

**MINUTES**  
**THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**Wednesday, May 27, 2026**  
**Dallas, Texas**

President Glenda Williams called the meeting of the AVSA Board of Directors to order at 9:01 a.m. Central Time in the Trinity II Room of the Renaissance Dallas North Hotel, Dallas, Texas. Richard Craft, Second 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: Glenda Williams, Rich Follett, Richard Craft, Dr. Minh Bui, Sue Ramser, Randy G. Deutsch, Terri Post, Penny Eggleston, Anna Lammersen, Gail Podany, Donna Christianson, Bob Clark, Dr. Jeffery Hudson-Covolo, Mary B. Thompson, Winston Goretsky, Becky McMeel, Sandi Soto, Dr. Jeff Smith, Kathy Bell, Kathy Lahti, Scott Ammann, Stephen Covolo-Hudson and Jill Jensen. Also in attendance were Candace Baldwin, Susan Anderson, Amy Carruth, Sophia Bennett, Stephanie Travis, Alfredo Hernandez, Mark Romansky and Michelle Wickersheim. Past Presidents who were in attendance: Susan Anderson, Sue Ramser, Winston Goretsky, Linda L. Hall and Ron Davidson.

President Williams announced the following Board Members were excused: Carol Semrau, Nancy Sullivan, Holly Howes, Summer Holladay, Chris Brooks, Mary Corondan and Bill Patterson.

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

Courtesy Seats were extended to the following: Director Nominees: Alfredo Hernandez, Mark Romansky, Michelle Wickersheim; Past Presidents: Joyce Stork (excused); Ron Davidson; Linda Hall, Winston Goretsky; Sue Ramser; Susan Anderson, Mary Corondan (excused); Special Committee Chairmen (several were in attendance); Staff: Office Manager: Amy Carruth; AVM Editor: Sophia Bennett; Office Secretary, Stephanie Travis and Dallas Convention Chairmen: Randy G. Deutsch, Chair, Mary Corondan, Show Chair (excused).

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 Williams announced the meeting recess: Break @ 10:30 AM, Lunch @ 12:15 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 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, Kathy Lahti reported the 2025 Minutes were approved.

Election of the 2026-2027 Nominating Committee: President Glenda Williams announced the Executive Committee elected Kathy Lahti, Minnesota, Chair and opened the floor for Nominations for the remaining four members. President Williams reminded the Board that the Nominees should be geographically distributed. Members of the 2025-2026 Nominating Committee ineligible are: Chris Brooks, Susan Anderson, Sandi Soto, and

Randy G. Deutsch. President Williams also stressed not to duplicate nominees holding AVSA Committee Chair positions and the Committee should have one past President. The following were nominated: Scott Ammann, Illinois, Donna Christianson, North Dakota, Becky McMeel, Louisiana, and Linda Hall, Missouri. No further nominations were received and the motion was made and seconded the above nominees serve as the 2026-2027 Nominating Committee and the motion was approved.

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.

The Executive Committee met in the fall and Monday, May 25. 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 4

Sue Ramser moved the following P&P motion be approved:

Policies and Procedures Committee be amended to: Insert p. 32, Section 5, Officers and Directors, H. as follows:

##### H. Past President

1. Shall offer institutional knowledge, history and support to the Board to ensure leadership continuity.
2. Shall serve as an experienced advisor and resource, providing documentation of past practices and prior decisions.
3. Assists in strategic planning the ensure alignment with Society goals for long-term success.
4. Shall meet with the President within a month of installation into office to discuss transition items, timeline of activities, staffing needs, and committee issues.
5. Shall prepare and submit a budget for consideration to the Finance Chair by December 1. Shall receive a budget allowance as authorized by the Board. Bills and/or substantiating receipts of all expenses incurred in the performance of duties shall be required and shall be mailed to the Treasurer.
6. Shall submit to the Secretary by March 1 a written report of all work since the last Annual Meeting. The original copy shall be filed in the AVSA office. Prior to the Board Meeting, Board members must review the packet of submitted reports of all officers, directors and committee chairs found on the Board section of the AVSA website.

