***DRAFT***

**Mid-America Orchid Congress**

**Fall Business Meeting**

**Hilton Garden Inn “Hotel”?**

**Independence, MO**

**October 28, 2018**

President Russ Vernon called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m. He thanked the members of the Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City for their masterful job of hosting the Congress, commenting on the excellent meals, entertaining programs, and the beautifully-staged show. He invited members of the OSGKC to stand so we could applaud them.. He detailed the changes in Committee members and chairs and solicited volunteers for remaining vacancies.

Acting 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 Omaha Orchid Society

Greater Pensacola Orchid Society

Gulf Coast Orchid Society

Huntsville Orchid Society

Memphis Orchid Society

Miami Valley Orchid Society

Michigan Orchid Society

Mobile Area Orchid Society

Niagara Frontier Orchid Society

Northeast Alabama Orchid Society

Northwestern Michigan Orchid Society

Northland Orchid Society

Orchid Growers Guild of Madison WI

Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City

Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee

Orchid Society of Minnesota

Orchid Society of the Ozarks

Saginaw Valley Orchid society

Smoky Mountain Orchid Society

South Metro Orchid Society

Springfield Orchid Society

Three Rivers Orchid Society

Windsor Orchid Society

Wisconsin 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 Toledo Orchid Society

Illinois Orchid Society

Illowa Orchid Society

Kentucky Orchid Society

London Orchid Society

Mansfield Orchid Society

Michiana Orchid Society

Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society

Orchid Society of Greater St Louis

Orchid Society of the Royal Botanic Gardens

Peoria Orchid Society

Prairie State Orchid Society

South Mississipi 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 Strongsville, OH, April 28, 2018, as distributed.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Michele Little reported more than $13,000 in the checking account and more than $81,000 in total assets.

She requested approval to pay Mid-America’s AOS dues for 2 years at $120.

In addition, she presented the following report:

Checking $13947.86

Money Market $55365.18

CD1 $5457.21

CD2 $6558.16

 $81328.41

Insurance received $550.00

Motion to approve passed.

**Committee Reports:**

**Affiliated Societies**: Russ introduced new Chair of the Committee Donna Lipowicz, who reported the Committee met on October 26 to plan. Members present were Doris Asher, Sue Charles, Roberta Ginavan, and Susan Wilson; only Judith Rapacz was absent. About 40 people participated in the breakfast meeting earlier in the morning discussing “The Role of the Beginners’ Group in Your Orchid Society.” She will be working with Treasurer Michele Little to try to get renewal dues for 2018 in from all of our societies. The topic for the next meeting’s Affiliated Society breakfast in Lansing, MI, will be “How Do You Handle Difficult or Inappropriate People in Your Society?” Motion to approve passed.

**Annual Meeting:** Chair Beth Martin announced that the Congress will be meeting in conjunction with the Orchid Show of the Greater Lansing Orchid Society in Lansing, MI, on February 23-24, 2019. The host hotel is the Crowne Plaza Hotel; the Orchid Show takes places on the Michigan State University campus in East Lansing. She is making good progress on her roster of speakers for the meeting.

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 Strongsville, OH, this past spring on April 29, there have not been any AOS Members’ Meetings. The AOS convenes almost immediately after our meeting – in conjunction with the International Slipper Orchid Symposium in Apopka, FL, October 31 – November 4, 2018, and I will be there. I shall report on personnel changes involving Mid-America when we meet in Lansing, MI, next February.

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

The Society published its tenth special annual supplement this month 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 9,900. The Membership and Marketing Committees have been merged into a single committee.

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 to be 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 hope to attend.”

Motion to approve passed.

**Audit Committee**: The Audit Committee reports only at the Spring Meeting of the Congress.

**Awards Committee:** Chair Anna Morrison recruited Jan Yates to present her report because Jan is better at pronouncing orchid names!

