**Mid-America Orchid Congress**

**Spring Business Meeting**

**Cox Arboretum**

**Dayton, OH**

**February 21, 2020**

President Russ Vernon called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m.

Secretary Doris Asher called the roll, and the following societies were represented:

Alabama Orchid Society

Ann Arbor Orchid Society

Atlanta Orchid Society

Blue Grass Orchid Society

Central Indiana Orchid Society

Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society

Greater Lansing Orchid Society

Huntsville Orchid Society

Kentucky Orchid Society

Memphis Orchid Society

Miami Valley Orchid Society

Michigan Orchid Society

Native Orchid Preservation and Education Society (NOPES)

Niagara Frontier Orchid Society

Northeast Alabama 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:

Batavia 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 Pensacola Orchid Society

Greater Toledo Orchid Society

Gulf Coast Orchid Society

Illinois Orchid Society

Illowa Orchid Society

London Orchid Society

Mansfield Orchid Society

Michiana Orchid Society

Mobile Area Orchid Society

Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society

Northland Orchid Society

Northwestern Michigan Orchid Society

Orchid Growers Guild of Madison WI

Orchid Society of Greater St Louis

Orchid Society of the Royal Botanic Gardens

Prairie State Orchid Society

South Mississippi Orchid Society

Springfield Orchid Society

West Shore Orchid Society of Northern Ohio

Wisconsin Orchid Society

Doris declared that there was a quorum.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Congress approved the minutes from the Business Meeting in Milwaukee, WI, September 15, 2019, as distributed.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Michele Little gave a comprehensive report on the Congress’ finances for the year 2019.

MAOC Net Worth

Year End 2019

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **PNC Checking** | **9287.00** |
| **PNC Money Market** | **55499.10** |
| **PNC CD #1 48 month 6/18/21** | **5508.47** |
| **PNC CD #2 36 month 6/21/20** | **6591.00** |
| **Total Net Worth** | **76885.57** |

**Restricted funds 18780.78 24.4%**

**Unrestricted funds 58104.79 75.6%**

**2019 Trophy Fund Report 2/14/2020:**

**Fox Valley Trophy - Cypripedium Award (Spring)**

2018 $689.52

Spring Exp $41.25

Income $4.25 (Calculated at 2.5% of 172.94-2018 interest income)

2019 Bal $ 652.52

**Ray McCullough Trophy - Epidendrum/Enclycia Award (Fall)**

2018 $280.98

Fall Exp $55.80

Income $1.73 (Calculated at 1.0% of 172.94-2019 Interest Income)

2019 Bal $ 229.91

**Clifford & Vivian Walters Oncidium Award (Fall)**

2018 $3946.49

Fall Exp $41.75

Income $24.45 (Calculated at 14.1% of 172.94-2019 Interest)

2019 Bal $3929.19

**FL Stevenson Pleurothalid Award (Spring)**

2018 $2145.01

Spring Exp $62.90

Income $13.22 (Calculated at 7.6% of 172.94-2019 Interest)

2019 Bal $2095.33

**Delbert Lowell Jacks Best Specimen Award (Spring and Fall)**

2018 $1609.01

Expense $79.70

Income $9.91 (Calculated at 5.7% of 172.94-2019 Interest Income)

2019 Bal $1539.22

**Christine Chowning Angraecum Species Award (Fall)**

2018 $433.57

Fall Exp $52.2

Income $2.67 (Calculated at 1.5% of 172.94-2019 Interest Income)

2019 Bal $384.04

**Henry C. and Lois Holmes Oncidium Award (Spring)**

2018 $1170.27

Spring Exp $40.20

Income $7.21 (Calculated at 4.2% of 172.94-interest income 2019)

2019 Bal $1137.28

**Conservation Speaker’s Fund (Spring- limit of $750)**

2018 $6797.04

Expense $750.00

Donations $

Income $41.88 (Calculated at 24.2% of 172.94 Interest Income 2019)

2019 Bal $6838.92

**Shirley Burr Moore Speaker Fund (Fall Keynote Speaker)**

2018 $8072.66

Expense $1500

Income $49.74 (Calculated at 28.8% of 172.94 Interest Income 2019)

2019 Bal $6622.40

**FL Stevenson Orchidist of the Year Award**

2018 $2239.99

Expense $62.90

Income $13.80 (Calculated at 8% of 172.94 Interest Income 2019)

2019 Bal $2190.89

Fox Valley $652.52

Ray McCullough $229.91

Clifford & Vivian Walters $3,929.19

FL Stevenson $2,095.33

Delbert Lowell Jacks $1,539.22

Christine Chowning $384.04

Henry C. and Lois Holmes $1,137.28

Conservation Speaker Fund $6838.92

Shirley Burr Moore Speaker Fund $6622.40

FL Stevenson Orchidist of the Year $2,190.89

Restricted Funds $18780.78

Michele completed her report detailing the 2019 income and expenses compared to budgeted figures. Actual income for 2019 was $7,161.09 (compared to a budgeted figure of $15,400). Actual expenses for 2019 were $11, 226.54 (compared to a budgeted figure of $18,125). Bottom line for 2019: operated at a deficit of $4,065.45.

