

Mid-America Orchid Congress
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
September 18, 2011

President Doug Martin called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. He thanked the Wisconsin Orchid Society for their cooperation in the meetings and for making the table centerpieces for the Saturday evening banquet. He also thanked the MAOC meeting committee for their work in setting up the meeting and its activities.

Doug reported the passing of Dr. David Brown, a long-time enthusiastic supporter of the Mid America Orchid Congress. He was one of the organizers of MAOC. He mentored Doug in his orchid growing and, without him, Doug probably would not be here. He will be missed.

Doug commented that from his perspective this is a day to look forward and backward. It is the end of his term as MAOC president and also the 20th anniversary that he and Beth have been attending meetings. He cares deeply about the organization. He never aspired to be president, but one day the chair of the nominating committee (Beth Martin) turned to him in the kitchen and informed him the committee wished to nominate him for president. He has learned to say "Yes," to this woman, so here he is! At the time, the organization was financially strong, but was facing challenges in finding meeting sites. This was also part of the kitchen discussion with the Annual Meetings committee chair. Since then, the meeting committee has put together three successful meetings. These meetings not only did not cost MAOC any money but, in fact, actually made money. Meeting sites are still a challenge. MAOC is strong, but will become stronger. We have looked for ways to reach out and support local societies rather than just receive support for MAOC. He and the committee have met with people and provided answers. Now auction income is split with host societies. He hopes MAOC will look for additional ways to support the societies as we go forward. Doug stated he feels honored to have served as president for two years and he thanked the group for that. He also thanked the officers and committee chairs for their support. They have always said, "Yes," except for one person who asked how to do what was being asked. He also gave special thanks to his wife, Beth.

Roll call:

The following societies were present:

Alabama Orchid Society	Kentucky Orchid Society
Ann Arbor Orchid Society	Miami Valley Orchid Society
Atlanta Orchid Society	Northeast Alabama Orchid Society
Batavia Orchid Society	Orchid Growers Guild of Madison
Blue Grass Orchid Society	Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City
Central Indiana Orchid Society	Orchid Society of Minnesota
Central Ohio Orchid Society	Orchid Society of the Ozarks
Eastern Iowa Orchid Society	Peoria Orchid Society
Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society	South Metro Orchid Society
Greater Omaha Orchid Society	Three Rivers Orchid Society
Heart of Dixie Orchid Society	West Shore Orchid Society of Northern Ohio
Illinois Orchid Society	Guest: Hi Country Orchid Society (Laramie)
Illowa Orchid Society	

The following societies were absent:

Blackhawk Orchid Society	Central Ontario Orchid Society
Central Iowa Orchid Society	Essex County (Ontario) Orchid Society
Central Kentucky Orchid Society	Grand Valley Orchid Society
Central Missouri Orchid Society	Greater Akron Orchid Society Orchid Society

Greater Cleveland Orchid Society
Greater Lansing Orchid Society
Greater Pensacola Orchid Society
Greater Toledo Orchid Society
Gulf Coast Orchid Society
Kingwood Orchid Society
Lincoln (NE) Orchid Society
Little Egypt Orchid Society
London Orchid Society
Memphis Orchid Society
Michiana Orchid Society
Michigan Orchid Society
Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society
Northwestern Michigan Orchid Society

Orchid Society of Greater Saint Louis
Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee
Orchid Society of the Royal Botanic Gardens
Paducah Orchid Society
Paris (KY) Orchid Society
Prairie State Orchid Society
Saginaw Orchid Society
Sioux Falls Orchid Club
Smoky Mountain Orchid Society
South Mississippi Orchid Society
Springfield (MO) Orchid Society
Windsor Orchid Society
Wisconsin Orchid Society

The minutes of the Spring 2011 MAOC were approved

Treasurer's Report:

Alexa Noel reported income between January 1 and September 15, 2011, of \$8580 and expenses of \$6258.65 leaving a net worth of \$78,982.82 before final bills are paid for this meeting. The organization is in good financial status. The funds are approximately 50% unrestricted and 50% restricted.

