

Mid-America Orchid Congress
Spring Business Meeting
Ann Arbor, MI
April 21, 2013

President Aileen Garrison called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. She thanked the Ann Arbor Orchid Society for allowing the Mid-America to meet in conjunction with their Orchid Festival.

Secretary's Report:

Roll call:

The following societies were represented:

Alabama Orchid	Memphis Orchid Society
Atlanta Orchid Society	Miami Valley Orchid Society
Ann Arbor Orchid Society	Michigan Orchid Society
Batavia Orchid Society	Northeast Alabama Orchid Society
Blue Grass Orchid Society	Orchid Growers Guild Inc. of Madison
Central Indiana Orchid Society	Orchid Society of Minnesota
Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society	Peoria Orchid Society
Greater Lansing Orchid Society	Saginaw Valley Orchid Society
Greater Omaha Orchid Society	Smoky Mountain Orchid Society
Greater Pensacola Orchid Society	South Metro Orchid Society
Gulf Coast Orchid Society	Three Rivers Orchid Society
Heart of Dixie Orchid Society	West Shore Orchid Society of N. Ohio
Illinois Orchid Society	Windsor Orchid Society
Kentucky Orchid Society	Wisconsin Orchid Society

The following societies were absent:

Central Iowa Orchid Society	London Orchid Society
Central Kentucky Orchid Society	Mansfield Orchid Society
Central Missouri Orchid Society	Michiana Orchid Society
Central Ohio Orchid Society	NE Wisconsin Orchid Society
Central Ontario Orchid Society	NW Michigan Orchid Society
Eastern Iowa Orchid Society	Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City
Essex County (Ontario) Orchid Society	Orchid Society of Greater St. Louis
Grand Valley Orchid Society	Orchid Society of the Ozarks

Greater Cleveland Orchid Society
Greater Toledo Orchid Society
Illowa Orchid Society
Lincoln (NE) Orchid Society
Little Egypt Orchid Society

Paducah Orchid Society
Prairie State Orchid Society
Sioux Falls Orchid Club
South Mississippi Orchid Society
Springfield (MO) Orchid Society

Secretary Susan Wilson asked for any corrections to the minutes from the October 26, 2013 business meeting in Independence, Missouri. The motion to approve the minutes as written was passed. She announced to President Aileen Garrison that we did have a quorum.

Treasurer's Report - Alexa Noel reported that we are solvent. The account summary as of 12/31/12 showed our balance was \$76,515.33 and as of 3/31/13 it was \$76,110.95. As of 4/16/13 our income for this year has been \$4,433.17. Only about one-half of society dues have been received for this year. See complete reports attached. The report was accepted and approved.

President Aileen Garrison received a nice acknowledgment letter from the American Orchid Society for Mid-America's contribution of \$2,000 for the color fund, which she had presented to them at the Portland, OR meeting in November 2012.

Committee Reports

Affiliated Societies - Mary Beth Mansour reported the committee met at 7 pm on April 19, 2013 at the Kensington Court, Ann Arbor, Michigan. In attendance were: Doris Asher, Roberta Ginavan, Jim Newsome and Mary Beth Mansour. Judith Rapacz was excused.

The topic for discussion at the Affiliated Societies Committee Breakfast "ADVERTISING & MARKETING TO RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS" was confirmed.

Activities related to Affiliated Societies include:

Kingwood Orchid Society will be referred to as the Mansfield Orchid Society. The Mansfield Orchid Society has contacted Brian Spittler, the MAOC webmaster. Brian

advised the society the procedure to establish a website. This is a service offered to MAOC societies.

Sioux Falls Orchid Society is no longer an Affiliated Society of MAOC due to failure to pay dues in 2011 & 2012. Central Iowa Orchid Society remains the only MAOC Affiliated Society not paying dues in 2012.

The Committee reminds societies to pay 2013 MAOC dues.

