



# The Mid-American

Newsletter of The Mid-America Orchid Congress

Spring 2019

<http://www.midamericanorchids.org>

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## Save the Date!

**“Fall in Love with Orchids” in Milwaukee, WI, for the Fall MAOC, September 13-15, 2019**



The Fall Mid-America Orchid Congress will be held jointly with the Wisconsin Orchid Society Fall Show in Milwaukee, Wisconsin September 13-15, 2019. The Fall Show will be presented in the “Show Dome” of the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory.



The Domes, with their unique conoidal or beehive-like shape, provide excellent lighting

and climate control and are located close to the downtown area as well as Potawatomi Casino. Mid-America lectures and meetings will be located at the nearby Art Deco-style Ambassador Hotel Milwaukee, 2308 West Wisconsin Avenue, which will provide shuttle service to the Domes.

Ms. Wenqing Perner will give an afternoon lecture as well as an evening lecture following the banquet.

Lecture topics are being developed as are additional speakers. Wenqing and her late husband, Holger, developed and operated Hengdian Mountains Biotechnology Nursery and Laboratory in Sichuan, China that featured *Cypripediums* and *Paphiopedilums* from the area.

Electronic registration is being prepared but not yet available. An email blast will be sent with the information when it is functional. To make room reservations at the Ambassador Hotel Milwaukee, please contact them at 877-935-2189 or [ambassadorhotelmke.com](http://ambassadorhotelmke.com) and ask for Wisconsin Orchid Society room rates (\$109 single occupancy and \$129 double occupancy; all are queen-size beds.)

The Domes at Milwaukee’s Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory feature three different horticultural environments: desert oasis, tropical jungle and floral gardens.

In 2016, the Domes were cited as being among America’s “most endangered” historic places by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The conservatory was deemed an important example of the nation’s architectural

and cultural heritage that is at risk of destruction or irreparable damage.

For more information, please visit their website:  
<https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/Parks/Explore/The-Domes>.

For more details about the show, visit  
<https://www.wisconsinorchidsociety.com>

### **A Message from Your President**

The Mid-America Orchid Congress (MAOC)



was pleased to meet in conjunction with the Greater Lansing Orchid Society's annual show on February 23rd and 24th, 2019. Our events and meetings were held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in

Lansing where we have met at prior MAOC events held in Lansing, Michigan. The Crown Plaza lived up to and exceeded past performances on all aspects of our event there. Dennis Whigham gave a very informative presentation covering native orchids, their ecology and the efforts to conserve them. Leon Glicenstein presented a program on Habenarias and related genera. Leon also did a presentation on the cloud forests of Costa Rica after a fun time at the MAOC auction and a Mexican buffet.

Donna Lipowicz, and the Affiliated Societies Committee held their traditional breakfast Sunday morning and discussed how to deal with members who present difficult challenges to running a pleasant and efficient meeting.

The orchid show which is held on the Michigan State University campus was up to its usual diversity and high standards and there were many fine vendors offering a wide range of tempting orchids to add to one's collection.

A big thank you to Doris Asher and the many GLOS members who helped make this event a great experience and also to the "faithful" of MOAC who are always there to make sure our events run smoothly. Oh yes, also the weatherperson who arranged for reasonable Michigan February weather!

Our next MAOC meeting will be held on September 14-15 2019 in Milwaukee,

Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Orchid Society will be our hosts. The show will be located in the show dome of the historic Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory. You should not miss this experience as this venue is truly amazing in its scale and architectural design. The meetings, presentations, auction and banquet will be held at the Ambassador Hotel near downtown Milwaukee and it too will be a treat for your eyes at it was designed in the Art Deco Style of the 1920's. The room rate is reasonable for such a splendid place and they will have a shuttle to Mitchell Park to visit the show and vendors. We will be putting more information about this event on the MAOC web site or visit the Wisconsin Orchid Society site as details become available. This will be a great event that you will want to enjoy so don't miss it!

One aside: Because the Wisconsin Orchid Society is hosting MAOC, they will receive half of the proceeds of the auction. These events have great orchids and orchid related items, even food items, are a lot of fun and realize a good sum of money to be shared with the host society. Soooo, take note member societies. Host the MOAC, there are a lot of benefits to host an event.