Memorials for Dr. David Brown and Dorothy Kuper were received this year.
The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Jan Yates reported there are 64 member societies in the Mid-America Orchid Congress. The number is relatively stable, but has increased a little. Alexa Noel and Mary Beth Mansour have diligently contacted small societies who do not regularly renew and Doris Asher has tracked the development of new societies. The membership is climbing. Doug Martin added that his efforts to get the St. Petersburg (Russia) orchid society to join MAOC have not yet been successful.
The Membership committee report was accepted.

Affiliated Societies: Mary Beth Mansour reported the Affiliated Societies Committee met on Saturday, September 17, 2011, at the Radisson Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Three members of the committee, Judith Rapacz, Roberta Ginavan & Mary Beth Mansour, were in attendance. Doris Asher and Jim Newsome were unable to attend due to schedule conflicts with regional judging. Dr. Jim Newsome, Irondale, AL, has been appointed to the committee.

The committee will contact societies that have not paid dues for 2011.

The committee recommends discontinuing posting local society newsletters on the MAOC website. The MAOC website will provide a link to the local newsletter. Most societies have a website. The topic selected for the Spring 2012 MAOC Affiliated Societies Breakfast will be: Communications: Websites, Newsletters & Social Media.

The number of registrations at this meeting is low. Twenty-eight persons attended the Affiliated Societies Breakfast on Sunday, September 18, 2011. The discussion topic was: Exhibiting at Other Society Shows. Interesting comments, including reciprocity, recruiting members, compensation and hospitality to visiting exhibitors, were shared. A detailed report will be included in the Mid-American.

The Affiliated Societies committee report was accepted.

AOS Liaison: Lowell Jacks gave the report for Doris Asher.

There has been no meeting of the American Orchid Society since the report in Memphis about the activities in Shreveport, LA, April 22-May 1, 2011. The Society has its next meeting October 26-30, 2011 in San Antonio, TX, hosted by the Alamo Orchid Society.

Since the Memphis Mid-America in late May things have been quiet with the AOS. One project of interest is a co-operative effort with the Nature Conservancy to manage property they own in North Carolina known as the Myrtle Head Savanna, a part of the ecologically rich Green Swamp. This is a remarkable and ecologically important area in which our collective support can help to resuscitate and sustain a critical habitat for native orchids, as well as numerous other plant and animal species. The goal is to raise \$10,040. As of September 14, 2011, the AOS website reports we have raised \$1,267 from 33 donors.

Another new interesting project: the AOS invites photography enthusiasts to submit photos of orchids. Each week one "orchid photo of the week" will be featured on the website homepage of the AOS. The very best will be selected for a feature in Orchids magazine.

The Chair of my Judging Center sent an email memo dated September 1st from the Chair of the West Palm Beach Judging Center. Evidently, this Judging Center, which had been meeting in the AOS Headquarters Building in Delray Beach, has received notification from the AOS that they need to find another place after their November 2011 judging session. From this, it would appear that the AOS is on schedule to vacate the Delray Beach property by the end of this year.

The AOS Liaison report was accepted.

The meeting was suspended for a short time while President Martin reassembled his hat.

Annual Meeting: Beth Martin reported she expects to have our Spring 2012 meeting in conjunction with a society's show. No details are available at this time. The society is planning to discuss next weekend and, if they agree to have us, we will move forward. Members were requested to keep the middle of April 2012 open.

The committee has an invitation for Fall 2012 from the Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City to host a meeting October 26-28, 2012. The events will be held at the same hotel as the previous meeting with the society. It was moved and seconded that we accept this invitation. The motion was carried. There will be another opportunity to visit Dave Bird's orchid cave and meals will be catered by the same company that catered the last Kansas City meeting.

