

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING  
AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY  
OF AMERICA, INC.

**June 5, 2021**

**Cyber Diamond Celebration Convention**

The Annual meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. was called to order by Third Vice President, Glenda Williams, at 3:06 p.m. CDT via Zoom video conference. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Glenda Williams, and the invocation was given by Linda Hall. Glenda Williams introduced herself as Third Vice President and presented the President, Sue Ramser.

Mary Corondan, Acting Secretary, reported a quorum was present. She also read the Standing Rules for the Annual Meeting, and they were adopted. A copy of the Standing Rules is attached to these minutes.

President Ramser appointed Randy Deutsch, Chair, Joyce Stork, and Linda Price to approve the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes. Sandra Skalski was appointed Timekeeper. Candace Baldwin, Chair, Doug Allen, and Jill Jensen were appointed Tellers. Jeri Anderson reported the minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting were approved.

Jill Jensen, Resolutions Chair, presented the Courtesy Resolution which is attached and was published on the AVSA website under the Cyber Convention. There was one correction in the fourth line which should be changed from 1946 to 1947. The Resolution was adopted.

The Bylaws Amendments for Article IV Officers and Their Duties, Sections 1 and 2; Article V, Section 1; and Article X, Sections 1 and 2, were considered as published in the May/June 2021 issue of the ***African Violet Magazine***. They were presented by Mary Lou Harden, Chair of the Bylaws Committee. The amendments were adopted as printed.

Linda Hall, Nominating Committee Chair, submitted the following nominees to serve as Directors: Scott Ammann from Illinois, Kurt Jablonski from Florida, Patricia Mattson from Wisconsin, Leonard Re from California, and Danny Tidwell from Arkansas. The following officer candidates were presented by Linda Hall: Susan Anderson, President; Mary Corondan, First Vice President; Glenda Williams, Second Vice President; Sharon Shannon, Third Vice President; and Terri Post, Treasurer. There was no candidate for the office of Secretary since the committee was unable to find a qualified candidate. Both the directors and the officers were elected via a Zoom poll. President Ramser announced these directors and officers will be installed at the Society Awards and Installation Event this evening.

President Ramser recognized the retiring directors: Randy Deutsch, David Kesler, Neil Lipson, Linda Price, and Sharon Shannon. Also recognized as retiring were the following Committee Chairs: Carolee Carter, Publications; Linda Hall, Nominating; Sue Hoffmann, Resolutions; and Pat Sutton, Courtesy. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Sharon Gartner, Convention Show Awards Chair, who recently passed.

Retiring Editor, Teresa Odle, was recognized by President Ramser. President Ramser thanked her for her years serving as editor. Teresa stated that her grandson was just born, and she will miss seeing everyone. A round of applause was offered for all retirees.

President Ramser welcomed incoming Editor, Sophia Bennett, to the AVSA family. Sophia said she is thrilled to be joining the society and is excited about becoming a part of us. She is a free-lance writer as well as a communications consultant. She is excited to bring her skills to AVSA. Everyone is encouraged to contact Sophia at any time with their thoughts. Sophia became a member of the AVSA family on May 17.

Danny Tidwell, Little Rock Convention Chair, extended an invitation to attend the 2022 AVSA Annual Convention in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Jill Jensen presented the Lest We Forget list which recognizes those who have passed this year. This document is attached. The names added were Johnny Williams from Texas, Mary McFarland from Texas, Edward Bradford from New York, and Billy Deville from Arkansas. A moment of silence was observed in memory of the AVSA members lost this past year.

Several announcements were made. President Ramser stated there will be a ten-minute break after this meeting before we begin the Open Forum. She also said those who registered for the Highlights package would have access to the Cyber Convention site through June 13 and those who have the full registration would have access through July 6. Following this meeting, Board members are asked to log out of this meeting and log in to the Called Board Meeting. The quorum for the called Board meeting is 15 members. Mary Corondan reminded Board members that a separate link for the Called Board meeting was emailed to them.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m. CDT.

