

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
DoubleTree by Hilton Phoenix, Tempe
April 24, 2024
Phoenix, Arizona

Mary Corondan, President, called the meeting of the Board of Directors of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. to order at 9:09 am in the Fiesta II meeting room of the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Phoenix in Tempe, Arizona. Linda Hall gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

In lieu of a verbal roll call, a roster was circulated by the Acting Secretary and signed by those in attendance. The following members were excused: Candace Baldwin, Trudy Brekel, Dr. Minh Bui, Judy Carter, Ron Davidson, Kurt Jablonski, Anna Lammersen, Jackie Leitzel, Bill Patterson, Charles Ramser, Sue Ramser, Leonard Re, Sandra Skalski, Joyce Stork, Danny Tidwell and April Van Ness. Courtesy seats were extended to Donna Christianson, director nominee from North Dakota, Bob Clark, director nominee from Washington, Dr. Jeffrey Hudson-Covolo, director nominee from California, and Mary Thompson, director nominee from California; Past Presidents, Susan Anderson, Sue Ramser, Winston Goretsky, Linda Hall, Ron Davidson, and Joyce Stork; Special Committee Chairs; AVSA Staff: Amy Carruth, Office Manager; Stephanie Travis, Secretary; Sophia Bennett, Editor; The Phoenix Convention and Show Chairs (some are busy with their convention and show responsibilities) Candace Baldwin, Convention Chair; Joyce Stork, Convention Co-Chair; Susan Anderson, Show Chair; and Bill Patterson, Show Co-Chair.

President Mary Corondan reminded everyone that a quorum for the Board of Directors Meeting is fifteen (15). Acting Secretary Richard Follett stated that a quorum was present. President Mary Corondan stated that pictures had been taken of the room to further document attendance. A microphone was passed around the room and all in attendance stated their name, state, and position.

Richard Follett, Acting Secretary, read the Standing Rules for the Board Meeting, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Richard Follett moved they be adopted for this meeting. The motion was adopted.

President Corondan announced that there would be short break at about 10:30 am and recess for lunch from 12:15 – 1:30 pm. We hope to adjourn this meeting by 5:00 pm or sooner.

Acting Secretary Richard Follett moved the adoption of the agenda as emailed and posted on the slides on the screen. Executive Committee motions 23 – 27 have been added to the agenda and will be listed on the screen. The motion was adopted.

President Corondan appointed the Committee to Approve the 2024 minutes of the meeting as follows: Dr. Jeff Smith, Chair, Gail Podany, and Nancy Sullivan. Chris Brooks was appointed

Timekeeper and the Teller Committee appointed will be Scott Ammann, Chair, Randy Deutsch, and Penny Eggleston. These committees will remain in effect for this and subsequent meetings of the Board.

Sam Cunningham, Chair of the 2023 Committee to approve the minutes, reported the minutes had been approved.

The Executive Committee elected Stephen Covolo-Hudson to serve as the Chair of the Nominating Committee for 2024-2025. President Corondan offered a few notes before the election of the Nominating Committee members.

1. It is important to have geographic distribution of committee members so that all regions are well represented.
2. This year the Nominating Committee will be recommending a new slate of Director Nominees. After serving as a director, these candidates will be eligible for Officer positions. They are the future leadership of our society.
3. A reminder that one member of the committee will be selected to serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee the following year in 2025, so by agreeing to serve on the committee, each member is accepting that potential responsibility.
4. When nominating someone, please be sure that the member is willing to serve on the committee.
5. The following individuals are not eligible because they served on the Nominating Committee last year: Winston Goretsky, Bill Patterson, Gail Podany and April Van Ness.

The following people were nominated from the floor to serve on the Nominating Committee: Scott Ammann from Illinois, Linda Hall from Missouri, Jill Jensen from Nebraska, and Chris Brooks from Louisiana. The motion was seconded and Scott Ammann, Linda Hall, Jill Jensen and Chris Brooks were elected to serve on the Nominating Committee. President Corondan asked the members of the Nominating Committee to stay at the conclusion of today's Board meeting for a brief meeting.