The topic for discussion at the 2013 Fall MAOC Affiliated Societies Breakfast will be “ENERGIZE YOUR LOCAL SOCIETY BY UTILIZING THE MID-AMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS.”

The Affiliated Societies Breakfast was held Sunday, April 21, 2013. Thirty-two persons discussed “ADVERTISING & MARKETING TO RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS.” Many practical ideas were shared. The ideas will be reported in the next MID-AMERICAN. The report was accepted and approved.

Annual Meeting – Committee member Tim Brooks reporting for Beth Martin brought our attention to our program and the ad in the back for the Fall Congress to be held in Dayton, Ohio hosted by the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society and the Miami Valley Orchid Society October 18-20, 2013. Jan Yates passed out postcards to be distributed to home societies advertising the meeting. Tim encouraged participation due to great speakers and the great time of year to visit the area.

The spring 2014 meeting will be hosted by the Orchid Society of Minnesota. The last time they hosted a Congress there were over 300 attendees so we’re looking forward to a large meeting. This will be in conjunction with the American Orchid Society and the Slipper Orchid Alliance meetings.

Fall 2014 is open as of now. Central Ohio Orchid Society has inquired about details to host that meeting.

Spring 2015 will be hosted by the Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee in Nashville. Any meetings beyond this are open. Tim reiterated that the host society gets half of the proceeds from the auction and the benefits it brings to the society.

Tim turned the floor over to President Aileen Garrison to bring a motion to the membership that was made in the Executive Committee meeting April 19, 2013. President Aileen Garrison relayed a request by absent Annual Meeting Committee Chairs, Beth and Doug Martin, to authorize the committee to accept invitations to

host MAOC meetings received between regularly scheduled meetings on behalf of the Congress without coming back to this body. A motion was made and accepted. Aileen thanked Tim for all of his hard work, in the absence of Beth and Doug Martin, on making this meeting a success.

Doris Asher asked about our fiscal responsibility for this meeting with the hotel for un-reserved rooms. Tim reported that that amount is unknown at this time. The report was accepted and approved.

AOS Liaison – Doris Asher reported that since we met in Independence, MO last October there have been two members' meetings of the American Orchid Society -- on November 15–18, 2012, in Portland, OR, hosted by the Portland Orchid Society and again just a month ago, in San Diego, March 21-23. The San Diego meeting was not hosted by a society.

At these two meetings, the following personnel changes occurred:

One Mid-America judge was made Judge Emeritus: Peter Furniss (Atlanta)

These Mid-America judges were promoted from Probationary to Accredited:

Doug Hartong (Atlanta)
Brittany Payeur (Chicago)
Katie Payeur (Great Lakes)
Ron Payeur (Great Lakes)

These Mid-America judges were promoted from Students to Probationary:

Paul Batz (Toronto)
Marie-Odile Benoit-Biancamano (Toronto)
Ed Cott (Great Lakes)

These Mid-America people became students in the Judging system:

Laura Bonnell-Raymond (Toronto)
RJ D'Alessio (Great Lakes)
Steven Gonzalez-Costa (Chicago)

Tyler Jones (Mid-America)

Michele Little (Cincinnati)

David Miller (Great Lakes)

Eli Waring (Chicago)

These Mid-America judges changed to Senior Judge:

Judy Adams (accredited) (Toronto)

Ruth Morlocke (accredited) (Great Lakes)

Dr F Thomas Ott (accredited) (Mid-America)

Robert Stanton (accredited) (Atlanta)

One Mid-America judge retired: Thomas Kalina (Chicago)

These Mid-America judges requested leaves of absence:

Paul Batz (probationary) (Toronto) – until 11/3/2012

Darin Clapp (probationary) (Cincinnati) – one year until 9/15/2013

Joe Gordy (probationary) (Atlanta) – until October 2013

These Mid-America judges transferred:

