

MINUTES
THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday, May 30, 2026
Dallas, Texas

Dr. Minh Bui, 3rd Vice President called to order the Annual Meeting of the African Violet Society of America in the Texas Learning Center of the Renaissance Dallas North Hotel, Dallas, Texas at 3:15 p.m. Central Time.

The Invocation was given by Ann Athey. The United States Flag was not in the room and in lieu of the Pledge of Allegiance, Rich Follett sang the National Anthem.

Dr. Minh Bui, Third Vice President, introduced the Executive Committee who were seated at the Dais. Dr. Bui then presented President Glenda Williams.

A quorum for the Annual Meeting is 50 and Secretary Sue Ramser reported a quorum was present.

Sue Ramser, Secretary, read and moved the adoption of the Standing Rules. The Standing Rules were adopted.

President Williams appointed the 2026 Committee to Approve the Minutes: Mary Thompson, Chair, Stephen Covolo-Hudson and Sandi Soto.

President Williams appointed Timekeeper, Dr. Minh Bui who will play a movie theme to indicate "Time".

Becky McMeel, Chair, Stephen Covolo-Hudson and Dr. Jeffrey Hudson-Covolo were appointed Tellers.

Report of the Committee to Approve the 2025 Minutes: Chris Brooks, Chair, Penny Eggleston and Mary Thompson. In the absence of Chris Brooks, Chair, Penny Eggleston reported the 2025 Minutes were approved.

Jill Jensen, Chair of the Resolution Committee moved adoption of the Courtesy Resolution which is attached. The Resolution was adopted.

In the Absence of 2025 Nominating Committee Chair, Chris Brooks, Kathy Lahti, Committee Member reported the following are nominees: Alfredo Hernandez, Georgia, Mark Romansky, Nevada, and Michelle Wickersheim, Kansas. No nominations were received from the floor and the following Directors were elected by voice vote to serve until the close of the 2029 Annual Meeting: Alfredo Hernandez, Georgia, Mark Romansky, Nevada, and Michelle Wickersheim, Kansas. They will be installed at the banquet.

President Williams recognized the following Retiring Directors:

- Penny Eggleston, Washington
- Anna Lammersen, California
- Gail Podany, Minnesota
- Carol Semrau, Minnesota (excused)
- Nancy Sullivan, Colorado (excused)

President Williams recognized the following Retiring Committee Chairs:

- Kurt Jablonski – Library (excused)
- Chris Brooks - Nominating and Marketing (excused)
- Judith Carter – Courtesy (excused)

President Williams thanked them for their service.

The invitation to the 2027 Allentown, Pennsylvania Convention was extended by Randy G. Deutsch, Convention Chair. Jackie Leitzel, Local Convention Chair; Lisa Bradley, Convention Show Chair; and April Van

Ness, Convention Show Co-Chair, will serve with Randy. Mid Atlantic African Violet Society (MAAVS) is Affiliate Host. The Convention will be held May 24 – May 30, 2027 at the Delta by Marriott. Room rate will be \$119. The hotel has shuttle service that will go to local attractions but not the airport. The hotel has two restaurants but is not pet friendly. Parking is free. Tours have not been scheduled yet. Hershey’s Chocolate Park, Amish shopping areas, an underground crystal cave and more than one winery are in the area of the hotel. Allentown is in the southeast part of the state. Violets Find Fun and Adventure in Pennsylvania is the theme.

There was no New Business.

Jill Jensen presented Lest We Forget which lists members who have passed since the last convention. The list is attached. One member was added to the list: Carol Allegretti, California.

The following announcements were made:

- Sue Ramser, Secretary, asked for a Point of Personal Privilege: Sue explained each year the Secretary asks for Annual Reports from the Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs by the March 1 deadline. Last year Sue presented an Early Bird Award to Mary Thompson who was the first Board Member to submit her Annual Report. This year the first person to submit her report in early January is Terri Post. Congratulations to Terri! This Award will be presented next year also.
- Randy G. Deutsch, Fundraising Chair, announced that a new fundraising program will be announced in the near future which will help the stability of the Society. Watch for the announcement in the *AVM*.
- Linda Hall announced the Dish Garden Workshop Peoples’ Choice Winner Renee Wilson with dish garden #7. Linda thanked those who attended the workshop and made gardens in 50 minutes. Some of the items available were not “legal” in an African violet dish garden. The winner received a rosette: Best Dish Garden in Workshop.
- Elmer Godeny announced the Lone Star African Violet Council Show and Convention in Houston November 4 – 7, 2026. The hotel is only one block from airport with Shuttle, free parking and free breakfast.

