

**MINUTES**  
**THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**Wednesday, May 28, 2025**  
**Overland Park, Kansas**

President Mary Corondan called the meeting of the AVSA Board of Directors to order at 9:08 a.m. Central Time in the Overland Park Room of the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Kansas City, Overland Park, Kansas. Richard Craft, Third Vice President gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

In lieu of a roll call, a roster was circulated and signed by the following Board of Directors Members: Mary Corondan, Glenda Williams, Rich Follett, Richard Craft, Sue Ramser, Terri Post, Susan Anderson, Marge Farrand, Penny Eggleston, Gail Podany, Nancy Sullivan, Donna Christianson, Bob Clark, Mary B. Thompson, Winston Goretsky, Kathy Bell, Kathy Lahti, Randy G. Deutsch, Chris Brooks, Dr. Jeff Smith, Candace Baldwin, Jill Jensen, Dr. Minh Bui. Also in attendance were Sophia Bennett, Summer Holiday, Becky McMeel, and Sandi Soto.

President Corondan announced the following Board Members were excused: Trudy Brekel, Stephen Covolo-Hudson, Sam Cunningham, Linda Hall, Dr. Jeffrey Hudson-Covolo, Kurt Jablonski, Anna Lammersen, Jackie Leitzel, Bill Patterson, Carol Semrau, Sharon Shannon, Sandra Skalski, Joyce Stork, Stephanie Travis, April Van Ness.

Secretary Sue Ramser announced the quorum of 15 voting members were present.

Courtesy Seats were extended to the following: Director Nominees: Summer Holiday, Texas; Becky McMeel, Louisiana; Dr. Jeff Smith, Indiana; Sandi Soto, Florida; Officer Nominees: Dr. Minh Bui, Third Vice President; Randy Deutsch, Treasurer; Past Presidents: Joyce Stork (excused); Ron Davidson; Linda Hall (excused); Winston Goretsky; Sue Ramser; Susan Anderson; Special Committee Chairmen; Staff: Office Manager: Amy Carruth; AVM Editor: Sophia Bennett; Office Secretary: Stephanie Travis (excused) and Kansas City Convention Chairmen: Randy G. Deutsch, Chair; Linda Hall, Show Chair (excused).

President Corondan asked Board Members to introduce themselves telling where they are from and the office they hold.

Sue Ramser, Secretary, read the Standing Rules for this meeting and all meetings and moved their adoption. The motion was seconded and members adopted the Standing Rules.

President Corondan announced the meeting recess: Break @ 10:30 AM, Lunch @ 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM and Recess @ 5:00 PM or before.

Secretary Sue Ramser moved the adoption of the agenda with no changes. The motion was seconded and adopted.

President Corondan appointed the 2025 Committee to Approve the Minutes: Chris Brooks, Chair, Penny Eggleston and Mary Thompson.

President Corondan appointed Timekeeper, Dr. Minh Bui who will verbally announce "Time".

Dr. Jeff Smith, Chair, Candace Baldwin, Donna Christianson were appointed Tellers.

Report of the Committee to Approve the 2024 Minutes: Dr. Jeff Smith, Chair, Gail Podany, Nancy Sullivan: Dr. Jeff Smith, Chair reported the 2024 Minutes were approved.

Election of the 2025-2026 Nominating Committee: Chris Brooks, Chair LA: President Mary Corondan announced the Executive Committee elected Chris Brooks, Chair and opened the floor for Nominations for the remaining four members. President Corondan reminded the Board that the Nominees should be geographically distributed. Members of the 2024-2025 Nominating Committee ineligible are: Stephen Covolo-Hudson, Scott Ammann, Linda Hall and Jill Jensen. President Corondan also stressed not to duplicate nominees holding AVSA Committee Chair positions and the Committee should have one past President. The following were nominated: Susan Anderson, AZ; Sandy Soto, FL; Kathy Lahti, MN and Randy G. Deutsch, SD. No further nominations were received and the motion was made and seconded the above nominees serve as the 2025-2026 Nominating Committee and the motion was approved.

The Executive Committee met in the fall and Monday, May 26, and Sue Ramser, Secretary reported the following motions were emailed to the Board of Directors and printed on the screen. Secretary Ramser moved the following motions be approved by consent. Receiving no objection the following motions were adopted by consent;

Motion 3 – Sue Ramser moved the following P&P motion be approved: [Section 5 Officers and Directors C](#). First Vice-President

Shall be informed by the respective chairs of the activities of the following committees: AVM Advertising ~~Manager~~, Fundraising, Membership, Publications, and Research.