Vicky Leighty from Florida North Central to Mid-America

Calvin Wong from Toronto to Pacific Northwest

These Mid-America judges resigned:

Bill Cadman (student) (Great Lakes)

Larry Erickson (accredited) (Mid-America)

There was one Mid-America judge with automatic termination: Rita Miller (Mid-America)

Current Center Chairs in Mid-America – no changes from previous year:

Atlanta – Aileen Garrison

Chicago – James Spatzek

Cincinnati – Janice Yates

Great Lakes – Joseph Peterson

Mid-America – Joe Lankton

Toronto – Terry Kennedy

Toronto – Montreal – Andre Levesque

Some developments in the AOS, which may be of interest to you.

1. Last month in San Diego, the AOS reported that membership continues to drop and is currently at 8,315. We lose about 100 members each month. Treasurer Karen McBride reported that, as of January 31, 2013 we had lost about \$46,000 for the period July 1, 2012 through January 31, 2013.
2. In San Diego we elected the following trustees to three-year terms ending in 2016: Fred Clarke, Harry Gallis, David Toyoshima, and Carol Zoltowski. None of the officers' terms ends this year.
3. AOS members may now access Orchids online – the digital version will be available before your printed copy arrives in your mailbox. The online version will be an especial boon for international members, many of whom have great difficulty receiving the printed magazine.
4. We got the chance to meet a new staff member of the Society in San Diego, Gladys Garcia-Greenberg, who signs herself simply “ggg”. Gladys has an MBA and has the title “Director, Administration & Finance”. Among other duties, she is responsible for development, annual giving, bequests, major gifts, and planned giving.
5. The American Orchid Society has its next meeting in the fall, November 14-16, 2013, at its new home in the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, in Coral Gables, FL.

The membership asked if AOS was catching up on the backlog of awards.

President Aileen Garrison reported that she has edited and cleared 600 awards thus far and that certificates are now backlogged in order to make sure payment

has been received prior to mailing. She reminded everyone that payment could be paid for online.

The membership asked about the status of AQ Plus. Doris stated that Greg Filter is the new AOS Technology Chair. The current report is that there will be another dvd version and they're working on the online version. There was discussion regarding the fact that renewal online did not automatically connect the renewal of Orchids magazine. The report was accepted and approved.

Audit – Committee member Hermann Pigors reported for absent Chair Judith Rapacz that copies of documents, including the checkbook with deposits and expenses, monthly bank statements and expense receipts, were sent to Hermann by the MAOC Treasurer, Alexa Noel.

Audit of all statements and receipts are in good standing. We appreciate Alexa's good bookkeeping. The report was accepted and approved.

Awards – Doris Asher reported for absent Chair Christine Chowning the following won these Mid-America Orchid Congress awards at the Ann Arbor Orchid Society Orchid Festival today:

Mid-America Perpetual Trophy for the most outstanding society exhibit put in by the Michigan Orchid Society which also won the AOS Show Trophy

Delbert Lowell Jacks Award for the best specimen plant: Phragmipedium Grande 'Porter's Pouch Power' (caudatum x longifolium), CCM/AOS, 86 pts, Porter's Orchids, Grand Ledge, MI

Henry C. Holmes Award for the best of the Oncidium alliance: Oncidium Harry Wiggs 'Harry Vernon' (Onc Harry Baldwin x Onc Commander Wiggs), AM/AOS, 82 pts, New Vision Orchids, Yorktown, IN

FL Stevenson Pleurothallid Alliance Award for the best of the Pleurothallid alliance: Masdevallia Mario's Star (Heathii x Dark Star), New Vision Orchids, Yorktown, IN

Fox Valley Cypripedium Alliance Award for the member of the Cypripedium alliance receiving the highest AOS award: Phragmipedium Grande 'Porter's Pouch Power' (caudatum x longifolium), CCM/AOS, 86 pts, Porter's Orchids, Grand Ledge, MI

Lowell Jacks has asked that the Delbert Lowell Jacks Award be given at *each* meeting of the Congress, not just at the spring meeting. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee is working on changing our Constitution and Bylaws, but we would like permission to give this Award this fall at the Dayton meeting of the Congress. The request was accepted and approved. Jan Yates will notify Christine of the change and the need to order the additional trophy.