No further business was conducted and the Annual Meeting of the African Violet Society of America adjourned at 3:52 p.m. Central Time.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Ramser, Secretary

Mary Thompson, Chair

Stephen Covolo-Hudson

Sandi Soto

Courtesy Resolution

AVSA Annual Meeting Saturday, May 30, 2026

Whereas, the African Violet Society of America, Inc. (hereinafter, “AVSA”) is primarily a volunteer organization that relies upon its officers, members, its local affiliates, and regional councils throughout the United States and internationally to promote and educate the public about African violets; and

Whereas, AVSA’s most recent annual conventions in Texas were held in Austin in 2013 and in Houston in 2019; and

Whereas, members of AVSA have seen first-hand that “Violets are Texas Stars” in this 80th Annual Convention from May 25th through May 31st, 2026, in Dallas, Texas.

Now, therefore, be it Resolved that:

AVSA hereby offers its appreciation, thanks, and sincere gratitude to those who thoroughly planned and made it possible for AVSA members, their guests, and members of the public to enjoy “Violets are Texas Stars” at this year’s convention.

- To Randy G. Deutsch, AVSA Convention Chair, and to all the 2026 Dallas Convention Chairs: Janet Castiglione, Terri Post, Sue Li, David Finley, Ann Athey, Mary Corondan, Dr. Jeffery Hudson-Covolo, and Kathy Lahti, for their leadership and dedication in making this 80th Annual Convention an enjoyable, educational, and memorable experience;
- To Mary Corondan, AVSA Show Chair, Sue Ramser, AVSA Co-Show Chair, and the Dallas Show Chairs: Michael Jackson, Classification, Kathy Bell, Commercial Sales & Exhibits, Annie Hibbs, Design Entry Reservations, Mary Corondan, Design Schedule, Phil and Sherrie Wallace, Entries, Linda Turner, Placement, Suzanne Roberts, Plant Maintenance and Staging, Janet Castiglione, Properties, Carol Vaughn, Showroom Hosts, and Sylvia Leeds and Kathy Templeman, Special Exhibits, and all TEXAS hands on Deck for clean-up, for making the Show at this year’s AVSA Convention another excellent opportunity to learn, cultivate, and exhibit African violets and other gesneriads and to educate members and the public about our favorite plants;
- To AVSA’s Convention Committee led by Kathy Lahti, Candace Baldwin, Assistant, and committee chairs: Terri Post, Awards, Kathy Bell, Commercial Vendors, Candace Baldwin, Convention Manual, Candace Baldwin, First-time Convention Attendees, Becky McMeel, Future Conventions’ Funding and Support, Gail Podany and Scott Ammann, International Inspections, Kevin Degner, Judging School Teacher, Candace Baldwin and Dr. Elmer Godeny, Luncheon Auction, Winston Goretsky and Richard Craft, photographers, Randy G. Deutsch, Richard Craft, Randy G. Deutsch and Kevin and his team from Living

Visions Audio-Visual Services for 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 North Texas African Violet Judge's Council who hosted this Annual Convention.
 - To the presenters of educational programs at this year's Annual Convention:
 - Dr. Elmer Godeny
 - Linda Hall
 - Dale Martens
 - Mark Romansky
 - BJ Ohme, and
 - Scott Ammann
 - To AVSA members who donated items and plant material for the Annual Auction and to Candace Baldwin, Elmer Godeny, and the entire AVSA auction team of spotters, and recordkeepers who made the annual auction a great success.
 - To Janet Castiglione and the members of the following Texas AVSA affiliates for the table favors comprised of plant material representing the best of Texas hybridizers:
 - Alpha AVS of Dallas
 - First AVS of Dallas
 - First AVS of Denton
 - First AVS of Wichita Falls
 - First Nighter AVS of Dallas
 - Moonlight AV & Gesneriad Society
 - NASA Area African Violet Society
 - Spring Branch AVC
- To Glenda Williams, AVSA's president,
Rich Follett, 1st Vice President,
Richard Craft, 2nd Vice President,
Minh Bui, 3rd Vice President,
Sue Ramser, Secretary,
Randy G. Deutsch, Treasurer, and
Mary Corondan, Immediate Past President,
for their diligent attention to the business of our organization and providing leadership to AVSA this past year;