Motion to approve passed.

Russ updated the delegates on various Committee news – new Committee members and Committee vacancies.

**Committee Reports:**

**Affiliated Societies**: Chair Donna Lipowicz announced that the Breakfast topic for the Spring meeting in Muncie, IN, will be “How Does Your Orchid Society Volunteer in Your Community?”. She reported that the Affiliated Societies discussion meeting held earlier in the morning on “How to Encourage Other Orchid Societies to Exhibit at Your Show” resulted in many suggestions and a lively exchange of ideas. This meeting was unusual in that it did not include a breakfast.

Motion to approve passed.

**Annual Meeting:** This Committee continues to have no Chair, but President Vernon reported that for our Spring 2021 meeting, the Three Rivers, Michiana, and Central Indiana Orchid Societies and the Friends of the Rinard Orchid Greenhouse will co-host at Ball State University in Muncie, IN, March 19-21, 2021.

Fall 2021 and all other meeting dates are open.

Motion to approve passed.

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

Since I last reported to you at our meeting in Milwaukee, WI, last fall on September 15, the AOS met in Homestead, FL, October 16-20. 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:**

Patrick Vuurman (Toronto)

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

Scott DeVito (Toronto)

Stanley Luk (Toronto)

Mid-America people **accepted as Student Judge:**

Atsushi Matsumoto (Atlanta)

Carlos Villarroel (Toronto)

One Mid-America judge requested change in status **to Senior Judge:**

Gail Furniss (Accredited) (Atlanta)

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

Brittany Payeur (Accredited) (Chicago) (leave of absence extended to 7/1/2020)

Richard Wells (Accredited) (Mid-America) (5/11/19 – 11/09/19)

These Mid-America judges returned from leaves of absence:

Gilberto Arrieche-Sayago (Toronto)

John Gross (Student) (Mid-America)

This Mid-America judge Resigned:

Synda Nelson (Associate) (Chicago)

This Mid-America judge **Transferred:**

Stanley Luk (Associate) from Toronto to Western Canada

**Center Chairs and Vice Chairs elected for 2020:**

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

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

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

Great Lakes: Chair: Dennis Seffernick; Vice-Chair: Greg Filter

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

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

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

**2018 AOS Special Awards** to Mid-America orchids**:**

Ann and Phil Jesup Botanical Trophy – Ophrys speculum subsp. Speculum ‘Jim’ AM/80, exhibitor Jim Pyrzynski, photographer Jim Pyrzynski, submitted by Mid-America JC

Robert B. Dugger Award – Oncidium alexandrae ‘Cream’ AM/82, exhibitor New Vision Orchids, photographer Richard Noel, submitted by Cincinnati JC

Ernest Hetherington Award – Cymbidium Geno’s Gem ‘Emerald Fire’ AM/83, exhibitor John and Cheryl Jaworski, photographer Richard Noel, submitted by Cincinnati JC

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

The post office is issuing a set of ten orchid stamps February 21st! The opening day ceremony will take place at the AOS Headquarters in Coral Gables. The stamps feature ten United States native species.

The Society published its eleventh special annual supplement last October on *Oncidium.* They are planning the twelfth supplement this fall on *Cymbidium.*

In April, the Society released its popular new orchid book, The American Orchid Society Guide to Orchids and Their Culture by Mary E. Gerritsen and Ron Parsons. The book sold out the first run (2,500 copies) in June – Headquarters ordered more, which are now back in stock with a list price of $24.95.

Although in Milwaukee, I announced the appointment of an AOS librarian, I am sorry to report that Jennifer Vina resigned on January 3, 2020. The Society is looking for her successor.

Ambitious IT projects – new OrchidsPlus (new name: OrchidPro). OrchidPro was accessible to members beginning October 1st and is now bundled with membership. A separate technology project aims to consolidate various computer systems such as iMis into one integrated system enabling the office staff to move seamlessly among various databases instead of having to access several different programs, such as affiliated society records, member records, the website, etc.