President Aileen Garrison stated that FL Stevenson would be proud of Russ Vernon of New Vision Orchids and Lois Holmes stated that Henry Holmes would also be proud of Russ for receiving that award.

Budget – No report this meeting.

Communications – Doris Asher as Editor of The Mid-American reported that she distributed one issue (December 2012) since we met in Independence, MO in October. She thanked everyone who contributed information, articles, photos, and computer expertise to that issue. As has become the norm, she was able to distribute the Secretary's draft minutes from the Independence Business Meeting in the same emailing, thus saving duplication of work. In addition, in late March 2013, she did a mailing which included invitations/reminders for this Ann Arbor meeting. Throughout the six-month period, she fielded several inquiries from members of our affiliated societies, answering some and referring some to appropriate Congress leaders.

The cost of the December Mid-American and the special March mailing was minimal -- \$18.00 for copying and postage to send paper copies to individuals lacking email. Her mailing list consists of more than 718 records, although I did not send a copy to all 664. 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 I know who that is. I send copies to everyone attending the business meeting at the previous Congress. In all cases, I urge 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 Congress' website:

www.midamericanorchids.org.

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

I expect to prepare an issue immediately after this meeting in Ann Arbor in which we report on what has happened here and advertise upcoming meetings of the Congress.

I welcome input/ideas/articles! I thank all of the individuals who have contributed to the twelve issues I have prepared since my appointment as Editor in the fall of 2008.

At the Indianapolis Congress meeting in April, we decided to revive the Mid-American essay contest, which existed some twenty years ago. The "inaugural" topic was "Why _____ Is My Favorite Orchid Genus" – with the writer filling in the blank. People were welcome to write about his/her favorite orchid or species within a genus. The essays could be no more than 500 words in length; the deadline for submission was October 1. Prizes are \$100 for first place; \$50 for second, and \$25 for third prize. And the winner is...!!

The Committee received just two entries, an essay from Ed Cott (Windsor Orchid Society) and a poem from Susie Hanna (Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City) and has decided to offer two second prizes of \$50 each. Both entries appeared in the December 2012 Mid-American. Thank you, Ed and Susie, for your entries – and congratulations!

The Committee is running the essay contest for a second year to see if there is more interest in participation in a follow-up contest. We propose the same prize structure and a deadline for submission of entries of October 1, 2013. The topic will be "Travels with Orchids". As of this writing, we have received one entry.

In March, 2011, Brian Spitler from the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society accepted appointment as the Congress' webmaster, and he has accomplished great things in his first two years. All of the sections of the website have been updated and enhanced. Necessary changes are now being made in a timely manner. In addition, he and Treasurer Alexa Noel developed the capability for us to register online via the website for our Congress meetings when registration is managed by the Mid-America Orchid Congress. 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.

At our meeting in Independence, Brian announced a new service to our affiliated societies – he will set up one to three static website pages and set up the hosting for MAOC affiliated societies which lack websites but want one. Brian will not charge for his services. To host a basic account on the internet costs about \$6/month with companies such as Godaddy, which is where the MAOC, Cincinnati, and a variety of other sites are located. If this is of interest, feel free to contact Brian and talk it over with him: publicationschair@cincinnatiorchids.org is his email address. Brian believes about ten of our member societies lack websites; in these days of media bombardment potential members of societies expect to find them on the web -- at least where they meet, what time, etc. and a way to get in touch. Brian reports that the Greater Cincinnati Society has had quite a few folks who have come to them as a result of Google searches they did after receiving an orchid and wanting to know how to care for it. Today Google is the new Yellow pages. Since this announcement, Brian has worked with the Mansfield Orchid Society (formerly, the Kingwood Orchid Society) to get them set up. The report was accepted and approved.

