

# Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

By Rich Follett

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The annual membership meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. was called to order by Second Vice President Glenda Williams on June 2 at 3:18 p.m. EST. Third Vice President Sharon Shannon was unable to attend. The invocation was given by Rev. April Van Ness, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Second Vice President Glenda Williams. Second Vice President Williams introduced herself, followed by the officers on the dais, and then presented the AVSA President, Susan Anderson.

Rich Follett, Secretary, reported that a quorum of 50 members was present. Follett read the Standing Rules for the Annual Meeting and moved for their adoption. The motion was seconded by Immediate Past President Sue Ramser. President Anderson called for a show of hands in the affirmative, and then in the negative. A two-thirds majority having been established, the Standing Rules were adopted. A copy of the Standing Rules is included with these minutes.

President Anderson appointed Sam Cunningham, Chair, and April Van Ness and Marge Farrand to approve the 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes. Richard Craft was appointed Timekeeper. President Anderson appointed Bill Patterson, Chair, and Jackie Leitzel and Joyce Stork to be the Tellers. Mary Thompson reported that the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting were approved.

Jill Jensen, Resolutions Chair, presented the Courtesy Resolution, which is included and

was published on the AVSA website under the Atlanta convention. Jensen made a motion for the Courtesy Resolution to be adopted, followed by a voice vote, called for by President Anderson. The resolution was adopted.

President Anderson called for Joyce Stork of the Bylaws Committee to present proposed bylaws amendments previously approved by the Board of Directors. Stork presented a proposed amendment, by addition and renumbering, to Article VIII, Executive Committee, paragraph 2, along with a corresponding rationale. President Anderson called for debate; hearing none, a voice vote was taken, and the amendment was adopted.

President Anderson announced a Special Called Board Meeting to be held directly after the Open Forum.

President Anderson called for any further business. Hearing no further business and no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 4:06 PM EST.

## **African Violet Society of America, Inc. Annual Membership Meeting Standing Rules**

1. All remarks shall be addressed to the chair.
2. Members rising to make motions or debate shall come to the microphone and state their names.
3. Debate shall be limited to two (2) minutes for each speaker.

4. Main motions and amendments longer than a few words shall be written on one of the special forms for this purpose and given to the chair.

5. Substantive motions shall be voted on by written ballot.

6. All electronic devices should be set on silent during the meeting.

7. When nominations are made from the floor for an officer or director, a two (2) minute nominating speech for each candidate will be permitted.

8. In the event there is more than one (1) candidate for an office, and a majority is not achieved by any candidate on the first ballot, the two candidates with the highest numbers of votes shall be the candidate for the second ballot.

9. In the event of a ballot vote, doors to the room shall be closed and no one shall enter or exit the room during the counting of the ballots except the Teller Committee.

**Courtesy Resolution, AVSA Annual Meeting, Saturday, June 3, 2023**

Whereas, The African Violet Society of America, Inc. convened its first convention in the City of Atlanta, Georgia in October 1947; and

Whereas, with great joy and gratitude, the African Violet Society of America, Inc. returned this week to the place “Where it All Began” to hold its 77th Annual Convention from May 28, 2023 through June 4, 2023, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Now, therefore, be it Resolved:

AVSA hereby offers its profound gratitude to those who faithfully planned and worked toward the holding of this convention in Atlanta, Georgia for the enjoyment, education, and motivation of its membership to promote and perpetuate the work of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. and of our hobby:

To Randy G. Deutsch and Candace Baldwin, Convention Co-Chairs, and to the 2023 Atlanta Convention Chairs: Terri Post, Joyce Stork, Jill Jensen, Janet Castiglione, Linda Hall, Sue Myers, Johnnie Berry, Phillis Hinkle, Jessika Thompson, Mary Thompson, and Pat Mattson for their efforts, leadership, and dedication in making this 77th Annual Convention an enjoyable, educational, and memorable experience;

To Danny Tidwell and Suzanne Roberts, Show Co-Chairs and Atlanta Show Chairs: Tom Glembocki, Kathy Bell, Kevin Degner, Judy Dupont, Phillis Hinkle, Terri Post, Carol Semrau, Gail Podany, and Leonard Re for making the Show at this year’s AVSA Convention another outstanding opportunity for learning, growing, and showing African violets and other gesneriads and educating the public about the plants we love to grow;

To AVSA’s Convention Committee led by Kathy Lahti and her committee chairs: Kathy Bell, Commercial Vendors, Kathy Lahti and Patricia Mattson, Tours, Rich Follett and Jill Jensen, Presentations/AV, Winston Goretsky, Internet, Winston Goretsky and Richard Craft, Photographers, Candace Baldwin, First-time Convention Attendees, Brenda Petry and Bill Price, International Inspections-Phytosanitary Certificates, Sharon Shannon, Convention Manual, Joe Bruns, Souvenir Book, and Lynn Lombard, Advisory;

