



Mid-America Orchid Congress

**Fall Business Meeting
Naperville, Illinois
September 27, 2015**

Call to Order – President Doris Asher called the meeting to order at 9:03 am. She welcomed all delegates and visitors and gave a special thank you to the Martins and Tim Brooks for the lovely venue and all of their work in preparing everything for this meeting of the Congress. In addition, Doris thanked the personnel of the Chicago Judging Center for providing the new “outreach” judging” for judging plants on Saturday. She remarked that attendance at the Business Meeting was good especially considering the small registration numbers.

Secretary’s Report – Secretary Cheryl Erins called the roll, and the following affiliated societies were present:

Alabama Orchid Society	Ann Arbor Orchid Society
Atlanta Orchid Society	Batavia Orchid Society
Central Indiana Orchid Society	Eastern Iowa Orchid Society
Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society	Greater Lansing Orchid Society
Greater Pensacola Orchid Society	Gulf Coast Orchid Society
Heart of Dixie Orchid Society	Iowa Orchid Society
Illinois Orchid Society	Memphis Orchid Society
Miami Valley Orchid Society	Michigan Orchid Society
Mobile Area Orchid Society	Niagara Frontier Orchid Society
Northeast Alabama Orchid Society	Northland Orchid Society
Orchid Growers Guild of Madison	Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City
Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee	Orchid Society of Minnesota
Orchid Society of the Ozarks	Smoky Mountain Orchid Society
South Metro Orchid Society	South Mississippi Orchid Society
Three Rivers Orchid Society	West Shore Ohio Orchid Society
Windsor Orchid Society	

Absent:

Blue Grass Orchid Society	Central Iowa Orchid Society
Central Kentucky Orchid Society	Central Missouri Orchid Society
Central Ohio Orchid Society	Central Ontario Orchid Society
Essex County (Ontario) Orchid Society	Grand Valley Orchid Society
Greater Akron Orchid Society	Greater Cleveland Orchid Society
Greater Omaha Orchid Society	Greater Toledo Orchid Society
Kentucky Orchid Society	

Lincoln NE Orchid Society	Little Egypt Orchid Society
London Orchid Society	Mansfield Orchid Society
Michiana Orchid Society	Niagara Frontier Orchid Society
Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society	Northwestern Michigan Orchid Society
Orchid Society/the Royal Botanic Garden	Orchid Society of Gr. St. Louis
Peoria Orchid Society	Prairie State Orchid Society
Saginaw Valley Orchid Society	Paducah Orchid Society
Springfield MO Orchid Society	Wisconsin Orchid Society

Cheryl reminded everyone to sign-in for their society with their email addresses so we can assure delivery of minutes of the meeting. She announced a quorum was present. She also had copies of the minutes to the Spring meeting at the table for anyone who wanted one.

President Doris Asher then asked for any corrections to the minutes from the Spring meeting in Nashville, TN. The motion to approve the minutes as written was made and passed. The minutes will be posted on the website. Doris announced that at the judging on Saturday, September 26, 2015, one award, a CHM of 83 points was awarded to Russ Vernon for his *C. maxima semi alba* 'LaPedrena' previously awarded in Japan. It was determined that since the petals and sepals were veined slightly, whether this was indeed a semi-alba and that SITF could confirm the identity of the orchid.

Treasurer Report- Treasurer Alexa Noel reported the Total Year to date (Sept.21, 2015) income of \$8528.99. Total Expenses to 9/21/2015 are \$9,820.35, which includes a conservation speaker (endowed) and the Spring meeting loan which was reimbursed. Our total Net Worth is \$81,826.64 of which restricted funds is 40% (\$32,730.66) and 60% (\$49,095.98) is unrestricted. She mentioned a donation to the Conservation fund was made by Beth and Doug Martin. Donations in the memory of Dixie McCulloch by Doris Asher and the Cincinnati Judging Center were received. The seed money from the Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee has been paid back.

Alexa also reported that the funds are doing well, and that the Shirley Burr Moore fund has five to seven years remaining.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's report passed and will be posted on the website with the minutes. (see Addendums 1-3 for full report).