Submitted by:

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Mary Corondan, Acting Secretary

Committee to Approve:

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Randy Deutsch

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Joyce Stork

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Linda Price

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO AVSA BYLAWS**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the following proposed amendments to AVSA Bylaws, Articles IV, V and X will be voted on at the AVSA 2021 Virtual Annual Convention.

**Article IV**

**Officers and Their Duties**

**Section 1**

**Elected Officers:**

It is proposed to insert in the first line of the opening paragraph, after the word “shall,” the following words: **“be members of AVSA in good standing and . . .”**

First paragraph currently reads:

“The elected officers of this Society shall fulfill the duties prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority of the Society. The elected officers of this Society shall be:”

If adopted, Article IV, Officers and Their Duties, Section 1, first paragraph under the heading “Elected Officers” would read:

The elected officers of this Society shall **be members of AVSA in good standing and** shall fulfill the duties prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority of the Society. The elected officers of this Society shall be:

\* \* \* \* \*

**Section 2**

**Regional Directors:**

It is proposed to add the following new paragraph 1:

“All Directors shall be members in good standing of AVSA.”

**Article V**

**Nomination and Elections**

**Section 1**

**Eligibility:**

It is proposed to amend by striking out paragraphs 1 and 2 and replacing with the language below.  
Paragraphs 1 and 2 currently read:

1. To be eligible to be an elected officer in the Society, a nominee shall be a member in good standing and have served at least two (2) years as a member of the Board of Directors.
2. To be eligible to be a Director, a nominee shall have shown outstanding leadership in African violet related activities.

If adopted, Article V, Nomination and Elections, Section 1, Eligibility, paragraphs 1 and 2 would read:

1. To be eligible to be an elected officer in the Society, a nominee shall be a member of AVSA in good standing and must have completed two (2) years of service on the Board of Directors.
2. To be eligible to be a Director, a nominee shall be a member of AVSA in good standing and have shown outstanding leadership in African violet related activities.

## ARTICLE X

### Committees

#### Section 1

#### Standing Committees:

It is proposed to create the following new committees with the stated responsibilities:

8. **FUNDRAISING:** shall assist with research and recommend funding solutions for various funds, fund drives as needed, other income opportunity programs, and solicitation of contributions, grants and other donation opportunities.
10. **MARKETING:** shall develop and organize a Marketing Plan for AVSA to enhance the visibility and reputation of AVSA and shall guide AVSA, notably the website team, committees, and affiliate chapters, in creating a unified vision, mission, look and feel of AVSA.
17. **WEBSITE:** shall be responsible for coordinating and implementing the functions associated with maintenance of the AVSA website.

It is proposed to amend paragraph 12 by striking from the responsibilities “the AVM and other.” Paragraph 12 currently reads:

12. **PUBLICATIONS:** shall be responsible for the publication of the **AVM** and other **AVSA** literature that the **AVSA** Board shall authorize.

If adopted, paragraph 12 (which will be renumbered to paragraph 14) will read:

14. **PUBLICATIONS:** shall be responsible for the publication of **AVSA** literature that the **AVSA** Board shall authorize.

**ARTICLE X**

**Committees**

**Section 2**

**Special Committees:**

It is proposed to add the following as the first paragraph:

“All members of Standing and Special Committees shall be members of AVSA in good Standing.”

Rationale: The purpose of the proposed amendments is for clarification and consistency. Adding the new committees to the Bylaws is simply to formalize what we’re already doing.

Mary Lou Harden, Chair, AVSA Bylaws Committee

Sue Ramser

Ruth Goeke

Bob Green

***AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.***  
**Standing Rules for Zoom Meetings**  
**Board of Directors Meetings and Annual Meeting**