The AOS experienced a very serious ransomware attack in the fall. Fortunately, our paid and volunteer IT specialists were able to recover everything – the Society paid no ransom. However, the “fix” was extremely expensive; in addition, the Society has increased its protection measures, which also cost money.

Members number 10,400 and have been consistently above 10,000 for several months. The Membership and Marketing Committees have been merged into a single committee and have been very effective in gaining new members. A new membership structure began January 1, 2020 – a “silver membership” and a “gold membership” – for an additional $14 per year.

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 spring AOS Members’ Meeting will be in Sacramento, CA, April 15-19, 2020, and I plan to attend.

Motion to approve passed.

**Audit Committee**: Chair Alexa Noel was not able to attend the meeting but sent her completed report to Jan Yates who read it:

On behalf of the MAOC Audit Committee, I have completed an audit of the financial records of the Mid-America Orchid Congress for the year 2019. I have found that the records are complete and in good 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 was unable to attend the meeting; Jan Yates filled in with this report:

The Mid-America Trophy for Most Outstanding Exhibit by an Affiliated Society to the Miami Valley Orchid Society Exhibit   
  
The Henry C. and Lois Holmes Award for Best Oncidium Alliance Plant - Brassia Steve Male ‘John’s Gift’ AM/AOS owned by New Vision Orchids/Russ Vernon, Yorktown, IN  
  
Delbert Lowell Jacks Award for Best Specimen Plant - C. trianae ‘Highjack’ AM/AOS owned by Stephen Benjamin, Bardstown, KY  
  
FL Stevenson Award for Best Pleurothallid - Masd. Marinrod ‘Marsh Hollow’ HCC/AOS owned by New Vision Orchids/Russ Vernon, Yorktown, IN  
  
Fox Valley Award - Best Cypripedium Alliance plant. Awarded to the plant receiving the highest AOS award, or to the best of the Cypripedium class if no award. Paph. Magical Contrasts ‘OK Two’ AM/AOS of 86 points owned by Stephen Benjamin, Bardstown, KY  
  
In addition to the Award of Merit given to Paph. Magical Contrasts ‘OK Two’ AM/AOS, American Orchid Society Awards were awarded to Phrag. QF Walter Sheeren ‘Little Michele’ AM/AOS of 82 points owned by Steve Helbling, Cincinnati, OH  
  
Paph. hermanii ‘Oakwood Shocked’ HCC/AOS of 75 points owned by Jim France of Oakwood Orchids, Dayton, OH  
  
Max. dicheoides 'River Valley’ CBR/AOS owned by Eric Sauer, Dayton OH  
  
Miami Valley Orchid Society Exhibit - AOS Show Trophy and Silver Certificate of 87 points

Motion to approve passed.

**Budget:** Jan Yates, Chair of the Budget Committee, presented the 2021 budget as follows:

The next Congress business meeting is scheduled for spring 2021 in Muncie, IN, which accelerated preparation and passage of the 2021 budget – the figures listed below reflect some trends and actions the MAOC is taking for long-term viability. It remains hard to identify societies which are interested in hosting a Congress; either a fully hosted one or an in-conjunction show in which the MAOC organizes the Congress’ speakers, hotel, meals and meetings alongside a society’s regularly scheduled orchid show. Travel expenses inhibit attendance at either kind. So, this budget reflects an experiment in which the MAOC offers an educational scholarship to interested societies to offset some expenses and stoke interest in attending a Congress and show. 2021 will be the second year the scholarships are being offered and short-term, it puts the budget in the red. Long-term, MAOC delegates will evaluate the scholarships’ success and decide whether to continue them.

2021 Estimated Income

Auctions $ 3,725.00

Donations and Honoraria 200.00

Investment income 125.00

MAOC loan repayment n/a

MAOC In-conjunction show 1,500.00

(possibly for fall 2021, nothing scheduled yet)

Show Tags 250.00

Society Dues 1,400.00

$ 7,300.00

Society dues are holding steady, which is promising. Donations and honoraria are lower and donations are encouraged to support speakers, trophies, conservation and education projects.

