapter shall be assigned a quarter to contribute a write-up along with photos to the Seed Pod editor of events involving the chapter. The chapter president shall be responsible for getting the chapter news to the Seed Pod editor or appoint a chapter member to be responsible for doing so prior to the deadline dictated by the Seed Pod editor.

AHS Bylaws
Page 4 Article VI
Add item g as follows.

g. Once proof of the Seed Pod is received by the editor, it shall be distributed to the directors for proofing. Each director shall have three days following receipt to proof the Seed Pod and respond to the Seed Pod editor.

AHS Bylaws
Page 6 Article VII 2nd Vice President
Remove item (f)

(f) Chair the National Awards Committee.

AHS Bylaws
Page 8 Section 3 Directors and Duties
Change item (1)

(1)A chairperson will be elected by the board annually in even years on Sunday following the presentation of the new class of directors.

AHS Bylaws
Page 10 Section 2 Standing Committees and Duties
Remove item (d)

(d) National awards committee, etc.

Seedling Evaluation Committee Bylaw changes

2. Committee members shall elect or re-elect a chairperson at the national convention in odd number years. The size of the committee is set at a minimum of eight members being comprised of two from Florida, two from Louisiana, two from Texas, one from the Islands, and one Member-at-Large. There will be two alternate members included in the ten total members, who will handle the classes of blooms where a committee has a bloom in the class. The alternates shall not be an active participant in the seedling category.

7. Change "Hibiscus of the Year" to "Seedling of the Year"
c. Remove "scion wood for grafting"

The Fall Meeting

This item was discussed, a motion was made, seconded, and a vote was taken to do away with the fall meeting. If this passes the general membership the following items will need to be changed.

AHS Bylaws

Page 5 Article VII

Replace item 4

(4) Meeting attendance: Any board member who fails to attend the National Convention without a valid written explanation or extenuating circumstances may be replaced at the discretion of the AHS president with the approval of a majority of the Board of Directors.

AHS Bylaws

Page 15 Article 10

Change item (a)

- (a) The Board of Directors shall hold one meeting each year. It is to be held in conjunction with the annual AHS convention. At the time of the annual meeting the committee of the society may meet at the call of the president, the committee chairperson, or a majority of the Board of Directors. The date and time of the next National Convention shall be among the last items on the agenda.

Show and Judging Rules Committee: Carolyn Cormier-Stoute

Show directors should be talking to the seedling exhibitors to reinforce the Seedling Evaluation Rules, and should not opt out because plant is too small to produce enough plants. A question was brought up as to how old the seedling plants should be prior to showing in a show. It is more about the size of the plant than its age. Seedling shown in the Spring of 2016 show season should be able to have plants ready for the entire seedling evaluation committee by the June Convention 2017. They have almost a year to get plants to the committee, but if the original plant is not large enough to make eight cuttings it should not be shown in the show.

Motion made and seconded that if a hybridizer does not want to enter into Seedling Evaluation that he/she should enter it under the appropriate category (amateur, collector, open collector, commercial or miniature) Vote was 14 for, 4 opposed. Motion carries.

Seedling Evaluation Committee: Cindy Adkins

The chairman Cindy Adkins called the meeting to order. Three of the seven members were present. All members had been heard from during their regular evaluations.

American Hibiscus Society

Hilton Garden Inn
Tampa/Brandon, FL

Annual Fall Meeting
November 11-13, 2016

Discussion of the Class of 2013: Drop Western Star, Madd Hatter, and Mayan Princess. Madd Hatter and Mayan Princess were ranked lowest in the class, and not enough members had Western Star.

Discussion of the Class of 2014: Drop Funny Face and Stolen Treasure. They were dropped due to not having enough wood or plants for the entire committee.

Discussion of the Class of 2015: Drop Spunky Seth and Lord William due to the entire committee not having plants yet and not enough wood to get plants to the committee.

Discussion of the class of 2016: Drop Tahitian Murphy's Law and Wild Cherry Delight. Tahitian Murphy's Law was named because if it can happen it will to this plant and bloom. It was decided that even though we overturned the opt-out rule that the grower was still able to opt out of competition this time. Wild Cherry Delight was dropped due to both of the larger plants being dead and there is not enough wood to make plants for the entire committee.

The committee should still be communicating with the chairperson of the committee once a month as well as the hybridizers to make sure plants can be replaced in a timely manner if possible.

Appointed members to the committee are Ann Peltier for Louisiana and Joyce Melbeck as alternate one. The committee as it stands is: Florida (Gary Mathews and Paul Zinzer), Texas (Cindy Adkins and Greg Graves), Louisiana (Janelle Alvis and Ann Peltier), Member-at-Large (Sam Andrews), Islands (Lillian Lopez-Farara), and Alternate #1 (Joyce Melebeck), Alternate #2 (Open as of this meeting).