President Corondan reported that the Executive Committee met on Monday (April 22, 2024). Acting Secretary Richard Follett will present the recommendations from that meeting and the previous Executive Committee meetings. Motions were distributed in advance. Acting Secretary Richard Follett moved the adoption of the recommendations from the Executive Committee. No questions were raised or debate requested and Motions 3-22 were approved by consent. Motions 23-35 will be voted on individually.

Motion 3

P&P Section 5 E Third Vice President: add a new 2 to read: Shall be responsible for assigning each Director to represent AVSA members in the geographic area in which he/she resides and shall serve as liaison between members and the Board. Then renumbering.

Motion 4

P&P Section 5 I Directions 2p 33: add a new j to read: Shall report activities to the Third Vice President. Then renumbering.

Motion 5

P & P, p 3. Section 1 Memberships f., last sentence, The Office Manager shall pay this commission after the close of the calendar year providing the commercial is entitled to \$10.00 or more.

Motion 6

To delete from the P & P, p. 63, Section 7, R. Handbook Committee and insert into Section 7, EE. Shows and Judges, p 86-87, 5 Duties of the Committee, by adding e:

e. A member of the committee designated as Handbook Editor for the *AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors and Judges*.

1) This book is the official manual for all AVSA Affiliate and Convention shows and shall be written and updated by the Handbook Editor and members of the Shows and Judges Committee. The Editor shall be appointed by the AVSA President in consultation with the AVSA Shows and Judges Chair.

2) The Handbook shall be proofread and approved by the entire Shows and Judges Committee and reviewed by the Publications Committee and the AVSA Executive Committee before publication or updating.

3) All expenditures for the publication of the Handbook shall be approved by the AVSA Executive Committee.

4) It shall be printed on 8 ½” x 11” paper and shall be quick printed when feasible to reduce cost and inventory. It will be available as a digital download on the AVSA website.

Motion 7

To modify P & P, p. 82, Section 7, EE. Shows and Judges Committee, 1. Duties of Chair, e., to read as follows:

c. Shall present any motion originating from any Board member or committee chair which will change the *AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges* to the Shows and Judges Committee for consideration as to how the proposed change will affect the Handbook. The Shows and Judges Committee shall present the proposed change, either pro or con to the Executive Committee. The Shows and Judges Committee shall not prevent any individual from originating and/or submitting a motion affecting the Handbook.

Motion 8

To delete p. 17, Section 4, Responsibilities of the Office Manage D4, and renumber.

Motion 9

To add: P. 42, Section 7, Special and Standing Committees. A. General. add 16., All monies collected by all committees shall be sent to the Office Manager on a monthly basis.

Motion 10

Section 1 Membership. P. 1, A. to add #6: The office manager shall pay a commission after the close of the calendar year to current members who acquire new members during the year, providing the member is entitled to \$10.00 or more.

Motion 11

To strike from P 3, Section 1 Memberships, B., 5., f: ~~The Office Manager shall pay this commission after the close of the fiscal year, providing the commercial is entitled to \$10.00 or more.~~

Motion 12

To Amend P & P, p 31, Section 5, G. 10 Treasure to read: Shall allowed, with the permission of the Finance Chair and the Executive Committee, to invest general operating fund monies deemed unnecessary for one (1) to six (6) months or monies that shall cause an account to exceed the FDIC insured limit. These investments shall be made in (1) to six (6) month certificates of deposit.

Motion 13

To update P & P, p. 61, Section 7Q. Fundraising Committee – Standing Committee, 2., 6), a) to read: This Society exists to recognize bequest donors to AVSA's Anne and Frank Tinari Endowment Fund, The Barbara Burde Endowment Fund, Boyce Edens Research Fund, or Booster Donations.

Motion 14

To update P & P, p. 61, Section 7Q. Fundraising Committee – Standing Committee, 2., 6), c) to read: The Society recognizes those individuals who make a minimum donation of \$1000.00 in a will or trust or through life insurance, a percent or set amount of a will or trust or a percent or set amount of a life insurance policy.

Motion 15

To update P & P, 61, Section 7Q. Fundraising Committee – Standing Committee, 2., 6), d) to read: Donors notify the Anne and Frank Tinari Endowment Fund, The Barbara Burde Endowment, Fund, Boyce Edens Research Fund, or Booster Donations of the intent and nature of the donation.