1. Upon entering the meeting, members will check their name to be sure both their first and last name is on their account.
2. All attending the meeting shall “mute” themselves during the entire meeting unless recognized to speak by the chair.
3. All board members shall use and turn on video camera on (if you have one), so everyone can be seen and heard during the meeting.
4. All electronic devices, pets, and family members should be set on silent during the meeting.
5. At the beginning of the meeting, everyone may say “hello” in the chat box.
6. Members desiring to make motions, amend motions, second motions, or debate shall press the “raise hand” button.
7. Members must wait until recognized by the chair before speaking. When that occurs, the member should “unmute” before speaking.
8. All remarks shall be addressed to the chair.
8. When finished speaking, press the “mute” button and “lower hand.”
9. Main motions and amendments longer than a few words shall be typed in chat box.
10. Debate shall be limited to two (2) minutes for each speaker.
11. All voting will take place in the polling box.
12. Following the meeting, a polling report will be sent to the teller committee for verification of polling results.
13. During the last 5 minutes, members may type closing thoughts in the chat box. (i.e., What worked well and what needs improvement?)

# Lest We Forget

Members of AVSA who have died in the past year

(June 1, 2020-May 31, 2021)

(As of May 31, 2021)

Linda Bailey, CA

Shirley Berger, IN

Art Boland, VA

Mary Boland, VA

Anna Marie Bretthorst, NE

Faye Downs, TX

Rosemary Doyle, NC

Barbara Elkin, CA

Howard Fabry, NJ

Joan Farraway, Canada

Sharon Gartner, FL

Edward Jackson, AZ

Bill Paauwe, NY

Hortense Pittman, TX

Lynn Sissney, TX



Gary Thurman, TX

Dorothy "DoDe" Whitaker, FL

Marilyn Windhausen, CA

Names to be added:

Johnny Williams, TX

Mary McFarland, TX

Edward Bradford, NY

Billy Deville, AR



## **Courtesy Resolution**

### **AVSA Annual 2021 Meeting (Virtual)**

**Saturday, June 5, 2021**

Whereas Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, to protect the health and safety of all members and guests, the African Violet Society of America, Inc., will be unable to celebrate its seventy-fifth diamond anniversary national convention as originally scheduled in Atlanta, Georgia, the home of AVSA's first national convention in 1947. Instead, a Cyber Diamond Celebration Convention was planned and held online from May 30 – June 6, 2021. An online meeting will be held via Zoom to constitute AVSA's seventy-fifth annual meeting.

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved AVSA hereby offers its profound gratitude to those who faithfully planned and worked toward the holding of a cyber convention for the enjoyment, education, and motivation of its membership and for celebrating AVSA's seventy-fifth anniversary:

To Susan Anderson, First Vice President  
Mary Corondan, Second Vice President  
Richard Craft, Advertising Chair  
Randy Deutsch, Fundraising Chair  
Vladimir Kalgin, International New Introductions Chair  
Joyce Stork, Marketing Chair  
Tom Glembocki, Technology Chair  
Candace Baldwin, Website Chair

To all members of AVSA who have contributed or worked toward the success of the 2021 cyber convention,

To the hybridizers and commercial members who provide new varieties, plant materials, supplies, and education for all violet growers,

To all AVSA judges and teachers whose knowledge helps maintain universal standards and the ability to hold AVSA sanctioned shows around the world,

To Joe Bruns for creating and maintaining First Class, AVSA's Master Variety computer program,

To David Kesler for creating and maintaining First Class Viewer, which makes AVSA's Master Variety List available in a convenient smartphone application,

To Candace Baldwin, Website Chair, Tom Glembocki, Technology Chair, and the members and volunteers of the Website and Technology Committees for their dedication and many hours of work in updating the AVSA website so it can continue to be an

exceptional resource to members and the public and a source of inspiration and information to growers around the world,