Conservation – Russ Vernon reported that the Conservation Committee of the Mid-America Orchid Congress met on April 19, 2013 and approved the following grants:

Cleveland Botanical Garden - \$400 for orchid species acquisition to enhance their Costa Rican Biome exhibit.

Wheeler-Thanhauser Orchid Collection at Ball State University - \$500 to add to their Cattleya alliance and Cyripedioideae alliance species collections. They will also add to their collection of insect mimicking species.

Marjorie McNeely Conservatory in St. Paul, MN - \$400 to add a diversified group of orchid species to their display collection. They have recently been recognized with several AOS cultural awards to species acquired with our MAOC grants.

Note: Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh, PA is soon to be established as the national repository for Paphiopedilum species in the U.S.A. Please consider visiting MAOC's supported collections and donating species appropriate to their collections. The report was accepted and approved.

Russ reported that he had information for the Angraecoid Alliance if anyone was interested in attending their meeting. The contact is www.angraecoids.org.

Member Jack Shumaker invited the membership to a dedication and festival at Phipps Conservatory for the Paph exhibit in Pittsburgh, PA in October.

Constitution and Bylaws –Charles Wilson reported that the committee would like to express special thanks and appreciation to Jan Yates and Alexa Noel for the smooth transition of duties of the Treasurer.

Also the committee would like to express appreciation to Tim Brooks who stepped up on short notice to take care of necessary business for finalizing of this spring meeting and to Doris Asher for helping connect important functions. A recommendation has come to the committee that the Constitution and Bylaws Committee propose an amendment to the effect that would insure the Treasurer knows that they are to maintain the Congress' 501(c)3 tax exemption and state sales tax exemption, and that these items should be reported to the Executive Committee each year. The objective is to insure in the continuity of the maintenance of these vital certifications by each succeeding Treasurer and that the officers of the Congress know their repository. Towards that end, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee proposes to advise the delegates at the spring meeting 2013 of the substance and effect of this proposed amendment. Final language is to be presented at the fall meeting 2013 for action by the Delegates. Below is a preliminary draft:

"The Treasurer shall maintain for the Congress its 501(c)3 status with the IRS and appropriate state sales tax exemption certification and include this information in the Treasurer's annual report."

Further, the committee has been advised that as a result of a significant donation to the awards funds and specific request by the donor, that Article IV Committees, section Awards Committee, be amended to the substance and effect that trophies for the Fall meeting would also include:

The Delbert Lowell Jacks Award – for best specimen plant in the show.

The final language for said amendment is to be presented at the fall meeting 2013 for action by the Delegates. The report was accepted and approved.

Education and Research - Committee member Cheryl Erins reported for Chair Doug Hartong that suggestions for help with internet access lead their committee to develop a helpful compilation of 30 helpful orchid websites to be shared with the membership through The Mid-American and to be posted on the website. She requested any other additions to be sent to her.

Mary Beth Mansour stated she would share this information at the next Affiliated Society breakfast. The membership asked about the legality of linking these websites to which Cheryl stated they would have Brian Spitler, Technology Chair, investigate this issue prior to posting. The report was accepted and approved.

Historical – Lois Holmes recalled previous meetings in Ann Arbor and said the location would always remind older members of Ray McCullough. Regarding the subject of conservation she relayed his dilemma over what to do with his orchid collection when it came to be too much for him to manage any longer. She could relate because she had to make those same hard decisions herself later. Lois recanted an interesting bomb story as it is a current topic in the news, about the New York Orchid Society die-hard members at a particular monthly meeting. At that time they met at the Bronx Botanical Garden in an old snuff mill in the late 1960's. The president of the society got a phone call in the middle of the meeting that they needed to evacuate the building because of an electrical problem. The members decided to adjourn to the parking lot to finish the meeting in their cars with their headlights on. On the way out the door they got another phone call that told them to evacuate the premises as there had been a bomb threat. Needless to say the meeting was adjourned. As far as she knows they never found a bomb. The report was accepted and approved.