Membership:- Alexa also noted that there are 19 societies unpaid this year and asked us to check after the meeting as to which ones and if we can help that process along. Little Egypt is in danger next year of being dropped due to non payment for two years.

Motion to accept the report passed.

Committee Reports:

Affiliated Societies: Chair Mary Beth Mansour reported the Committee met on Sept. 25, 2015, with these members present: Doris Asher, Susan Wilson, and Jim Newsome. The Committee discussed the following items:

- The Committee will contact the 18 societies that have not paid the 2015 dues.
- The topic to be discussed at the 2016 Spring meeting will be “Communications: Empower your Society in the Electronic Age.”
- Twenty-nine persons attended the Affiliated Societies Breakfast on Sunday, Sept. 27, 2015. The topic of discussion was “Mentoring Members to Assume New Roles in your Society.”
- All the suggestions and information will be in the upcoming The Mid-American.

A motion to accept the report passed.

AOS Liaison Report: Liaison Doris Asher The Portland Orchid Society and the Cherry City Orchid Society co-hosted the AOS Members’ Meeting in Portland April 29th – May 3rd. At this Portland meeting, the following personnel changes took place: These Mid-America judges were **promoted from Probationary to Accredited:** Andre Couture (Toronto) and David Taylor (Mid-America).

This Mid-America judge was **promoted from Student to Probationary:** Carol Butcher (Toronto)

These Mid-America people became **students in the Judging system:** Helen Blythe-Hart (Atlanta), Jim France (Cincinnati), Sandra Marcos (Great Lakes), and John Wachsmuth (Chicago).

These Mid-America judges have become **senior judges:** Annette Bagby (Toronto), Dr. Craig Plahn (Mid-America), Dr. Diana Plahn (Mid-America).

These Mid-America judges were **granted leaves of absence:** Richard Bennett (student) (Great Lakes) Jan 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015, Donna Lipowicz (student) (Toronto) Mar 1, 2015 – Sep 30, 2015, Erich Michel (accredited) (Cincinnati) May 1, 2015-Apr 30, 2016, Andriananjamanantsoa (Tahiana) Notahianjanahary (student) (Toronto -- Montreal) Mar 1, 2015 – Feb 28, 2016.

One Mid-America judge has been **terminated for cause:** Paul Batz (probationary) (Toronto)

With regret, we note the **death** of these Mid-America judges: Judy Adams (retired) (Toronto), Dixie McCulloch (retired) (Cincinnati), and Dr. Richard Wagner (accredited) Great Lakes.

She reported that a recent AOS news item is of interest: the Society announced last month that it is providing public access to the 30 most recent orchid awards and photos on the website. One does not have to be an AOS member in order to access this material.

The fall AOS Members’ Meeting will be in Reno, NV, November 11-15, hosted by the Orchid Society of Northern Nevada.

A motion to accept her report passed.

Annual Meeting: Beth Martin thanked everyone, Cheryl Erins, Lois Cinert for being boots on the ground helping with this hotel site, restaurants and logistics, along with Tim Brooks for his assistance on the registration. The next meeting is in Cincinnati, Ohio hosted by the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society and the Miami Valley Orchid Society, to be held at a magnificent hotel site downtown, March 19 and 20th, 2016. No banquet is scheduled for this meeting as there was a desire for all registrants to eat at ORCHIDS, a famous restaurant. The speakers will be Francisco Miranda, Leo Glicenstein, and Peter Lin. The room rate was set for \$99. The site should be up shortly. Beth also announced that we have accepted the invitation of the West Shore Orchid Society to host the Congress in April, 2018.

Beth invited Susan Charles, VP of the Niagara Frontier Orchid Society who has invited the MAOC to come to Buffalo, NY, November 11-13, 2016, to tell the audience about the society and the venue planned for this event. The Botanic Gardens, under renovation should be completed and Beth reported that she and Doug had visited them this summer to view the gardens and the venues. Doug mentioned the orchid conservatory in Buffalo that is cared for entirely by the Niagara Frontier Society. Aileen Garrison mentioned that this is close to the Toronto Judging Center.

Beth said there are no invitations for 2017 as yet and if anyone wants to discuss, to please call her.

Motion to accept her report passed.

Audit: The audit committee did not meet at this event.