Seed Bank Committee: Don Bernard

This past year the seed bank delivered 2020 seeds to 24 enthusiasts in 13 foreign countries, 17 US growers and 5 AHS members. We only mail out seeds from the last two years. Anything older is brought to membership meetings for the members present. This morning prior to the start of the meeting we sold some seeds from 2010 to two lucky winners for \$20 each. The \$40 went to the seed bank to help with expenditures. These lucky winners can take them back to their chapters and share or attempt to grow them off on their own.

We are using PayPal for the requesters to pay postage for sending the seeds. International is paying \$10 and domestic is paying \$5. We discussed increasing the postage cost to \$20 for international and \$10 for domestic request. We will discuss this further later.

Information on Member-at-Large membership will be added to the mailers as well as a list of chapters to the domestic requesters. Krista Mathews will be forwarding the Member-at-Large form she uses at Epcot to Don Bernard.

Thank you to the hybridizers for sharing their creations with the seed bank and the rest of the world.

Treasure's Report: Walter Bisselle

We are only halfway through our fiscal year. As of November, Chapter dues are steady, MAL dues are down a little bit, publication sales are down, and the cash on hand is up. The Society is not in financial distress.

Chapter Growth Committee: Walter Bisselle

There are several chapters that are doing well (James E. Hendry, Space City, New Orleans, Red Stick, Mike Bernard Acadiana to name a few). The Islands chapters are not doing well. BVI has a president, but they have not had a meeting. St. Croix has not paid their dues to the society as of November. Three of the members from the Islands have become MAL's.

Nomenclature Committee:

Motion was made and seconded to use the International Hibiscus Society's nomenclature database rather than have a separate database for the American Hibiscus Society. The vote was unanimous. The bylaw change is mentioned above during the Bylaws Committee.

Second President's Committee and Board of Directors Meeting, 2:30p.m., November 12, 2016

President Damon Veach called the meeting to order, and Recording Secretary Krista Mathews called roll. Present: President Damon Veach, 1st VP Carolyn Cormier-Stoute, 2nd VP Fred Roush, Recording Secretary Krista Mathews, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Joanna Schimek, Directors: Todd Alvis, David Craig, Connie Roush, Ann Peltier. Absent: Chairman of Board Pat Merritt, Directors: Cindy Wilson, Bradley Christian, and Nancy Kopp, Immediate Past President James Bridges. Ann Peltier is sitting in for Pat Merritt as Chairman of Board in her absence.

The bylaws state that only a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote from the Board of Directors can ban any member from AHS sanctioned events. Everyone should be following the rules of Show and Judging as well. If anyone not following the rules is found to be guilty the punishment is as stated in the bylaws. Epcot Show should be unsanctioned if anyone is taken of the list without a vote from the Board of Directors. It was agreed that all names that were on the list for last year's Epcot show will remain on that list. As Krista sends out directions to the back gate to everyone on the list, she will also be adding the Disney Standards to that attachment. Anyone not following Disney Standards can and will be sent home by Disney and blooms will be disqualified. The directors will be watching for any behavior that is against the AHS bylaws and Disney Standards. Epcot is different, and we must follow the AHS Bylaws and the Disney Standards.

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

Second General Session, 9:00 a.m., November 13, 2016

President Damon Veach called the meeting to order with a pledge to the flag, and Recording Secretary Krista Mathews called roll. Present: President Damon Veach, 1st VP Carolyn Cormier-Stoute, 2nd VP Fred Roush, Recording Secretary Krista Mathews, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Joanna Schimek, Directors: Todd Alvis, David Craig, Connie Roush, Ann Peltier. Absent: Chairman of Board Pat Merritt, Directors: Cindy Wilson, Bradley Christian, and Nancy Kopp, Immediate Past President James Bridges. Ann Peltier is sitting in for Pat Merritt as Chairman of Board in her absence.

Unfinished Business:

Motion was made and seconded to add the nomenclature objective to support the official nomenclature listing maintained by International Hibiscus Society and register seedlings with the same. The vote was unanimous. This change will be published in the January Seed Pod for vote at Convention.

The Fall Meeting proposal and changes to the bylaws will also be published in the January Seed Pod for vote at Convention.

The raffle brought in \$480, and \$40 went to the Seed Bank for the 2010 seeds that were auctioned off on Saturday morning.

Contact Roland Gaudet for your show packets. Be sure to ask for more miniature cards as every exhibitor exhibits in the category, and they get used up fast.

Convention will be held at the Embassy Suites in Baton Rouge, Louisiana from June 22-25. There will be a hospitality room open for refreshments.

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

Hilton Garden Inn
Tampa/Brandon, FL

American Hibiscus Society

Annual Fall Meeting
November 11-13, 2016