The committee hopes to receive invitations from societies wishing to host both of our meetings in 2013. It was moved and seconded that the committee be authorized to accept invitations for 2013. The motion was carried.

Information regarding the Spring 2012 meeting may be available in time for the publication of the next Mid-American. Information will also be posted on the MAOC website as soon as available.

The Spring 2014 meeting will be hosted by the Orchid Society of Minnesota in conjunction with the AOS meeting. This is already on the website.

The five table centerpieces from the banquet may be taken home. Donations will be accepted for them. Three persons requested centerpieces. It was suggested to give one to the chair of the Wisconsin Orchid Society and one to a hotel staff person who has worked closely with the committee.

A motion was made to approve any part of the report requiring approval which had not been included in a prior motion. The motion was seconded and carried.

Doug reported a very positive change as the committee approaches societies about collaborating on MAOC meetings. There is little hesitation when a society is approached. The societies are glad to have MAOC come. The Annual Meeting committee report was accepted.

Audit Committee: Judith Rapacz reminded us that the Audit report is given only at Spring meetings.

Awards Committee: Christine Chowning reported a mix-up occurred in awarding the Fox Valley Cypripedium Award at the meeting in Memphis. According to the rules of the award, it should have gone to the plant with the highest AOS point score. Therefore, it should have been given to Paphiopedilum Lucky Bells 'Gigantic', AM/AOS, 84 points exhibited by Orchid Inn, Ltd., Bloomington, IL. A duplicate trophy has been given to Sam Tsui of Orchid Inn. Christine reminded judges to carefully follow the award rules in designating winning plants.

Christine announced the following Mid-America Orchid Congress awards at this meeting:

- Mid-America Perpetual Trophy for outstanding exhibit by an affiliate society was given to Walt Crawford and Claire Rojohn, Wisconsin Orchid Society
- Clifford and Vivian Walters Award for best oncidium alliance plant in show was given to Oncidesa Sweet Ears 'Pacific Gold' exhibited by Akers Orchids. The Walters award was the first award made without the MAOC medallion on it. Instead a very nice engraving of the medallion appears
- The Memoria Raymond McCullough Epidendrum/Encyclia Award for the best epidendrum/encyclia plant in show was given to Epidendrum cristatum exhibited by Larry Sexton, Batavia Orchid Society
- Christine M. Chowning Angraecoid Award for the best angraecoid species in show was given to Angraecum Longiscott 'Lee' exhibited by Mary Turkenow, Wisconsin Orchid Society

Christine also announced that the Banta award will be discontinued and a new award, the Delbert Lowell Jacks Award for the best plant in show, has been created and will be awarded in the spring. She also announced that the Mid-America Perpetual Trophy will now be given at both the spring and fall meetings and will be known as the Mid-America Trophy.

The mix-up with the Fox Valley award was that there are criteria of which the judges were unaware and so a mistake was made. A couple of steps have been taken to avoid this recurring. The criteria will be put on the website and Aileen Garrison has agreed to provide a list of the awards and their criteria to the chair of the judging at each MAOC show.

A question was raised regarding rules for the Mid America Perpetual Trophy. It is to go to an affiliated society. It was incorrectly awarded this year to individuals from a member society, not an affiliated society exhibit as specified in the award rules. How to handle this mistake will be determined by the new Executive Board. The Awards committee report was accepted.

Budget: Jan Yates reported the proposed budget for 2012 looks very much like the budget for 2011. On the income side, the auction is projected to be \$4000, down a little bit from last year because of the economy and because we will split the proceeds with a society that hosts the MAOC meeting. It brings in more income from meeting registrations when meetings are collaborative. Interest and dividends are nominal. Donations and honoraria tend to be about \$500. A line for registration for one meeting was added with a projection of \$5000. Show tag income is projected slightly higher. Total expected income is \$11,300.