2021 Estimated Expenses

Bank charges $ 0.00

Conservation grants 2,400.00

Conservation speaker (Endowed Fund) 750.00

Education Grants 900.00

Filing fee state of Ohio 50.00

Judging Center Support 900.00

($150 to 6 AOS Judging Centers in MAOC region)

Liability insurance 550.00

MAOC In-conjunction show 1,500.00

(none scheduled yet)

MAOC loan to host society n/a

MAOC Newsletter 100.00

Officer expenses 150.00

Scholarships to Societies 1,500.00

Shirley B Moore Speaker Fund (Endowed Fund) 1,500.00

(Pays $750 toward domestic speaker expenses;

$ 1,500 toward international speaker)

Trophies $ 550.00

(All trophies but one are endowed)

Website development 0.00

$ 10,850.00

Of this amount, cash in hand in the endowed funds covers $ 2,750 – other expenses, such as conservation grants, are limited not just by the dollars budgeted but by the number of grants approved.

Motion to approve passed.

**Communications:**  Committee Chair Jeanne Rhinehart presented the following report:

Beth Martin and Jeanne Rhinehart met with Susan Wilson by phone. Discussion points were the scholarship program, the MAOC PowerPoint program, The MidAmerican, personal contacts planned and a possible survey to affiliated societies.

Scholarships of $500 each went to the Michigan Orchid Society, the Kentucky Orchid Society, and the Niagara Frontier Orchid Society. Carolyn Butcher attended from the Michigan Orchid Society. Gloria Teague, Pam LaRocco, Steve Benjamin, Janet Smith, Anne-Marie Blanquaert-Bruyninck, and Larry Attwood attended from the Kentucky Orchid Society. Donna Lipowicz, Sue Charles, Barb Domagala, and Cynthia Robinson attended from the Niagara Frontier Orchid Society. The winning societies could choose to have one member use the $500 to attend or to split the amount among several members.

Susan and Charles Wilson are giving up the newsletter editor position after years of doing a great job keeping societies and their members apprised of the working of the Congress. Jeanne Rhinehart agreed to replace the Wilsons or to find someone else. Ann Tsui and Jeanne will work together on the newsletter.

The MAOC PowerPoint will be available on the website for affiliated society use. We hope to have volunteers to offer to use it to put on a free program to any society requesting it.

We also hope to personally contact several societies to help implement this. If any society would like to help with this, let Jeanne know.

The Excel registration file will be available after the present file has been updated with the new show schedule coming out in July 2020.

We also are creating a survey for societies to aid us in their knowledge of what MAOC does, what items they use, what else they would like help with, do they send representatives to annual meetings and why, what could be changed about the meetings to encourage their attendance and encourage committee membership.

Motion to approve passed.

**Conservation:** Chair Bill Morrison was unable to attend; Russ Vernon reported in Bill’s absence.

The Congress currently has four conservation projects under way for 2020:

1. Wheeler‐Thanhauser Orchid Collection and Species   
   Bank at Ball State. They are looking to add species phalaenopsis this   
   year.
2. NOPES – continuing the restoration work
3. Marjorie McNeely Conservatory in St Paul, MN
4. Minnesota Landscape Arboretum buying sphagnum for their demonstration beds

Motion to approve passed.

**Constitution and By-Laws:** Although Chair Charles Wilson was not at the meeting, Russ Vernon reported on the numerous possible Constitution and By-Laws amendments that are needed to accommodate our requiring just one meeting a year.

Motion to approve passed.

**Education and Research:** Although Chair Cheryl Erins was unable to attend, Committee member Doug Hartong presented her report that she had emailed to Russ. “I have had no reports or proposals from anyone for anything to be included on the educational side of the Website.  Any and all requests for something new should come to us for consideration.  If the Conservation Committee will be outlining any large requests for funding, then, per usual, the Education and Research Committee would consider sharing the funding.”

Motion to approve passed.

**Historical:** In the absence of a chair for this Committee, there was no report.

**Orchidist of the Year:** Doug Hartong is now the chair of this Committee. Doug reported that there would be no Orchidist of the Year at this time.

Motion to approve passed.

**Show Schedule:** Chair Lois Cinert was not at the meeting, but had emailed her report to Russ, who presented it:

“I have dotted all the 'i's, crossed all the 't's, minded my 'p's and 'q's, I hope to the satisfaction of everyone. We appreciate all who have participated in the extended conversations involved with producing the Show Schedule.

After two years of research, input from society registrars, growers of Pleurothallids and Dendrobiums, advice from those with taxonomic knowledge, the Mid-America Orchid Congress Show Schedule revision is ready for publication as of **July,** **2020.**

The committee has repeatedly asked for input and suggestions over the last two years, and we have taken every one under advisement, discussed relevance, and adjusted the schedule as the committee has determined will help the exhibitors and the registrars in making their shows successful.

The **final** version can be found on our website https://midamericanorchids.org, , along with a slightly revised Rules section, mostly edited for agreement with the numeric sequence changes in the Schedule.  The Rules were extensively revised a few years ago.  At this point, we intend to use this version of the Schedule for at least two years, to gather information on the effectiveness of the changes and which classes will need adjustment according to usage.