To Susan Anderson, AVSA’s 40th president, Mary Corondan, 1st Vice President, Glenda Williams, 2nd Vice President, Sharon Shannon, 3rd Vice President, Rich Follett, Secretary, Terri Post, Treasurer, and Sue Ramser, Immediate Past President, for their many hours of thoughtful service, strategic decision-making, and leadership of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. in the past year;

To AVSA's Standing Committee Chairs and their committees:

Jeri Anderson, Affiliates  
Richard Craft, AVM Advertising,  
Kathy Bell, Commercial Activities,  
Kathy Lahti, Convention,  
Terri Post, Show Awards and Finance,  
Randy G. Deutsch, Fundraising,  
Kurt Jablonski, Library,  
Joyce Stork, Marketing,  
Stephen Covolo-Hudson, Membership,  
Linda Price, Nominating,  
Joe Bruns, Plant Registration and AVMLV,  
Sandra Skalski, Publications,  
Mary Corondan, Shows and Judges,  
Linda Hall, Society Awards, and  
Candace Baldwin, TechWeb,  
for their dedicated volunteer leadership and lending their time and expertise to help AVSA carry out its business;

To all members of AVSA who have contributed or worked toward the success of the 2023 Convention;

To Joe Bruns for his work in creating, maintaining, and updating the AVSA Show Entries Program, and to Louise Cheung and her team convened to test the updated program;

To Candace Baldwin, TechWeb Committee Chair, and the members and volunteers of the TechWeb Committee for their dedication and many hours of work in maintaining and updating the AVSA website and other AVSA-technology tools so they can continue to be useful resources to members and the public and a source of inspiration and information to growers around the world;

To the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors of AVSA for performing their duties during the year;

To AVSA Past Presidents for their continued dedication, support, and service to AVSA and its members;

To Amy Carruth, Office Manager, and Stephanie Travis, Office Secretary, for their service and support in efficiently operating the AVSA office and as primary points of contact between AVSA, its members, and the public;

To Sophia Bennett, our AVM Editor, for her time and expertise in producing the AVM in print and digital formats and making it an attractive and educational publication for AVSA for its members and the public this past year;

To recognize and thank retiring directors for their service the past three years:

Douglas Allen,  
Dr. Minh Bui,  
Winston Goretsky,  
Nancy Hayes (in memoriam), and  
Sandra Skalski;

To acknowledge and thank retiring committee chairs:

Jeri Anderson, Affiliate Committee,  
Linda Price, Nominating Committee,  
Dale Martens, Editorial Board,  
Joe Bruns, Plant Registration & Master Plant List, and  
Vickie Crider, Convention Show Awards for their years of devoted service in leading these committees and advancing the work of AVSA;

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; and

To the staff and management of the Atlanta Sheraton Hotel for their attentive service and assistance in helping to make this 77th Annual AVSA Convention and Show a great success.

Now, therefore, be it further resolved:

That a copy of this resolution be made a part of the minutes of this 2023 AVSA Annual Meeting.

## **Amendments to the Bylaws**

### **Article VIII - Executive Committee**

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Third Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the Immediate Past President, provided that, that person has completed the full term as President of the Society. Otherwise, the President, with the approval of the Executive Committee, may appoint another Past President to serve in this capacity. The Finance Committee Chair shall also be a member of the Executive Committee but will not have voting privileges.

2. The Executive Committee shall establish the strategic vision and direction of the Society.

3. It shall have the authority to conduct any necessary business of the Society during the interim between meetings of the Board of Directors including authorizing emergency action.

4. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to hire an Editor and an Office Manager, as well as such other employees who from time to time may be deemed necessary, and shall set the terms of employment and salary, with approval by the Board of Directors and upon the recommendation of the Salary Committee.

5. A vote by mail is authorized.

6. A two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the Executive Committee is required for action.

7. A report of any action taken by mail shall be verified and made a part of the minutes of the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

### **Article X, Committees, Section I, Standing Committees, paragraph 10, Marketing:**

**10. MARKETING:** shall develop and organize a Marketing Plan for AVSA to enhance the visibility and reputation of AVSA.

### **Article X, Committees, Section I, Standing Committees, paragraph II, Membership and Promotion:**

**11. MEMBERSHIP:** shall be responsible for expansion of the Society to increase membership.

### **Lest We Forget**

Emma Bygott, ON  
Byron Borck, CA  
Richard C. Bower, CT  
Chalmers (Chuck) Cromer, NE  
Eunice Davis Curry, TX  
Dr. Miriam Logsdon Denham, CO  
Mary Ecker, MD  
Jacqueline (Jackie) Eisenhut, CA  
Marianne Gershon, PA  
Marilyn Hartke, MA  
Nancy Hayes, CT  
Miriam Pendleton, VA  
Dorothy Ruth Rumsey, TX  
Joan Santino, PA  
Jan Schroeder, OH  
Steven Spachek, TX  
Sharon Straw, FL  
Thelma Thompson, SC  
Margaret Taylor, Australia  
Tricia Taylor, MO  
Ruth Tutor, TN  
Janice Kay Tyler-Blanchard, NC