- To Joyce Stork, Marketing Committee Chair, and Richard Craft, Advertising Chair, for their dedication to promoting the convention and developing engaging programs and content,
- To Randy Deutsch, Fundraising Committee Chair, members of the Fundraising Committee, and all AVSA members who have developed, promoted, and contributed to AVSA's annual Booster Appeal to fund AVSA's general operations,
- To the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and all related committees of the AVSA for performing their duties during the year,
- To AVSA Past Presidents for their continued dedication, support, and service to AVSA;
- To Amy Carruth, Office Manager, for her twenty years of service and support running and maintaining the office, especially during challenging circumstances this past year,
- To Teresa Odle, retiring AVM Editor, for her time and expertise in producing the magazine in print and digital formats and making it an even more attractive promotional publication for AVSA to its members and the public the past three years,
- To recognize and thank retiring directors for their service the past three years: Randy Deutsch, David Kesler, Neil Lipson, Linda Price, and Sharon Shannon,
- To recognize and thank retiring committee chairs: Linda Hall, Nominating, Pat Sutton, Courtesy, Sue Hoffmann, Resolutions, and
- To the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel management for agreeing to reissue AVSA's contract for a 2023 convention. Therefore, be it further resolved: That a copy of this resolution be made a part of the minutes of this 2021 AVSA Annual Meeting.

Jill Jensen, Chairman

## Open Forum

1. Why has First Class for Android disappeared? Glenda Williams answered that the OS (operating system) for androids was recently updated. This required the First Class for Android app to be updated to the new android OS. Google Play store monitors apps and flags any that may need updating to the newest OS version. First Class for Android is currently in this process of being updated through the Technology Committee. We don't currently have a roll out date, but we are hoping it will be the end of June. Watch the website for the status of updating the app. Hopefully, it will be a free update for our current subscribers. This is ultimately handled by Google and is out of our control.

2. Linda Tate West purchased First Class for Mac and has been unable to get it to download properly. What is the next step? Contact David Kesler directly for help. Winston has been sending the zip file directly to users in a different format for those who order it from the AVSA Store. Stephen Covolo stated that it works fine. It is a cloud-based application that automatically updates.

3. Ron Davidson asked why AVSA does not have term limits for committee chairs? Susan Anderson answered that we are limited in the number of volunteers we have. Some are currently serving multiple rolls. Joyce Stork said this question came up during her term as president. There was no interest in proceeding with it at that time, and it hasn't been brought up since. Winston Goretsky said that each new president has the option of appointing new committee chairs when they take office. A new president comes in every two years and asks each committee chair if they wish to continue, or a new chair can be pointed.

4. Candace Baldwin thanked all of those who donated items for the auction. Between the live and silent auctions, a \$2,096 profit was generated.

5. Maida den Oudsten thanked all those involved in the fabulous virtual convention. It has been a wonderful experience.

6. Jill Jensen watched Rich Follett's wonderful presentation on AVSA, and she was wondering what our current membership is. Winston said the current membership is 3,934. Since January we have increased by 461 members. It has been requested that we post the current membership on the website. There are 277 registered for the convention.

7. Pam Orris was wondering if there would be a virtual option for future conventions. This convention was wonderful. President Sue Ramser said this will be taken under advisement.

8. Jill Jensen asked, as a director, if it is possible to get the names of AVSA members in the area so they could be contacted directly and invite them to local affiliate meetings. If you contact the office, you may be able to get a list from your zip code. Due to privacy issues, unless members indicate their information can be shared, we cannot give out information. We can't give out members' information. Steve Covolo stated you can contact affiliate leaders about getting their members to join AVSA. Winston said that we cannot solicit people for certain things through Mailchimp. If members make an AVSA store purchase, we cannot solicit them for a membership. Our only communication with them must be regarding their purchase. Lola Sutherland said that Steve Covolo was thinking of getting affiliate members to be AVSA members whereas Jill Jensen was saying to contact AVSA members to join affiliates.

10. 2021 Cyber Diamond Convention Comment – Thanks to all of those who were responsible for this convention. It was so well done. It was as if we were at a live convention. Bingo was thoroughly enjoyed as well as searching for the Blue Boy blossoms during the scavenger hunt. The hope is that a virtual option will be available for future conventions. Thanks to Linda Hall who did a great job as auctioneer as well as Sharon Shannon who coordinated the Zoom sessions.

Amy Carruth said hello to everyone and thanked those who were involved in the Cyber Convention. There have been many positive comments.

Winston Goretsky said Bill Price had spine surgery on May 27 and his pain level is greatly reduced. Sue Ramser said to send Bill our wishes for his speedy recovery.