I have copied Doug Martin so he will have sufficient time to adjust the master list of classes in time for publication in July.  I have copied Cheryl Erins so she will be able to post this on the MAOC web page in **July**.  This should allow enough time for the societies in the Congress to adjust their documents for the fall show season.

Highlights:

Removal of all reference to Sophronitis, Odontoglossum, and Doritis.  They are no longer accepted names.

Minor editing of some of the Cattleya Alliance classes for clarity.

Combing Cattleya Hybrids White and Semi-alba; numbers indicate two classes are too many for these.

Paph Multiflora moved to the beginning of the section to alleviate confusion with the color-only classes, both for primary hybrid and for complex hybrid groups.

Moved the Cypripedium class to the end of the group.

Removed reference to 'equitant' from the Tolumnia class.

Extensively changed Dendrobium, including several new classes to ease the large 'other' class.

Extensively changed Pleurothallid, dividing into several groups to acknowledge the wide variety of genera.

Added a class for orchids grown for foliage interest.

Codified the permission to double-enter Seedlings blooming for the first time and Specimen plants.

Removed the miniature class.  With the addition of classes to Dendrobium and Pleurothallis, and the division of some genera by size and color, it is possible to judge small-flowered plants in an appropriate genus class.  We judge flowers, not leaves and pseudobulbs.

We always welcome comments and suggestions, but this has been in process for a long time, and this has to be the ending point for discussion now, until we see how the actual registered number of plants fall into the new schedule.  The growers and exhibitors will let us know through their use of the schedule what changes will need to be made in the future.

Thank you for your patience through this process, and please let us know how this schedule works for your society.”

Lois also provided the revised Show Schedule and the Rules and Regulations, both of which will be distributed to our affiliated societies on July 1, 2020.

Committee: Lois Cinert (Chair), Tom Harper, Nile Dusdieker, Nathan Bell

Motion to approve passed.

**Technology:**  In Chair Cheryl Erins’ absence, Russ read her report: “I have completed several additions to the website, In Memoriam, which will get moved later.  I also completed the announcements and documents for the MAOC registration and will await the information for next year's meeting.  The minutes of the meetings once approved get posted as well as each issue of The Mid-American,   I am not moving to taking credit cards as yet as we just do not seem to have the need for it at this point.  The Education section is filled with videos and programming and I am always able to take other suggestions.  At the delegates’ meeting, perhaps stress asking the question "What do you want to see for Education?"  I have posted the changes in officers and Board members.  Suggestions appreciated.”

Motion to approve passed.

**Ways and Means:** Chair Sue Charles reported that the auction Saturday night brought in $1,475. The auction was unusual in that it was held *during* dinner. Doug Martin and Russ Vernon served as our auctioneers.

Motion to approve passed.

**Old Business:** Russ Vernon was able to locate the archivist at the Missouri Botanical Garden where the oldest materials of the Congress’ Archives reside. This gentleman indicated that our materials are still there and safe. Other archives are in the possession of the American Orchid Society Archives; newer material is in the possession of Secretary Doris Asher. We need to attempt to get everything in one place, hopefully accessible for our historical research.

**New Business:**

The Congress donated $1,000 to the AOS Centennial Celebration Fund; any funds remaining after the April Centennial Celebration will go to the AOS Conservation Endowment.

Russ detailed upcoming amendments to our Constitution and Bylaws to accommodate meeting just once a year. These proposed amendments will appear in the next issue of The Mid-American.

Because of the wonderful and extra work that the Miami Valley Orchid Society did to facilitate this meeting (lining up the speakers and the caterers among other things), Tim Hueston moved that the Congress give the Society $300 from the Saturday auction. Motion passed unanimously.

**Election:** Nominating Committee Chair Doug Hartong presented the election of Barry Jones to take the place of Bill Morrison as the Congress President for 2020 and to serve until the Muncie meeting in 2021.

As there were no additional nominations from the floor, the delegates cast a unanimous vote to accept the election of Barry Jones as presented.

Russ presented the new President with his “hat” – a Santa Claus cap decorated with golf balls.

Chair of the Nominating Committee Doug Hartong moved that all actions taken by the officers and committee members of the Mid-America Orchid Congress since the last Annual Meeting be ratified and confirmed, and that the officers and committee members be commended for their good work. Motion passed.

There being no additional business to come before the Congress, President Barry Jones adjourned the meeting at 12:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Doris Asher