#### Motion 5

Sue Ramser moved the following P&P motion be approved:

That Virtual Violet Connection be added to Policies and Procedures to read as follows:

##### VII. Standing and Special Committees

##### **KK. Virtual Violet Connection Committee – Special Committee**

1. Purpose – To provide webinar presentations by experts in their field for the AVSA membership.
2. Duties of the Chair
  - a. Shall arrange for a total of at least three (3) live presentations annually.
  - b. Shall seek and gauge topics of interest the organization and its members deem worthy for a Virtual Violet Connection webinar and seek appropriate experts that will provide an engaging learning experience to AVSA members.
  - c. Once the topic, expert speaker, and dates are determined, the Chair will contact appropriate committee chairs from the Marketing and TechWeb committees to assist with advertising and deploying technical assistance to ensure webinars are properly prepared or pre-recorded, and members have ample time to register for the virtual webinar.

- d. Shall prepare and submit a budget for consideration to the Finance Chair by December 1.
  - e. Shall receive a budget allowance as authorized by the Board. Bills and/or substantiating receipts of all expenses incurred in the performance of duties shall be required and shall be sent to the Treasurer.
  - f. Shall submit to the Secretary by March 1 a written report of all work since the last Annual Meeting. The original copy shall be filed in the AVSA office. Prior to the Board Meeting, Board Members must review the packet of submitted reports of all officers, directors and committee chairs found on the Board section of the AVSA website.
3. Duties of the Committee
- a. Shall provide the TechWeb Chair an infographic ad announcing the Virtual Violet Connection webinar for insertion onto the AVSA home page.
  - b. Shall provide the AVM Editor, observing established magazine deadlines, an article announcing the Virtual Violet Connection webinar for insertion in the upcoming AV Magazine, prior to the webinar.

#### Motion 6

Sue Ramser moved the following P&P motion be approved:

To update the AVSA Policies and Procedures Manual, Section 1 - Memberships, Subsection B - Membership Applications — Types and Dues, Paragraph 1 - Individual Membership/International Individual Membership, to read as follows:

Membership Applications — Types and Dues

- 1. Individual Membership/International Individual Membership
  - a. All individual dues, both domestic and international, shall be paid annually in USD funds.
  - b. Current dues amounts will be published in the Join/Renew section on the AVSA website.
  - c. All memberships are for a one-year period. Membership cards are included on the cover of the AVM with the exception of the Associate and Digital memberships cards which are mailed annually.
  - d. There shall be no pro rata refund of dues for any reason.

#### Motion 7

Sue Ramser moved behalf of the Finance Committee to Change P&P. p. 80, Section 7, CC. Salary Committee, 2. Duties of Chair to read:

- a. Shall prepare a list of suggested salary changes for presentation to the ~~Board~~. **Executive Committee as per the recommendation of the Treasurer and the Finance Committee.**

Rationale: To align the P & P with current practices.

Motions 4-7 were approved as read.

It was agreed to consider Motion 8 separately.

Sue Ramser moved on behalf of the Plant Registration and Master List Committee to update P&P Section 7 X Plant Registration and Master Plant List Committee -Standing Committee to read:

- 1. General Rules
  - a. ~~Plant reservation fee shall be \$1.00 for a two (2) year period, effective from the date received for an AVSA member and \$5.00 for a two (2) year period for a non member. Renewals of name reservations shall be subject to the same appropriate fee per name for one additional two (2) year~~

~~period. This fee applies toward the registration fee if registration takes place within the two year period.~~

**Rational- Suggest deletion of name reservations. It hasn't been used in the two years and it's another loose piece of data to track. The committee can protect alpha names from poaching.**

- a. The purpose of the Plant Registration and Master Plant List Committee is to oversee the registration and/or listing of new cultivars to the Master Plant List maintained for the African Violet Society of America.
- b. ~~The registration fee shall be \$5.00 per name.~~  
Registration and listing fees in USD shall be as follows:
  - Registration, AVSA Member - ~~\$10.00~~ per name
  - Registration, AVSA nonmember - ~~\$15.00~~ per name
  - Listing AVSA Member - ~~\$8.00~~ per name
  - Listing AVSA nonmember - \$12.00 per name
- c. Parentage of registered cultivars shall be required.
- d. Parentage of listed cultivars is not required, for example, with plants grown from unknown seed sources.
- e. Evidence of genetic stability through three generations is required for registered cultivars.
- f. Plants with less than 90% genetic stability should be listed, not registered.
- g. The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants is the authority for the acceptance of new names selected for Saintpaulia cultivars by this committee.
- h. This committee, ~~in conjunction with the Commercial Activities Committee,~~ shall be empowered to modify or change the format of registration applications.