Awards: Jan Yates, filling in for Chair Christine Chowning, reported that since there was no orchid show at this meeting that there was no need for awards..

Budget: Janice Yates reported that the Committee met on 9/27/15 and notes that no other projected changes are expected and will be on target for this year. More work will be ahead with the new Treasurer and the projections for next year.

Communications: Chair Doris Asher reported that the three main activities are 1. The Newsletter the Mid-American. 2. The Congress website, and 3. The annual Essay contest. She mentioned that Susan and Charles Wilson became the newsletter editors in the spring of 2014. There are 180 email recipients of the newsletter. She thanked Janice Yates and Lynn O'Shaughnessy for their photographs. She thanked the Secretary who works with the editors to avoid duplication in the newsletter. She asked that if people have comments and ideas for the website, to let Brian Spitler, webmaster, know.

She gave a brief history of the essay contest, with the prizes at \$100 for 1st place, \$50 for 2nd place, and \$25 for 3rd place. Two entries were received for 2012, and 2013 fared better, and 2014 had eight entries. This year's topic "My Most Exciting Orchid Related Experience" brought just four entries. She thanked the judges who helped evaluate the essays. This year's

winner are: 3rd Place Patty Conrad of the Greater Cleveland and West Shore Orchid Societies, 2nd place to Cheryl LeBlanc, from the Wheeler-Thanhauser Orchid Collection and Species Bank, Ball State University, Muncie, IN., and 1st place Linda Sizer, Orchid Society of Minnesota for her entry, My Most Exciting Orchid Related Experience –May 2005 in Costa Rica in which she recounts finding a *Govenia ciliilabia*, several samples of which are now permanent residents of the Jardin Botanico Lankaster, Cartago, Costa Rica. Doris mentioned that Linda won 2nd place last yr.

Doris reported that since she will be on the Nominating Committee and the AOS Liaison, this was her last year to chair the communications committee. She asked the incoming President to choose another chair.

Committee members are Jeanne Rhinehart, Brian Spittler, Mark van der Woerd, Charles and Susan Wilson.

Motion to accept the report passed.

Conservation: Chair Russ Vernon, reported from the Committee's Friday meeting that last year there were grants of \$400 to the Cleveland Botanic Garden, the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory and the Wheeler-Thanhauser Orchid Collection and Species Bank at Ball State University. The Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society requested a grant to map out orchid species in a state preserve, hand pollinate flowers and harvest small quantities of seed to grow and repopulate existing colonies and establish new colonies. The Niagara Frontier Orchid Society has acquired *Cypripedium* species plants, planted them in pots and will commit them to a native orchid garden at the botanical garden where they meet and maintain the orchid collection. Russ mentioned that several committee members now work with the grantees. Mark van der Woerd works with the Wheeler-Thanhauser Orchid Collection, Glenn Evans with the Niagara Frontier Society, and the Wilsons work with the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory. Doug Martin is investigating the possibility of supporting the Ceiba Foundation which is working with natural habitat in Ecuador, if membership approves, and it did so, and will receive a \$400.00 grant. Doug Martin mentioned that this is a foreign grant, and Alexa stated that there is money to cover it, and Janice Yates said we can amend the budget to incorporate this expense.

Motion to accept the report passed.

Constitution and By-laws: Chair Charles Wilson reported that, in the absence of any requests for Constitution and By-laws changes, there is no action at this time.

Education and Research: Chair Doug Hartong reported that he and Cheryl Erins met on Friday night and that while there are projects to be worked on, there is no progress report at this time.

Historical: Chair Lois Holmes reported no one had ever discussed the history of the "hats." Lois Presidential hat was the same gold crown worn by her predecessor, Annalee Boyett. She talked about the possibility of that book of well known orchidists in Mid America and asked for submissions.

Orchidist of the Year: Lowell Jacks announced that this year’s winner of the award is Alexa Noel for all her contributions to the MAOC and the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society. Alexa thanked everyone. Congratulations to Alexa!