On the expense side a big ticket item is conservation grants of about \$2000. Cost for conservation speaker has been increased, pending approval of the increase. Meeting expenses are projected at \$4500. Total projected expenses are \$10,420. Of that, \$8520 will come from revenue and \$1900 from endowed funds. She expects

revenue to exceed expenses in 2012. It was moved and seconded that the budget be accepted. The motion carried.

The Budget committee report was accepted.

Communication: Mark van der Woerd gave the report for Doris Asher. The Editor of The Midamerican distributed one issue (June 2011) since we met in Memphis in May. She thanks everyone who contributed information, articles, photos, and computer expertise to that issue.

The cost of the June issue was minimal—\$8.66 for copying and postage to send paper copies to individuals lacking email. The mailing list consists of more than 609 records, although she did not send a copy to all 609. Copies go to the chairs of Mid-America judging centers and at least two people from each affiliated society, preferably the president and the Mid-America representative. Another favorite contact is the editor of the society's newsletter if she knows who that is. She sends copies to everyone attending the business meeting at the previous Congress. In all cases, she urges recipients to share the newsletter and the information in it as widely as possible throughout their society. In addition, each issue is posted on the website: www.midamericanorchids.org.

For all mailings in paper, she encloses a plea for an email address and for each issue gains a few additional email addresses, which will curtail even further the expense of photocopying and postage for future issues.

She expects to prepare an issue immediately after this meeting in which we report on what has happened in Milwaukee and advertise upcoming meetings of the Congress.

She welcomes and needs input/ideas/articles! She thanks all of the individuals who have contributed to the ten issues she has prepared since her appointment as Editor in the fall of 2008.

This past March, Brian Spitler from the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society took over responsibility for the Congress' website, and he has accomplished great things in this short time period. All of the sections of the website have been updated and enhanced. Necessary changes are now being made in a timely manner. Thank you, Brian, for providing us with this important communication link. As with The Mid-American, Brian needs content for the MAOC website. Please look at the website (www.midamericanorchids.org) and make suggestions and provide content. Members of the Communications Committee are Doris Asher, Chair, Jeanne Rhinehart, Brian Spitler and Mark van der Woerd.

Mark invited persons to make suggestions to the committee after the meeting.

Doug stated that the website looks wonderful and that Tom Harper's PowerPoint presentation from the 25th anniversary meeting in Nashville is now on the website. Soon an article on conservation and the work we do to support conservation efforts across the country will also be on the website. The MAOC communications committee would like to have a front page similar to the AOS front page that changes frequently and entices persons to look further.

The Communication committee report was accepted.

Conservation: Russ Vernon reported the committee members who are here met on September 16. The committee has received only one request for funding so far for 2012, but anticipates receiving additional requests. The request is from Hummel Park, St. Paul, MN, for their seedling acquisition program. Receipts were submitted for their 2011 purchases. The committee will solicit other requests for funding.

An update: Ball State University has completed Phase One of their species bank project. This amounts to \$635,000 in donated funds to be used to replace the current structure, provide an additional 200 sq. ft. of space, and upgrade their climate equipment. They will add additional space and a display area. Future plans include a research facility.

Doug Martin added that the committee is looking at a project of the North America Orchid Conservation Center in conjunction with the Smithsonian to see if we can provide a letter of support for their project. The goals are to:

- Develop a national seed bank representative of the genetic diversity of NA orchid species
- Develop a national collection of fungi representative of fungi required for native orchids
- Develop techniques to restore and conserve native orchid habitats
- Develop techniques to conserve genetic diversity of all native orchids through habitat conservation and cultivating them in a national network of botanic gardens and arboreta
- Develop web-based materials that will provide up-to-date information on ecology, conservation status and cultivation of NA orchids.

Dennis Whigham spoke about the project at the North American Native Orchid Congress meetings in Delaware and, hopefully, will speak at the Spring MAOC meeting. A motion was made to provide a letter of support. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Conservation committee report was accepted.