See you in Milwaukee!

Russ Vernon-President, MAOC

### **Mid-America Orchid Congress Spring Business Meeting Lansing, MI February 24, 2019**

(NOTE: This is a draft subject to approval at the Spring 2019 Congress. Corrections should be sent to Secretary Doris Asher: [Asherdoris44@gmail.com](mailto:Asherdoris44@gmail.com))

President Russ Vernon called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. He thanked the members of the Greater Lansing Orchid Society for their beautiful Show and Beth Martin for making all of the arrangements – he expressed compliments to her on her choice of the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Secretary Doris Asher called the roll, and the following societies were represented:

Alabama Orchid Society  
 Ann Arbor Orchid Society  
 Atlanta Orchid Society  
 Batavia Orchid Society  
 Central Indiana Orchid Society  
 Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society  
 Greater Lansing Orchid Society  
 Greater Pensacola Orchid Society  
 Gulf Coast Orchid Society  
 Huntsville Orchid Society  
 Kentucky Orchid Society  
 Memphis Orchid Society  
 Miami Valley Orchid Society  
 Michiana Orchid Society  
 Michigan Orchid Society  
 Mobile Area Orchid Society  
 Native Orchid Preservation and Education Society (NOPEs)  
 Niagara Frontier Orchid Society  
 Northeast Alabama Orchid Society  
 Northwestern Michigan Orchid Society  
 Northland Orchid Society  
 Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City  
 Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee  
 Orchid Society of Minnesota  
 Orchid Society of the Ozarks  
 Peoria Orchid Society  
 Saginaw Valley Orchid society  
 Smoky Mountain Orchid Society  
 South Metro Orchid Society  
 Three Rivers Orchid Society  
 Windsor Orchid Society

The following societies were not represented:

Blue Grass Orchid Society  
 Central Iowa Orchid Society  
 Central Missouri Orchid Society  
 Central Ohio Orchid Society  
 Central Ontario Orchid Society  
 Eastern Iowa Orchid Society  
 Essex County Orchid Society  
 Grand Valley Orchid Society  
 Greater Akron Orchid Society  
 Greater Cleveland Orchid Society  
 Greater Omaha Orchid Society  
 Greater Toledo Orchid Society  
 Illinois Orchid Society  
 Illowa Orchid Society  
 London Orchid Society  
 Mansfield Orchid Society  
 Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society

Orchid Growers Guild of Madison WI  
 Orchid Society of the Royal Botanic Gardens  
 Orchid Society of Greater St Louis  
 Prairie State Orchid Society  
 South Mississippi Orchid Society  
 Springfield Orchid Society  
 Wisconsin Orchid Society  
 West Shore Orchid Society of Northern Ohio  
 Doris declared that there was a quorum.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Congress approved the minutes from the Business Meeting in Independence, MO, October 28, 2018, as distributed.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Michele Little reported total income for 2018 of \$7,472 and total expenses of \$11,467.



In addition, she presented the following report on the status of our various trophies with a high of \$3,967 for the Clifford & Vivian Walters Oncidium Award to a low of \$335 for the Ray McCullough Epidendrum/Encyclia Award:

**MAOC Trophy Fund Status as of 2018**

Fund	Balance
Fox Valley Cypripedium Award	\$726.97
Ray McCullough Epidendrum/Encyclia Award	\$335.23
Clifford & Vivian Walters Oncidium Award	\$3967.49
FL Stevenson Pleurothallid Award	\$2195.98
Delbert Lowell Jacks Best Specimen Award	\$1679.72
Christine Chowning Angraecum Species Award	\$483.18
Henry C Holmes Oncidium Award	\$1204.08

Essay Prize	\$1111.97
Conservation Speaker's Fund	\$7506.23
Shirley Burr Moore Speaker's Fund	\$8032.89
FL Stevenson Orchidist of the Year Award	\$2249.64

Michele reported that the Congress had at the end of 2018 restricted funds in the amount of \$28,116 and unrestricted funds of \$53,379 for a total net worth of \$81,495.

