

ANNUAL MEETING
AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
April 27, 2024
DoubleTree by Hilton Phoenix Tempe, Arizona

The Annual Business Meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. was called to order by President Mary Corondan at 3:30 pm in the Fiesta II meeting room. The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Richard Craft, Third Vice President. Richard Craft introduced members of the Executive Committee, Glenda Williams, First Vice President; Richard Follett, Second Vice President; Terri Post, Treasurer; and Susan Anderson, Immediate Past President. Secretary Sue Ramser has been in the hospital and was not in attendance.

President Mary Corondan asked if a quorum of 50 members was present. Acting Secretary Richard Follett confirmed that a quorum was present. He then read the Standing Rules for the Annual Meeting and they were adopted. A copy is attached.

President Corondan appointed Dr. Jeff Smith, Chair; Gail Podany and Nancy Sullivan to serve as the Committee to approve the 2024 minutes. Chris Brooks was appointed as Timekeeper. The Tellers are Scott Ammann, Chair; Randy Deutsch and Penny Eggleston.

Sam Cunningham reported that the 2023 minutes of the Annual Business Meeting were approved. Also serving on the committee were Marge Farrand and April Van Ness.

Jill Jensen, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, presented the Courtesy Resolution which is attached. Jill Jensen moved that the resolution be adopted. The motion was adopted.

President Corondan called for Joyce Stork of the Bylaws Committee to present proposed bylaws amendments previously approved by the Board of Directors.

Stork moved to amend Article IV, Section 2, Officers and Their Duties: Regional Directors as follows:

All Directors shall be members in good standing of the AVSA

1. 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.

There was no debate and the motion was adopted.

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

There was no debate and the motion was adopted.

Joyce Stork moved 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 Directions select nominees for Director from the file maintained by the Nominating Committee Chair, maintaining geographic balance among all directors.

There was no debate and the motion was adopted.

Joyce Stork moved to amend Article VII, Section 1, Board of Directors, Composition. 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 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.

There was no debate and the motion was adopted.

Winston Goretsky, Nominating Committee Chair, reported. The Nominating Committee submitted the following to serve as Directors until the conclusion of the 2027 Annual Meeting.

Donna Christianson, ND

Bob Clark, WA

Dr. Jeffrey Hudson-Covolo, CA

Mary Thompson, CA

Winston Goretsky was nominated from the floor for the position of International Director. The slate of Directors was approved.

President Corondan recognized the service of the retiring Directors:

Scott Ammann, IL

Kurt Jablonski, PA

Patricia Mattson, WI

Leonard Re, CA

April Van Ness, NJ

Winston Goretsky was recognized as the retiring chair of the Nominating Committee.

An invitation to the 2025, 79th AVSA Convention in Overland Park (Kansas City) was made by Randy Deutsch, Convention Chair and Linda Hall, Show Chair. The goal is to have 200+ attendees, the highest number since Covid. Everyone was reminded to start growing their plants now.

No new business was brought forward for consideration.

Lest We Forget was presented by Jill Jensen.

President Corondan announced that plants in the showroom are being separated by exhibitor. Only the exhibitors will be allowed in the showroom after the banquet.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Acting Secretary, Richard Follett

COMMITTEE TO APPROVE

Dr. Jeff Smith, Chair

Gail Podany

Nancy Sullivan

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.

AVSA Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 27, 2024

Whereas, the strength of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. is in its members and its local affiliate clubs and regional councils throughout the United States and internationally; and

Whereas, the African Violet Society of America, Inc.'s last annual convention in Arizona was held in 2004 at Tucson; and

Whereas, the African Violet Society of America, Inc. has enjoyed the "Spirit of the Southwest" in holding its 78th Annual Convention from April 21 through April 28, 2024, in Phoenix, Arizona.