Show Schedule: Lois Cinert, Nathan Bell and Hermann Pigors met on Friday evening and reported that the new show schedule has been favorably accepted by societies despite many questions on Vanda reclassifications based on recent taxonomy changes. Also the increased complications in entering plants due to interbreeding of genera and types as well as reclassifications require judges and exhibitors to be flexible. Instead of disqualifying an entry, the best of e, 5 or 6 plants can be determined by any judging team including a mis entered one. No changes are scheduled at this time. Lois reminded all societies they can modify the schedule as their shows warrant.

Motion to accept the report passed.

Technology: In the absence of an official report, President Doris Asher noted that Chair Brian Spitler will be getting back to updating our website and completing other projects.

Ways and Means: Alexa reported for Roberta Ginavan that the donations totaled \$2130 and the auction likely would come in around \$1500 which was very good considering the lower attendance.

Motion to accept the report passed.

New Business:

Nominating Committee: Doris asked Aileen Garrison to present.

Aileen Garrison chaired the nominating committee, whose members were Doug Martin, Judy Neagle, Mark van der Woerd, and Russ Vernon, and reported the slate of officers for 2016 are:

President	Doug Hartong
First Vice President	Jim Newsome
Second Vice President	Alexa Noel
Secretary	Cheryl Erins
Treasuer	Michele Little

The report was accepted and the slate of officer’s motion was accepted and passed.

Aileen’s husband helped her create the hat for our new President which is a safari hat covered in buttons and stickers, with the pills representing the pharmacy profession in which Doug works. Doug thanked all for their support and thanked Aileen specifically for the “cool hat.”

There was a motion made by Charles Wilson, seconded by Lowell Jacks that “the actions taken by the officers and committee members of the Mid-America Orchid Congress since the last meeting be ratified and confirmed and the officers and committee members be commended for their good work.” Motion passed.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:22 am.

Respectfully submitted:
Cheryl Erins, Secretary

Addendum 1

Mid America Orchid Congress

September 2015 Treasurer's Report Income and Expense 1/1/2015 – 9/21/2015

Income

Category	Budgeted	Actual
Auction Income		
Spring	1500.00	3945.32
Fall	2500.00	
Investment Income	50.00	
Donations/Honoraria	600.00	100.00* 100.00 ** 250.00***
Meeting Income	3000.00	Spring Meeting Hosted
Category	Budgeted	Actual
Show Tags	250.00	120.00
Bank Charges	25.00	0.00
Society Dues	1500.00	1375.67
Conservation Grants	2000.00	1284.81
Loan Repayment	2500.00	2500.00
Conservation Speaker	750.00	750.00
Book Change Donated	0.00	125.00
Filing Fee-Ohio	50.00	50.00
CD	0.00	13.00
Judging Center Support	900.00	900.00
Insurance	550.00	0.00
Income YTD	11900.00	8528.99
Show Expense	3000.00	0.00

Loan 2015	2500.00	2500.00
Officer Expense	100.00	85.19
Shirley Burr Moore Speaker	1500.00	0.00
Trophies	550.00	250.35
Loan 2016	0.00	2500.00
Expenses not Budgeted		
Auction Hosts Share S		1500.00
Total Expenses	11925.00	9820.35
Total YTD		-1291.36

Expenses

* Donation Conservation Speaker's Fund Beth and Doug Martin
 ** In Memory of Dixie McCulloch From Doris Asher
 *** In Memory of Dixie McCulloch From Cincinnati Judging Center

Addendum 2
MAOC Net Worth
September 2015

PNC Checking	13967.58
PNC Money Market	35347.95
PNC CD #1	5392.20
PNC CD #2	6510.24
BMO Harris Savings	0.00
BMO Harris Checking	0.00
BMO Harris CD#1	6335.20
BMO Harris CD#2	13460.25
UBS	0.00
Total Net Worth	81826.64

Restricted funds	32730.66	40%
Unrestricted funds	49095.98	60%

Addendum 3 Unpaid Dues

Dues MAOC

Batavia

Central Indiana

Central Ontario

Central Ohio

Grand Valley

Cleveland

Heart of Dixie

Kentucky

Kingwood

Little Egypt 14 & 15

Lincoln

Michiana

Niagara Frontier

Northland

Kansas City

Royal Botanic

Ozarks

Springfield

Three Rivers

Wisconsin