She announced that she has received membership dues from a new affiliated society: NOPES (Native Orchid Preservation & Education Society). In the absence of Roberta Ginavan, Michele reported that the Saturday night auction brought in \$1,007.

Motion to approve passed.

**Committee Reports:**

**Affiliated Societies:**

Chair Donna Lipowicz reported on the



Committee's very successful Breakfast with the discussion on "How Do You Handle Difficult or Inappropriate People in Your Society?" (report on pages 9-10). She announced

that the Breakfast topic for the Fall meeting in Milwaukee will be "What does the MAOC do for your Society?" Motion to approve passed.

**Annual Meeting:**

Chair Beth Martin announced that, after eleven



years, she is stepping down as the Chair of the Committee although she offered to advise the new Chair if she/he would like. She thanked the Greater

Lansing Orchid Society for welcoming MAOC to meet in conjunction with their Show. This has been a very enjoyable weekend for all! She announced that the Fall Meeting of the Congress is being hosted by the Wisconsin Orchid Society in Milwaukee on September 13-15, 2019, at the Mitchell Park Domes.

Our spring 2020 meeting will be in conjunction with the Miami Valley Orchid Society Show, February 14 – 16, 2020, at the Cox Arboretum in Dayton, OH. For our Spring 2021 meeting, she has received an invitation from the Three Rivers and Central Indiana Orchid Societies to co-host. This meeting will be held at Ball State University in Muncie, IN, March 26-28, 2021.

Fall 2020 and all other meeting dates are open, and Beth asked for help from one and all. She can provide data from past meetings of the Congress to help societies decide if they can host a meeting.

Motion to approve passed.

**AOS Liaison:** Doris Asher presented the following report:

"Since I last reported to you at our meeting in



Independence, MO, last fall on October 28, the AOS met in Apopka, FL, October 31-November 4. I want to report to you on the personnel actions that the Judging Committee took at

that time:

Mid-America judges **promoted from Certified Judge, Associate to Certified Judge, Accredited:**

- Laura Bonnell (Toronto)
- Steve Gonzalez-Costa (Chicago)

Mid-America judges **promoted from Student Judge to Certified Judge, Associate:**

- Leslie Ee (Toronto)
- Jim France (Cincinnati)
- Melissa Garner (Mid-America)
- Teresa Huesman (Cincinnati)

One Mid-America judge has become **senior judge**: Tony Nuccio (Chicago)

These Mid-America judges were granted **leaves of absence**:

Gilberto Arrieche-Sayago (Accredited) (Toronto) (7/1/18 – 12/31/18)

John Gross (Student) (Mid-America) (5/12/18 – 11/12/18)

Brittany Payeur (Accredited) (Chicago) (8/1/18 – 8/1/19)

These Mid-America people have **resigned from the judging program**:

Brittany Lowery (student – Mid-America)  
John Wachsmuth (retired – Chicago)

One Mid-America person **transferred**:

William Overton (accredited) from  
Florida North Central to Great Lakes

With regret, the **deaths** of the following Mid-America judges were noted:

James Newsome (Accredited) (Atlanta)  
Glenda Lask (Accredited) (Great Lakes)

### **2019 Judging Center Chairs and Vice Chairs**

Atlanta: Doug Hartong, Chair; David Mellard, Vice Chair

Chicago: Lois Cinert, Chair; Nile Dusdieker, Vice Chair

Cincinnati: Alexa Noel, Chair; Glenn Evans, Vice Chair

Great Lakes: Greg Filter, Chair; Sandy Ohlund, Vice Chair

Mid-America: Nathan Bell, Chair; David Taylor, Vice Chair

Toronto: Joyce Medcalf, Chair; Theresa Kennedy, Vice Chair

Montreal: Andre Couture, Chair; Marie-Odile Benoit-Biancamano, Vice Chair

### **Two Mid-America Orchids winning 2017 AOS Special Awards:**

Robert B. Dugger Award:

*Oncidium* Pui Chin 'Flying Tiger' AM/AOS (*Oncidium tigrinum* x *Oncidium* Golden Dawn (1980)) 88 pts. Exhibitor: New Vision Orchids; photographer: Richard Noel. Cincinnati Judging Center

Fred Hillerman Award:

*Aerangis biloba* 'Winterfell' CCM/AOS 86 pts. Exhibitor: Orchids Limited; photographer: Lois Cinert. Chicago Judging Center

Some general news items from the AOS which you may find of interest:

The Society published its tenth special annual supplement last October on *Cymbidium*, the largest supplement yet – 80 pages. Ron McHatton expects to do one next fall on *Oncidium*. People are welcome to buy extra copies of the *Cymbidium* supplement at \$25.