Orchidist of the Year - No report this meeting.

Show Schedule - Co-Chair Lois Cinert reported that she and Co-Chair Hermann Pigors met on Friday, April 19, 2013 from 8pm until 10pm at the Ann Arbor Kensington Court Hotel. Committee members Nathan Bell, Nile Dusdieker and Tom Harper were excused, but had submitted input for schedule changes or responded to outside input.

We discussed the various items, agreed on changes, and will distribute them to the committee members for refinement and approval.

Our goal is to present the changes at the fall Congress meetings in Dayton, Ohio for approval and subsequent inclusion on the website listing in December.

The report was accepted and approved.

Technology – Alexa Noel reported for Chair Brian Spitler from an email communication that the MAOC website, with the exception of recent conservation information, is up-to-date.

He wanted to stress the importance of getting MAOC meeting information to him more than 2 months in advance. Especially if we are hosting ourselves and need to get Paypal menu items updated.

We did get hacked. It took the site down for a day or so but was fixed within a couple hours of being notified by Doris Asher.

He has communicated with Rick Noel, Jeff Delmas, and Jim McCulloch regarding the automated registration effort. Rick and I have met a few times and developed a draft of requirements that we will clean up, and distribute as a Request for Information to further develop the requirements. Interested folks can go to: <http://solquesto.com/Form%20for%20input%20orchid%20registration3> . No harm will be done in “playing around” with it.

We have most all information needed to update the website for the fall meeting. Since he is working on the Orchidsandart.com website that Dayton and Cincinnati have put up we should be in good shape as far as communication is concerned.

The report was accepted and approved

Ways and Means –Roberta Ginavan reported The Ways and Means Committee did not formally meet as part of this meeting since only the Chair is present.

However, much of the Committee's work is accomplished via e-mail conversations and these will continue immediately following this meeting.

This means that all of the help to present the auction and raffle has been volunteer. The Chair thanked Alexa Noel, Aileen Garrison, Tim Brooks, Barry Jones, Jim Newsome, Jan Yates. Doris Asher, Sharon Rathbun and gave especial thanks to Lois Holmes, Karen McBride and Russ Vernon for their assistance. It was also noted that Doug and Beth Martin were truly missed, and it is hoped that Doug is well on the road to recovery.

The theme of the auction was Downton Abbey, with some members in costume. The Chair noted the dress worn by Sharon Rathbun was 100-110 years old and belonged to her great-grandmother who lived in Ross County, Ohio.

Centerpieces made and donated by Tim Brooks from the banquet were auctioned off by Russ Vernon during the meeting. Total income from the auction was \$3254.

Two hand-thrown pots were purchased for the raffle. The saucer to one, however, was broken in transit and an insurance claim submitted. It was included "as is." The two raffle winners were Russ Vernon and Doug Martin. Income from sale of raffle tickets was \$375. The net income from the raffle cannot be determined until the insurance claim is settled. The report was accepted and approved.

Old Business - No old business at this meeting.

New Business – No new business at this meeting.

Other Business - Member Jack Shumaker reported changes to the Paphiopedilum Guild in that it has been taken over by the Orchid Digest. The President is now Harold Koopowitz and he announced their next meeting to be held at The Monticello Country Club, Santa Barbara, California this year and in 2015 will be held in Hilo, Hawaii. He had membership applications available at this meeting and encouraged interested people to find more information at the Orchid Digest website or they could contact him at jcobblers58@aol.com.

Announcements – No announcements at this meeting.

Adjournment – President Aileen Garrison thanked everyone for making this meeting a success and adjourned the meeting at 10:38 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary, Susan Wilson