To AVSA's Standing Committee Chairs and their committees:

Mary Thompson, Affiliates
Richard Craft, Advertising
Kathy Bell, Commercial Activities
Kathy Lahti, Convention
Terri Post, Show Awards and Finance
Randy G. Deutsch, Fundraising
Scott Ammann, Library
Chris Brooks, Marketing and Nominating
Stephen Covolo-Hudson, Membership
Dr. Jeff Smith, Plant Registration, AVML, and Research
Sandi Soto, Publications
Mary Corondan, Shows & Judges
Jill Jensen, Society Awards
Richard Craft, TechWeb

for their faithful volunteer leadership and offering 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 2026 Convention;

To 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 AVSA's ambassadors to 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:

Penny Eggleston
Anna Lammersen
Gail Podany
Carol Semrau
Nancy Sullivan

To acknowledge and thank retiring committee chairs:

Kurt Jablonski, Library
Chris Brooks, Marketing
Judith Carter, Courtesy

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 Renaissance Dallas North Hotel for their attentive service and support in helping to make this 80th Annual AVSA Convention and Show a great success.

Now, therefore, be it further resolved:

That a copy of this resolution shall be made a part of the minutes of this 2026 AVSA Annual Meeting.

Jill Jensen, Chair

Lest We Forget

Members of AVSA who have died in the past year
(May 30, 2025 – May 30, 2026)

(As of May 30, 2026)

Carol Ann Allegretti, FL

Sallie Barlow, LA

Johnnie Berry, GA

Carol J. Boyd, IL

Ron Brenton, MI

Bonnie J. Formella, IL

Ruth Loomis, AZ

Pat Mattson, MN

Shirley Rae Swait, MO



**AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA
OPEN FORUM**

Candice Baldwin, Facilitator, called the Open Forum to order at 3:54 pm Central Time.

The following questions were received:

Edna Alexander--Why does a judge have to buy a breakfast to attend the meeting at Judges' Breakfast? Mary Corondan—each hotel has a minimum food and beverage which we have to reach. The hotel adds 25 per cent gratuity in the contract. When you attend Judges' Breakfast it is for your own benefit. The reason for not having to pay for breakfast at the Affiliate Breakfast is that it benefits the entire society and affiliates. Everything said at the Judges' Breakfast will be in the July issue of the *AVM*. Canada has shows before July and Handbook changes will appear in the Sept/Oct *AVM*. All the information discussed will be there.

Jill Jensen: Do we have a membership number? Stephen Covolo-Hudson—2,564

Erin Charles: A few years ago, Operating Fund needed help, how are we doing? Terri Post—almost breaking even. We are trying to break even, let's not let up—we want to gain. Appreciation was expressed to Terri Post, Randy G. Deutsch and the finance committee for what they do.

Susan Anderson: What is the status of First Class? Richard Craft—we are working on it. We will be paying consultants to look at it and it will probably be rewritten. Three people have been interviewed for the position. We currently have someone who knows visual basic and is updating it manually. It is up to date on newest registrations. We just need time.

Ann MacBurnett —Could it be in Access? No—a new coding with new operating system is needed that can be used easier. Hopefully by end of year, it will be announced.

Janet Castiglione: Will First Class program and Entries program “talk” to each other? Yes, it will. Wants to have it no matter the cost. There must be cross compatibility. Will updates be in the entries program? Yes

No further questions were received and the Open Forum adjourned at 4:10 pm Central Time.

Sue Ramser
Secretary