Members number slightly more than 10,000 and have been consistently above 10,000 since September. The Membership and Marketing Committees have been merged into a single committee and have been very effective in gaining new members.

On April 10, 2021, the Society will celebrate its 100-year anniversary. Bob Fuchs is already hard at work putting together a celebration at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables.

The Society has created a “Master Orchidist” program, similar to the very successful Master Gardener Program. Look for that to be rolled out later this year.

There are three new annual awards given for the first time for the year 2017, the Walter Off Award, recognizing the most outstanding Show Trophy exhibit of the prior year. The Paul and Mary Storm Award will be given to the grower of the orchid plant regarded as the most outstanding example of a hybrid with at least one valid *Myrmecopilia* species and/or the

former *Schomburgkia* species now classified in the genus *Laelia* (or any related species or natural hybrids later described) in its background. The third new award, the Martin Motes Orchid Breeder's Award, goes to the grower and hybridizer of the orchid plant regarded as the most outstanding Award of Quality (AQ) or Award of Distinction (AD).

The spring AOS Members' Meeting will be in San Diego, March 22-24, 2019, and I plan to attend."

Motion to approve passed.

**Audit Committee:** On behalf of the MAOC Audit Committee, Alexa Noel reported that she had completed an audit of the financial records of the Mid-America Orchid Congress for 2018 and found that the records were complete and in order. All documents, receipts and bank records are organized. All duties of the Treasurer were completed accurately.

Motion to approve passed.

**Awards Committee:**

Chair Anna Morrison reported to the delegates that the Raymond McCullough Award for the Best Epidendrum /Encyclia in the Show is getting low on funds – \$335. This is enough for several more years. (Special thanks to Michelle Little and Jeanne Rhinehardt for providing the photos of the show and awards.)



Anna then announced the winners of the Mid-America awards at the Greater Lansing Orchid Society Show on February 23, 2019:

**The Mid-America Trophy** – to the most outstanding exhibit staged by an affiliated society of the Mid-America Orchid Congress:



Greater Lansing Orchid Society.

**Henry C. Holmes Award** -- best *Oncidium* alliance plant:



Oncostele Tiger Barb AM 85 pts (*Rhynchostele maculata* x *Oncidium* Tiger Hamburen), Luba Durisin (Three Rivers Orchid Society)

**Delbert Lowell Jacks Award** – best specimen plant:



*Phragmipedium Grande 'Monroe'* (*longifolium* x *humboldtii*), Lori Lickly (Saginaw Valley Orchid Society).

**F.L. Stevenson Award** – best pleurothallid:



*Pleurothallis niveoglobula*, New World Orchids, Manchester, MI

**Fox Valley Award** – cypripedium alliance plant receiving highest AOS award:



*Phragmipedium Inca Embers 'Surprise'* AM 85 pts (*Andean Fire* x *longifolium*), Linda Sule (Saginaw Valley Orchid Society) (Photo © L.O'Shaughnessey)

The AOS Show Trophy went to the exhibit of:



the Michigan Orchid Society.

The Best Orchid in the show went to *Phragmipedium Grande 'Monroe'* (*longifolium* x *humboldtii*), Lori Lickly (Saginaw Valley Orchid Society) (photo on previous page)

In addition, there were four AOS flower awards:



Cattleya Nora's Melody 'Sylvia' AM 83 pts (Love Knot x Little Dipper), Larry Galdes, Portage, MI (Photo © L.O'Shaughnessey)

Oncostele Tiger Barb AM 85 pts (*Rhynchostele maculata* x *Oncidium* Tiger Hamburen), Luba Durisin (Three Rivers Orchid Society) (photo on previous page)



*Ophrys ferrum-equineum* subsp. Ferrum-equineum 'Iron Horse' AM 81 pts, Doug & Beth Martin, Shawnee, KS (Photo D.Martin)

*Phragmipedium* Inca Embers, AM 85 pts (Andean Fire x *longifolium*), Linda Sule (Saginaw Valley Orchid Society) (photo on previous page)

Motion to approve passed.