Now, therefore, be it Resolved:

AVSA hereby offers its deep gratitude to those who diligently planned and worked toward the holding of this convention in Phoenix for the enjoyment, learning, and inspiration of our society's membership to promote and perpetuate our great hobby:

To Candace Baldwin, Convention Chair, Joyce Stork, Convention Co-Chair, and to all the 2024 Phoenix Convention Chairs: Mary Thompson, Nancy Gwilliam, Beverly Wombold, Ellen Keil, Kristi Olkowski, Teri Watkins, Dr. Jeffrey Hudson-Covolo for their efforts, leadership, and dedication in making this 78th Annual Convention an enjoyable, educational, and memorable experience;

To Susan Anderson, Show Chair, and Bill Patterson, Show Co-Chair, and Phoenix Show Chairs: Carla Deutsch, Sharon Shannon, Lori Stevenson, Kathy Bell, Renee Wilson, Anna Lammersen, Mark Romansky, Marty Anderson, Janice Sorensen, Teri Watkins, Carol Burris, and Dave Hammer for making the Show at this year's AVSA Convention another magnificent opportunity to learn, grow, and show 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, Candace Baldwin, Assistant, Lynn Lombard, Advisory, and committee chairs: Terri Post, Awards, Kathy Bell, Commercial Vendors, Sharon Shannon and Candace Baldwin, Convention Manual, Candace Baldwin, First-time Convention Attendees, Gail Podany, Scott Ammann, Bill Price, International Inspections, Leonard Re, Judging School Teacher, Winston Goretsky and Richard Craft, photographers, Rich Follett and Jill Jensen, Presentations/Audio-Visual, Janet Castiglione, Souvenir Book, Dr. Jeffrey Hudson-Covolo and Kathy Lathi, Tours, and Louise Cheung, Richard Craft, and Candace Baldwin, Website.

To the members of the Copper State African Violet Club who have so graciously hosted this Annual Convention in Phoenix.

To Mary Corondan, AVSA's 41st president,

Glenda Williams, 1st Vice President,

Rich Follett, 2nd Vice President,

Richard Craft, 3rd Vice President,

Sue Ramser, Secretary,

Terri Post, Treasurer, and

Susan Anderson, Immediate Past President, for their many hours of meetings, 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:

Mary Thompson, 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

Chris Brooks, Marketing

Stephen Covolo-Hudson, Membership

Winston Goretsky, Nominating

Dr. Jeff Smith, Plant Registration, AVMVL, and Research

Sandra Skalski, Publications

Mary Corondan, Shows and Judges

Linda Hall, Society Awards, and

Candace Baldwin, TechWeb Committee Chair for their dedicated volunteer leadership and providing their time and expertise to help AVSA carry out its business;

To the presenters of educational programs at this year's Annual Convention:

Joyce Stork

Bruce Williams

Linda Hall

Dr. Jeff Smith, and

Dr. Rachel Martin

To all members of AVSA who have contributed or worked toward the success of the 2024 Convention;

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 and 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, and Shirley Jones, our Desktop Publisher, for their 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:

Scott Ammann

Kurt Jablonski

Patricia Mattson

Leonard Re, and

Danny Tidwell

To acknowledge and thank retiring committee chairs:

Winston Goretsky, Nominating Committee

Janet Riemer, Anne and Frank Tinari Endowment Fund

for their devoted service to advance 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 Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Phoenix Tempe for their gracious service and assistance in helping to make this 78th 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 2024 AVSA Annual Meeting.

Jill Jensen, Chair

Lest We Forget: Individuals recognized included:
Nancy Amelung, MO

John Brownlie, CAN
Barbara Cook, MA
Pat Hancock, OH
Neil Lipson, PA
Juanita Loder, WA
Vickie Seley, IA
Natalia Anatolyevna Skornyakova, RU
Ann Stoetzer, AZ
Reg Townsend, AUS
Jere Trigg, AL
James A. Wildman, NY

During the Open Forum, the following information was shared:

- President Corondan challenged everyone to recruit new members as our numbers are down to 3000. Her challenge is for everyone to recruit 5 new members and for Board members to recruit 10 new members.
- Nancy Sullivan shared that the round screens in the Goody Bag are to be placed in the bottom of pots to hold soil.
- 182 attendees were present for the 2024 convention (higher than in 2023).
- Number of show entries were 320, broken down as:
 - o 241 – Horticulture Amateur
 - o 28 – Horticulture Commercial
 - o 48 – Designs
 - o 3 – special exhibits
- Question was asked about an Android update for First Class. Not likely to happen in the near future.
- Question was asked about the number of public attendees. Not known specifically at this time but Amy Carruth thought that the numbers were the highest in the past 10 years with approximately 100 people attending on Friday.