Add: “Scholarship” to read: Shall be informed by the respective chairs of the activities of the following committees: AVM Advertising ~~Manager~~, Fundraising, Membership, Publications, and Research and **Scholarship**.

**Motion 4--** Sue Ramser moved the following P&P motion be approved: **DD. Scholarship Committee - Special Committee**

4. Duties of the Chair

g. Shall keep the President informed of the activities of the committee and shall submit written reports as requested.

Insert “and First Vice President” to read: Shall keep the President **and First Vice President** informed of the activities of the committee and shall submit written reports as requested.

Editorial change: Delete h. and renumber forward: “Shall be responsible for creating and maintaining the content of the pages and sections of the AVSA website that pertain to the committee.” Rationale: duplicate of e.

**Motion 5--** Sue Ramser moved the following P&P motion be approved: Section 5 Officers and Directors A General 7 b to read: President and **Third Vice President** for all Directors.

**Motion 6 –** Sue Ramser moved to add #12 to Section 5 A to read: **All Board Members and Committee Members shall be a member in good standing of AVSA.**

Officers submitted their reports in advance. The following Officer added to their report:

**Finance** – Terri Post, Motion 7

Terri Post moved on behalf of the Finance Committee that the 2025-2026 Budget be approved. The motion came from a committee and a second was not required. The motion was approved.

No Directors added to their reports.

Reports from Standing Committees submitted their reports in advance. The following motion was received in advance.

**Convention** – Kathy Lahti – Motion 8

Kathy Lahti moved on behalf of the Convention Committee that the Board approve the following Dallas Convention Committee Chairs: Randy G. Deutsch, Convention Chair;

Janet Castiglione, Local Convention Chair;  
Mary Corondan, Convention Show Chair; and  
Sue Ramser, Convention Show Co-Chair.

The motion came from a committee and did not require a second. The motion was approved.

Reports from Standing Committees were received in advance. The following motion was received in advance.

**Scholarship – Dr. Minh Bui – Motion 9**

Dr. Minh Bui moved on behalf of the Scholarship Committee to award TWO (2) merit-based scholarships for 2025-2026 valued at \$1,000 each to Loghan Holland (highest scoring candidate) and Sarah Lindenberg (second highest scoring candidate) for their stellar academic accomplishments, based on this committee's rigorous assessment.

The motion came from a committee and did not require a second. The motion was approved.

No additions to Special Committee reports were received.

No additions to the reports from Staff.

There was no new business.

**Announcements**

Secretary Sue Ramser asked for a Point of Personal Privilege. The Secretary asked for Board members Annual Report. One Board Member submitted their reports first, thus the Early Bird Award was presented to Mary Thompson. Each year a new award will be presented.

Nancy Sullivan suggested when a member sends a request for information they would appreciate a response from the Board Member that the request was received.

President Mary Corondan stated: AVSA will never send emails asking members to send gift cards, money, etc. AVSA does not sell membership lists or lists of convention attendees. President Corondan asked Chris Brooks, Marketing Chair, to include the above statement in the AVSA News

President Corondan asked Board Members to leave the voting cards on the table so they may be reused.

Breakfast items were furnished in order to help with Food and Beverage minimum. Each year the convention does not meet the Food and Beverage minimum. Some attendees don't sign up for meals. She explained that AVSA doesn't make money on meals.

The Nominating Committee is requested to stay after meeting.

President Corondan recognized the following Retiring Directors:

Sam Cunningham, Texas (excused)  
Marge Farrand, Michigan  
Jackie Leitzel, Pennsylvania (excused)  
Bill Patterson, Arizona (excused)  
April Van Ness, New Jersey (excused)

President Corondan recognized the following Retiring Committee Chairs: Trudy Brekel, Best Varieties and Honor Roll (excused)

Stephen Covolo-Hudson- Nominating and Membership  
(excused)

Linda Hall—Society Awards (excused)

Sandra Skalski, Publications (excused)

President Corondan thanked them for their for service.

#### Other Business

Candace Baldwin asked for clarification of the two annual reports.: A report in the fall updates the Executive Committee of the activities of the committee. The Annual Report to the Board is requested in March. Some Vice Presidents ask for reports monthly. The EC meets monthly except October, December. The EC meets at the Convention in May.

Chris Brooks sent email in fall regarding the Facebook group looking for a moderator to relaunch, if anyone is interested and has experience let him know.

Gail Podany needs show hostesses.

No further business was conducted and the meeting adjourned at 9:51 a.m. Central Time.

Respectively Submitted,

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Sue Ramser, Secretary

Committee to Approve:

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Chris Brooks, Chair

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Penny Eggleston

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Mary Thompson

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

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.