**Budget:** The Budget Committee reports at the Fall Meeting.

**Communications:** In the absence of a Committee Chair, there was no report.

**Conservation:**

Chair Bill Morrison reported that the Committee



met in East Lansing on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm. Present were Jack Shumaker, Russ Vernon, Brian Spitler, Doug Martin, and Bill Morrison. Michele Little sat in as a prospective member. They

considered two grant applications.

They first considered the application from Marjorie McNeely Conservatory. This year, due to staff availability they decided to apply in the spring. The grant was thin on the details of what they wanted to add to their collection.

The Committee conditionally approved the grant based on getting more details on what they want to purchase.

The second grant considered the grant application from NOPES (Native Orchid Preservation & Education Society) for the continued restoration effort in the Cranberry Bog Nature Preserve. Jeanne Rhinehart attended to explain the project and what had been done to date. The grant application was also thin on details. We decided to fund the grant for \$400, although there was no total requested.

The two grants were approved by the Committee. Motion to approve passed.

**Constitution and By-Laws:** Chair Charles Wilson has been emailing with Russ on several possible Constitution changes – nothing at this time.

**Education and Research:** Although the Committee did not report, the Congress moved that they give \$500 to the NAOCC (North

American Orchid Conservation Center). Motion passed.

**Historical:** There was no report.

**Nominating:** In the absence of the Committee Chair, Doris Asher reported that the Nominating Committee is making good progress in preparing its slate for election at the Fall Meeting.

**Orchidist of the Year:** The Committee reports at the Fall Meeting.

**Show Schedule:** As Lois Cinert was unable to attend due to illness, Russ read the Committee's Report: "The Show Schedule Committee is alive and well, and still working to make the show schedule a user-friendly document for every society to make their show registration as easy as possible."

We are continuing to gather numbers of entries for each class, in anticipation of a total renumbering, probably in 2020. This project will include a major change to Dendrobium and a tentative change to Pleurothallid.

We are also gathering genus information for classes 98 and 99, in order to perhaps change which genera are included in those classes and which may need to have a class of their own. As of now, while there are trends showing that some genera are grown and shown by many exhibitors, there is not enough of an indication yet that the classes need to be divided. Please keep sending a detailed breakdown of those two classes so we can make an informed determination.

The Committee sent the revised rules and current show schedule to all MAOC societies listed with shows in *Orchids*. This information was sent to the contact listed in the magazine. This covered shows through April, 2019. Subsequently listed shows will also be sent the information in time for them to incorporate the changes in their shows. If a society has a different contact person who should receive this, please let me know.

We continue to attempt to make the show schedule a guideline for orchid society shows. If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact any committee member, or all of us! We love to hear from you." Motion to approve passed.

**Technology:** In the absence of a Committee Chair, there was no report.

**Ways and Means:** In the absence of Chair Roberta Ginavan, there was no report. Russ thanked the folks who helped with the auction Saturday night.

**Old Business:**

**Proposal to encourage attendance:** Russ announced that he and Jack Shumaker would be working on details of a plan to increase attendance at MAOC meetings by offering about \$250 per person for five societies – cover registration, the banquet and \$100 travel. This new task force will present the plan at the fall meeting in Milwaukee.

**New Business:**

1. As the Congress voted to abandon its Essay Contest at the Fall 2018 meeting in Independence, MO, meeting, there was a motion to transfer the money designated for the Contest (\$1,111) into a "contingency" fund. Motion passed.
2. Jeanne Rhinehart, Jack Shumaker, and Russ will be developing a Mid-America PowerPoint program – they solicited Mid-America photos. Please send the photos both to Jeanne and also to Russ.
3. Russ announced our new webmaster, Cheryl Erins, who will begin work on the new MAOC website later this spring when some of her judging and AOS responsibilities slow down. Russ thanked Brian Spitler for his years of service in that role.