**Rational-The Commercial Activities Committee no longer exists under this name.**

The Executive Committee will be informed of modifications or changes to the format of registration applications.

- i. The AVSA website, under the Plant Registration section, documents the full requirements for plant registration and listing.
2. Duties of the Chair
- a. Shall keep a complete record of all registered varieties.
  - b. Shall be responsible to ensure, before publication, that descriptions of registered cultivars in all AVSA publications agree with the application information in the registration files.
  - c. Shall furnish a list with full descriptions of new registered varieties ~~and new name reservations~~ to the Editor for each issue of the AVM, adhering to established magazine deadlines.
  - d. Shall list in a column in each issue of the AVM all changes/corrections to a hybridizer's description of a previously ~~listed~~ registered cultivar **or listing.**
  - e. ~~Shall request names and descriptions of non-registered cultivars from known hybridizers.~~

**Rational- This item cannot be used to add cultivars to First Class and does not serve a purpose. Striking this item will change the letters for the following items.**

- f. Shall be responsible for the compilation of the AVSA African Violet Master List of Species and Cultivars (AVML) and its supplements, including both registered and ~~non-registered~~ listed cultivars. These documents are to be sent to the Editor for publication. Supplements are to be compiled annually, and a new edition of the AVML is to be compiled as requested by the Plant Registration and Master Variety List Committee and the AVSA Executive Committee. Pricing shall be the responsibility of the Finance Committee with advice from the Plant Registration and Master Plant List Committee.

After discussion Dr. Jeff Smith, maker of the original motion, agreed to amend the motion as follows: 1 b. Strike dollar amounts and insert b. Current fees shall be paid in USD Funds and will be published in the AVM and on the AVSA website.

The amendment to Motion 8 was second and approved. The amended Motion 8 was seconded and adopted.

#### Motion 9

Sue Ramser moved on behalf of the AVSA Executive Committee to revert all Lifetime members to digital subscription by May 1, 2027 unless the Lifetime member contacts the AVSA Office no later than March 1, 2027 to prevent any disruption in magazine delivery. Prior to reversion, the notice to advise Lifetime members to contact the AVSA Office will be printed in three (3) consecutive AV Magazines: Sept-Oct 2026, Nov-Dec 2026, and Jan-Feb 2027 to ensure members see the notice.

The motion was adopted.

#### Motion 10

Sue Ramser moved on behalf of the AVSA Executive Committee that the AVM and AVSA website include a permanent announcement (in each issue of the magazine and in perpetuity on the website) requesting notification of members who pass away for updating records and inclusion in "Lest We Forget".

The motion was adopted.

Officers submitted their reports in advance. The following Officer added to their report: Finance – Terri Post.

#### Motion 11

Terri Post moved on behalf of the Finance Committee that the 2026-2027 Budget be approved.

The motion came from a committee and did not require a second. The 2026-2027 Budget was adopted.

No Directors added to their reports.

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

Convention – Kathy Lahti.

#### Motion 12

Kathy Lahti moved on behalf of the Convention Committee that the Board approve the following 2027 Allentown, Pennsylvania Convention Committee Chairs:

Randy Deutsch, Convention Chair;  
Jackie Leitzel, Local Convention Chair;  
Lisa Bradley, Convention Show Chair; and  
April Van Ness, Convention Show Co-Chair.

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

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

Scholarship – Dr. Minh Bui.

Motion 13

Dr. Minh Bui moved on behalf of the Scholarship Committee to award TWO (2) merit-based scholarships for 2026-2027 valued at \$1,000 each to Austin Bierl (highest scoring candidate) and Mao Kobayashi (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 reports from Staff.

New Business

Winston Goretsky commended Terri Post and the Finance Committee on their work.

Announcements

President Williams reminded members to attend the Annual Meeting and Open Forum on Saturday in order that a quorum is established.

Amy Carruth, Office Manager, announced the Meet the Board Luncheon room is changed to the Hotel Restaurant.

The Nominating Committee is requested to stay after this meeting.

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.

No other business was conducted and the meeting adjourned at 9:59 am Central Time.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Sue Ramser, Secretary

Committee to Approve:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Thompson, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen Covolo-Hudson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandi Soto

**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.