Constitution/By-laws: Lowell Jacks repeated the change to the constitution that was proposed at the Spring 2011 meeting. The change in the election of officers would change the restriction of only one member of a society to be an officer of MAOC to allow two members from a society to be officers. It was moved and seconded that this constitutional change be made. The motion passed.

The Constitution/By-laws committee report was accepted.

Education: Doug Martin reported for Doug Hartung, who was unable to attend. Dr. Averynov has agreed to have copies of his talk made available to member societies of MAOC. Doug will work with the committee to have CDs made and sent to the societies.

The Education committee report was accepted.

Historian: Lois Holmes reminded us of her offer to pay the MAOC registration for the person who wrote the best essay on “Why I Come to MAOC.” The winner of the contest, the only entry submitted, was Mark van der Woerd. Lois reminded Mark that the registration fee did not include food.

Lois shared her memory of belonging to the Wisconsin Orchid Society at the time they held their first show at the new dome. Her job was to have food during show set-up, for which she prepared beef and ham in accordance with her Kansas roots. However, Milwaukee likes sausage in many forms and when people came to eat they asked where the sausage was. Finally someone went out and bought sausage. Lois was never asked to prepare food again.

The Wisconsin Orchid Society also participated in the state fair. A lovely blooming orchid with no leaves was brought by one of the members. But, it was not judged because of the lack of leaves. The exhibitor was incensed, so the next year they would not exhibit anything because the “garden club judges didn’t know what they were doing.” The Society arranged for Hermann Pigors to judge the orchids.

The Historian’s report was accepted.

Orchidist of the Year: Lois Holmes reported for Tim Brooks, who was unable to attend. In choosing the MAOC Orchidist of the Year, it doesn’t matter what you do in your own society or what you do in the American Orchid Society. It matters what you do in MAOC. This year’s recipient is someone whom you all see once in a while. She kind of teams up with somebody who has a like initial and we hear about them a lot. They go by M and M, and that’s not the rock person. It actually is “Money and Money.” She has been faithful in doing that for the last 4 years or so. She also served as Treasurer of Mid-America for 5 years, the maximum term allowable. Prior to that, she was on the Finance committee. Unfortunately, she is not here today to receive the award. The Editor of

the Orchid Society of Minnesota newsletter accepted the award on behalf of Karen McBride and will see that she receives the award at the OSM October meeting.

The Orchidist of the Year committee report was accepted.

Show Schedule: Lois Cinert reported the Show Schedule committee met Friday evening, September 16. Also present were Steve Benjamin and Hermann Pigors. Discussion continues on possible changes to the show schedule (which is like tampering with perfection). The AOS web page now has a link to the MAOC show schedule, so we're treading dangerous waters when talking about changing it. Cattleyas, paphiopedilums, miscellaneous categories and sequence of the trophy classes are being discussed. Committee members were also given a digest of the numbers of entries in all classes for 39 shows over the last two years for analysis. The committee will continue to gather information and will have their recommendations finalized for the Spring 2012 meeting, with a new show schedule to be released in 2013.

The Show Schedule committee report was accepted.

Ways and Means: Roberta Ginavan thanked the wonderful people who handle the money at the auction: Lois Holmes, Aileen Garrison, Pat Cleveland, Jan Yates. Without their help, we would still be trying to check people out. Thanks to the M & M Auction Company, Karen McBride and Doug Martin, who called the auction. Thanks, too, to Russ Vernon, who is always ready to step in as auctioneer when needed. Barry Jones and Mark van der Woerd assist with the shagging. Without their help the auction would not be successful. The Saturday evening auction raised \$1567. For the small number of people at the meetings, that is excellent.

The committee met on Saturday, September 17, at the Radisson Hotel to discuss possible future raffle prizes. The committee also had much e-mail correspondence over the summer to obtain this meeting's raffle prize. The prize, a vase with hand carved *Cypripedium kentuckiense* by Larry Mayse of Nature Glassworks, was won by Roberta Ginavan. Ticket sales totaled \$825, the highest sales total to date. The committee hopes to have another of his carvings at a future auction. The committee would welcome any suggestions for prizes. Doug commended the committee for their choices to date.