Motion 16

To update P & P. 62, Section 7Q. Fundraising Committee – Standing Committee 2., 6), i) to read: Neither the Anne and Frank Tinari Endowment Fund, The Barbara Burde Endowment Fund, Boyce Edens Research Fund, or Booster Donations nor AVSA offer legal advice or tax advice in the process of requesting donations or recognizing donors as members in the AVSA Legacy Society.

Motion 17

To update P & P. 62, Section 7Q. Fundraising Committee – Standing Committee, 2., 6), j) to read: Donors who have previously made a one-time donation or bequest donation to AVSA's Anne and Frank Tinari Endowment Fund, The Barbara Burde Endowment Fund, Boyce Edens Research Fund or Booster Donations are eligible for recognition.

Motion 18

To amend P & P p. 64-65 Section 7, S. Library Committee – Standing Committee 1. Background, by deleting a., b, c, to read:

S. Library Committee – Standing Committee

1. Background – The AVSA Library, which is housed in the national AVSA office in Beaumont, Texas, consists of a wide variety of convention and other educational materials. The motion was adopted.

Motion 19

To amend P & P, p 64, delete: S 2. General Rules a, b, c, and d in its entirety and renumbering.

Motion 20

To amend P & P, p. 65 delete: 2. Duties of the Chair, b, 3, 4 and 5.

Motion 21

To amend P & P 3 d. delete: “Shall annually prepare a new list of Library materials available for rent.” And “including the list of available Library materials” to read.

Motion 22

To amend P & P, p. 65, Library Committee, g delete: “creating and maintaining the content of the pages and sections” to read: g. Shall be responsible for content of the AVSA website that pertains to the committee.

Additional Motions

The following additional motions were presented by Acting Secretary Richard Follett:

Motion 23

To amend P & P, p. 82, EE. Shows and Judges, 1. Duties of Chair: a. Shall submit to the Treasurer an itemized statement of expenses incurred by the committee. E. Shall designate members of the Shows and Judges Committee to the following responsibilities: add 9) Exam Questions Compiler. The motion was adopted.

Motion 24

To amend P & P, p. 85, EE Shows and Judges, 5b. A member of the committee designated as the Schedule Approver will be responsible for the following 2) Shall confirm with the Office Manager that registration fees have been received. The motion was adopted.

Motion 25

To amend P & P, p. 86, EE Shows and Judges, 5 d. A member of the committee designated as accountable for senior judges' exams will be responsible for the following: 6) Shall confirm with the Office Manager that exam fees have been received. The motion was adopted.

Motion 26

To amend P & P, p. 86, EE. Shows and Judges, 5c. A member of the committee designated as accountable for teachers' exams will be responsible for the following: 4) Send a copy of each exam to the Exam Question Compiler. The motion was adopted.

Motion 27

To amend P & P, p. 86. EE. Shows and Judges, 5d. A member of the committee designated as accountable for senior judges' exams will be responsible for the following: e) A member of the committee shall be designated as the Exam Question Compiler. All exam questions will be compiled in a question bank by content and can be requested by an AVSA teacher for their use when constructing an exam. The motion was adopted.

President Corondan announced that the annual reports of the Officers, Committee Chairs, and Directors were distributed in advance. If there is no objection, we will dispense with the reading of the reports. No objections were raised.

President Corondan then said that the Officers, Committee Chairs, and Directors who have stated they have additions to their reports will be called upon.

Terri Post, Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair will address the 2024-2025 Budget.

Motion 28

Terri Post moved for the adoption of the 2024-2025 Budget as emailed. No changes or debate was made on the budget. The motion was adopted.

Motion 29

Kathy Lahti, Convention Chair Committee, moved that the AVSA Board approve the following individuals to lead the 2025 Convention at the DoubleTree by Hilton Kansas City, Overland Park, Kansas, May 25- June 1, 2025.

Randy Deutsch, Convention Chair and Linda Hall, Convention Show Chair

There was no debate. The motion was adopted.

President Corondan indicated that the next item of business was to approve the motions of the Bylaws Committee so they may be presented at the Annual Meeting of the membership. The motions were published in the January/February *AVM*. Are there any objections to adopting the bylaws amendments as published in the *AVM*? There were no objections, and motions 30-33 were approved. The motions are as follows:

Motion 30

To amend Article IV, Section 2, Officers and Their Duties: Regional Directors. All Directors shall be members in good standing of the AVSA.