There being no additional business to come before the Congress, Russ adjourned the meeting at 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Secretary Doris Asher

## MAOC Breakfast Meeting Spring 2019 in Lansing, MI

Chair Donna Lipowicz opened the Breakfast meeting at 8am with the topic “How to deal with difficult members of your society”. Donna started by giving an example of a member in her society that would ‘zero in’ on new members at a meeting and talk negatively about the President of the society (which was untrue). The society wrote a letter to that member that stated that they were not welcome in the society any longer and sent the dues check back to them.

She also gave an example of a member that came between the society and a judge/speaker that embarrassed the judge in front of his friends and society members. That member was politely asked not to return. One MAOC member spoke about a professional grower that placed 3 plants in a pot and showed it as one plant. The award was pulled, and they were asked not to return as a vendor at their show.

Another MAOC member told about how one small group of people broke their society into 2 clubs which caused a lot of animosity. They are now back as one club.

An MAOC member told about how, during a beginners’ class that he started for his society, another member of the society overheard him speak and corrected a mispronunciation of an orchid name. Another society member came to his aid and told him that person can’t grow orchids- can only pronounce them! “If the pronunciation is close enough that they know what you mean, it is close enough!”

Another MAOC member told about how a member of her society asked to volunteer at the annual show (wearing a society shirt) but was not a current member. They said they “hadn’t rejoined”. They were told that the show “wasn’t open to the public yet”!

Another MAOC member told of a member of their society that is very ‘caustic’ to members and is known for a hostile personality. They move plants in the exhibit at their show, ruining plants as they do it. They complain about members who bake for their meetings and

shows due to dietary restrictions that THEY have but no one has the guts to write a letter to ask that they stop coming.

Another example is the society member that has grown orchids for a long time and believes that their way is “the only way”! “And you have to do it this way!” This member volunteered to do the beginner’s group at their society and scared people away. The eventual solution was this person passed away, the society didn’t do anything to stop it. Could another parallel group be started to guide new people?

One MAOC member told of a member in his local society that would just start talking about whatever he wanted, regardless of the topic being discussed. Someone told him to “shut up”, that they had no regard for the society.

Another example was a member at a local society meeting that would constantly interrupt a speaker by asking question after question and not letting the speaker talk. They were told to stop asking questions until the very end. This same member would go through the member swap table and take lots of plants and then put them in her car. She was told privately to bring the plants back in. She never came back.

Another MAOC member told of when a long-time member of their club passed away and the society was selling that member’s collection. Another member bought plants but had switched the price tags to a lesser price. They were told that the “prices must have been a mistake” so that it was known what they did. Another MAOC member told someone else about confidential information discussed at a board meeting which then caused hard feelings with a vendor. Board members were told to not disclose this information.

Bottom line in all of this: try to quietly put a stop to this before it becomes a big problem, as difficult as it may be. Can say “I will take it under advisement” if people want you to do something which you feel is wrong. Or “we will take it up at a board meeting.”

The next Mid America Orchid Congress meeting will be held in Milwaukee, WI, September 13-15, 2019. The Affiliated Societies Breakfast topic on September 15 will

be: “What does the MAOC do for your Society?” We hope you will attend to learn how the Mid-America Orchid Congress strives to assist its member societies.

If you have questions or suggestions about the Mid-America Orchid Congress, please contact any member of the Affiliated Societies Committee – the MAOC is your organization.

Donna Lipowicz, Affiliated Societies Chair

## **KEY MID-AMERICA CONTACTS** **OFFICERS**

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## **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

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Orchidist of the Year: Lowell Jacks  
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[ljacks1941@gmail.com](mailto:ljacks1941@gmail.com)

Show Schedule: Lois Cinert  
630-739-1068; [George.cinert@att.net](mailto:George.cinert@att.net)

Show Tags: Hermann Pigors  
847-836-0456; [pigors@foxvalley.net](mailto:pigors@foxvalley.net)

Technology: vacant

Ways and Means: Roberta Ginavan  
712-487-3085; [ginavan.rl@gmail.com](mailto:ginavan.rl@gmail.com)

**Parting Shot:** Barry Jones, long-time MAOC supporter, helps raise the bids during the auction.