The Ways and Means committee report was accepted.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: Doug Martin explained that having up to \$750 available from the Shirley Burr Moore Fund to help with speaker expenses for a Fall MAOC meeting (\$1500 for a speaker outside the contiguous states) is a big benefit to the planners. The Conservation Speakers' Fund, however, allows a maximum of \$300 to defray expenses of a conservation speaker. That is a dramatic difference. The Executive Board, at its meeting Friday, recommended increasing that support to \$750. The current balance of the endowed fund is approximately \$10,000, which would be enough to continue support for about 14 years. In order to keep from depleting the fund, it was also agreed to propose to the Congress that a per cent of the surplus in general fund income each year in which there is a surplus be put into that the Conservation Speakers' Fund. A study of the income for the past 5 years suggests that if 15% of the surplus were put into the Conservation Speakers' Fund, that would give us roughly \$250 to \$400 each year and that would allow the fund to continue for about 25 years. It was moved and seconded that 15% of any general fund surplus at the end of the year be added to the Conservation Speakers' Fund and that the maximum allowable for a Conservation speaker at a Spring meeting be raised to \$750. The motion carried.

Doug stated that AOS is raising funds for the Myrtle Beach Reserve, a swamp in North Carolina. This is a wonderful place with wonderful orchids. He would like to encourage everyone to look at the AOS website and to consider making a donation or having their society make a donation.

Doug turned the meeting over to the Nominating committee. Mark van der Woerd spoke for the committee. It is customary that we present the outgoing president with a gift. While that gift is near-by, the United States Postal

Service decided to treat it especially roughly and, even though it was insured and marked “fragile” the gift is in pieces. He regretted there was not time to replace the gift since it was a unique piece of art. It was difficult to find a nominee for president who did not say it would be hard to follow in Doug’s footsteps. The gift, hopefully in one piece, will be presented to Doug at the next meeting. We are all in awe of how much Doug has done. He has taken care of having future meeting places, which was most uncertain when you became President. We used to plan meetings 5 years out and now it seems we may be able to again have that. Mark stated that if he recognize one thing that we have now that we didn’t have before Doug became president, that’s it. When Mark called prospective candidates for president, he informed them that Doug was only the assistant in organizing the meeting places. Mark asked the members present to join him in thanking Doug for all the work he has done in the last two years.

The following were nominated for offices: Aileen Garrison, President; Jordan Hawley, 1st Vice President; Doug Hartong, 2nd Vice President; Susan Wilson, Secretary; Alexa Noel, Treasurer. There were no nominations from the floor. Since there was only one nominee for each office, the election was by acclamation.

Aileen Garrison was introduced as new MAOC president. She noted she had promised to see the trophies were correctly awarded and yet a mix-up occurred in this show.

Mark commented on Aileen’s military background, in response to which she identified herself as an “Army brat.” This information was useful in finding an appropriate hat for Aileen. Her hat was described as “suitable for someone to wear when they reigned an Empire.” Mark added that when he entered the world of orchids, the single most supportive person he met was Aileen Garrison. He “crowned” her President of the Mid-America Orchid Congress.

Aileen stated she is sorry her husband, Barney, could not be here. He is judging in Birmingham so that Aileen could attend MAOC. She is honored to be president and stated there are things we need to know about her: She does not do things in a vacuum; what you see is what you get. She does not have a degree in diplomacy but, if you see a way, something can be done. It takes all of us to make it work. She asked people to let her know if they have ways we can make things better.

Lowell Jacks moved that the actions taken by the officers and committee members of the Mid-America Orchid Congress since the last annual meeting be ratified and confirmed and the officers and committee members be commended for their good work. The motion was seconded and carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Roberta Ginavan, Secretary