1. The Regional Directors shall be not more than nine (9) nor less than eight (8) in number. There shall be a transition period during which the number of directors shall be 15 in 2024, 13 in 2025, 11 in 2026 and 9 in 2027 and thereafter.
2. Directors shall be elected from the membership at-large, one (1) and no more than two (2) of whom shall be a resident of a nation other than the United States, provided such a nominee is available.
3. Directors shall be responsible for representing the membership.

Motion 31

To amend Article V, Section 2, Nominations and Elections: Terms, to state: Directors shall be elected to terms of three (3) years.

Motion 32

To amend Article V, Nominations and Elections, Section V, Nominating Committee, 4b. by adding, In conformity with the transition plan described in Article IV, Section 2. Regional Directors and striking select and striking five (5) so it reads:

4b. In conformity with the transition plan described in Article IV. Section 2, Regional Directors, select nominees for Director from the file maintained by the Nominating Committee Chair, maintaining geographic balance among all directors.

Motion 33

To amend Article VII, Section 1, Board of Directors, Composition to read:

The Board of Directors shall consist of the elected officers, the elected directors, the chairs of the standing committees 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 that capacity.

President Corondan invited Dr. Jeff Smith to report for the Scholarship Committee.

Motion 34

On behalf of the Scholarship Committee, I move that Mr. Trey M. Lamkins, an undergraduate student at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, working towards a Bachelor of Science degree, with a major in Plant and Landscape Systems, and a minor in Leadership and Communications, with a cumulative g.p.a. of 3.01, be awarded a Boyce Edens AVSA Scholarship for the academic year 2024-2025 in the amount of \$1,000. Mr. Lamkins is also an AVSA member.

Secondly, on behalf of the Scholarship Committee, I move that Mr. Crayton L. Koranda, also an undergraduate student at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, working on a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture and a minor in Entrepreneurship, with a cumulative g.p.a. of 4.0, be awarded a Boyce Edens AVSA Scholarship for the academic year of 2024-2025, of \$1,000.

Both applicants show passion in pursuing horticulture and a profound appreciation of the intricacies of agriculture and the purpose of plants including violets.

No debate was offered, and the motion was adopted.

Dr. Smith read the following motion from the Research Committee:

Motion 35

The following is a unanimous recommendation from the Research Committee. We move that the following grant application be approved for funding: To Dr. Cornelius Kyalo of the National Museums of Kenya. The application is titled “Rescuing the last two populations of the critically endangered *Streptocarpus ionanthus* subsp. *rupicolus* from limestone mining in coastal Kenya”. The amount requested is \$4,500.00.

No debate was offered, and the motion was adopted.

President Corondan asked for any new business. No new business was brought forward.

Final reminders and announcements:

1. Mandatory attendance is expected at the Annual Membership Meeting, Open Form and the Called Meeting of the Board on Saturday.

2. Nominating Committee is to stay a few minutes after this meeting for the purpose of setting a Nominating Committee meeting time and date. Stephen Covolo-Hudson announced that the meeting would be Thursday at 4:00 pm.
3. The Scavenger hunt stamp is located at the back of the room.
4. There was no stamp for the Botanical Desert Tour, but a signature will suffice.
5. Please add to the donation box for this morning's breakfast.
6. Please leave the purple voting cards on the table for pickup and reuse.

The following Directors and Committee Chairs who are retiring this year were recognized:

Retiring Directors

Scott Ammann, Illinois
Kurt Jablonski, Pennsylvania
Patricia Mattson, Wisconsin
Leonard Re, California
Danny Tidwell, Arkansas

Retiring Committee Chairs

Winston Goretsky, Nominating
Janet Riemer, Anne and Frank Tinari Endowment Fund

Meeting adjourned at 9:51 am

Acting Secretary, Richard Follett

COMMITTEE TO APPROVE

Dr. Jeff Smith, Chair

Gail Podany

Nancy Sullivan

Standing Rules for Board Meetings

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. 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 vote and during the counting of the ballots except the Teller Committee.