The Mid-America Perpetual Trophy winner for the Most Outstanding Exhibit by an Affiliated Society of the Mid-America Orchid Congress:
Springfield Orchid Society

The Clifford and Vivian Walters Award for the Best Oncidium Alliance Plant in Show: Oncidesa Aloha Iwanaga, owned by Nick Buksas of the Springfield Orchid Society

In Memory of Raymond McCullough Award for the Best Epidendrum/Encyclia in the show: Prosthechea radiata, owned by Sarah Waddoups of the Orchid Society of the Ozarks

The Christine M. Chowning Award for the Best Angraecoid species in the show:    Angraecum eichlerianum owned by Sarah Waddoups of the Orchid Society of the Ozarks

The Delbert Lowell Jacks Award for the Best Specimen plant in the show: Bulbophyllum Elizabeth Ann Buckleberry ‘Jean’ HCC/AOS owned by Sarah Pratt of Timbucktoo Orchids

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The AOS Show Trophy went to the exhibit of the Springfield Orchid Society
The Orchid Digest Show Trophy went to the exhibit of the Orchid Society of the Ozarks
The Best Orchid in the show went to Paphiopedilum henryanum in the Springfield Orchid Society exhibit
The Best Exhibit by an OSGKC member went to Beth Martin   (the chest of drawers exhibit)
The Best Plant by an OSGKC member went to Habenaria Regnieri in the OSGKC exhibit

In addition, there were three AOS awards.

Motion to approve passed.

**Budget:** Chair Jan Yates reported as follows: For the first time in a while, the budget assumes that both the spring and fall Congresses will be held in-conjunction with another society rather than hosted.  For budgeting purposes, that means the MAOC, rather than the host society, will receive registration and meal monies for each Congress meeting and then pay out similar amounts for meals, speakers and other expenses related to putting on a Congress, rather like a conduit. It also means that auction proceeds are not split with a host society but go entirely to the MAOC.  Finally, this budget, like others before it, covers significant expenses with endowed funds, ie. funds already on hand, and which pay for a speaker at each Congress and all but one of the MAOC trophies.

Income projected for next year:

Auctions (spring and fall) $5,000

Donations and Honoraria      600

Investment Income                50

MAOC Registrations and Meals (spring and fall)   8,000

Show Tags      250

Society Dues    1,500

         Total       $15,400

Expenses projected for next year:

Bank Charges $25

Conservation Grants     2,400

Conservation Speaker\*        750

Filing Fee (State of Ohio)  50

Judging Center Support

($150 each to 6 centers)        900

Liability insurance        550

MAOC Expenses for in-conjunction Congresses 8,000

MAOC Newsletters        100

Officer expenses        100

Shirley Burr Moore Speaker Fund\*     1,500 ($750 paid for speaker within US; $1,500 for an international speaker)

Trophies\* 550

Total                $14,925

\* refers to Endowed Fund items

Motion to approve passed.

**Communications:**  In the absence of a Committee Chair, there was no report although the Wilsons reported that they sent out 149 copies of The Mid-American since the last meeting.

**Conservation:** Chair Bill Morrison reported that he, Russ Vernon, Susan Wilson and Jack Shumaker met in Independence, MO on October 26th.

They received the three grant reports from last year -- Ball State and Marjorie McNeely for orchid plant acquisition, and Minnesota Landscape Arboretum hoop house restoration.

The first was a $400 request from Wheeler Orchid Collection at Ball State for the purchase of insect mimic species (including  Pleurothallideae and Catasetinae), Australian species and Phalaenopsis species to increase their species orchid collection.

The second was a grant request for $400 from Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Park to further expand their collection of Central and South American species orchids. The Committee would like MMC to increase the quality of their grant application, which Bill will address with them in the coming year. However, this application is in the same format as last year.

The third was a request from the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum for $400 to purchase 30 long term storage jars for their seed storage freezers with supplies for the storage jars. This is projected to last two years. At that point, the freezer space will have to be expanded for continued seed banking.

The three grants were approved by the Committee.

Motion to approve passed.

**Constitution and By-Laws:** Chair Charles Wilson reported there had been no requests for changes, so there was no report. However, the Committee has now received several requests for changes from the President, which they will be working on.

**Education and Research:** No report

**Historical:** Chair Lois Holmes recalled the previous time that the Congress met in Independence – Fall of 2012. She reported that due to lack of interest, the essay contest has been dropped.

Motion to approve passed.

**Orchidist of the Year:** Chair Lowell Jacks announced that this year’s Orchidists of the Year are Charles and Susan Wilson. He presented them with a plaque for this honor.

Motion to approve passed.

**Show Schedule:** No report

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

**Ways and Means:** Chair Roberta Ginavan thanked the folks who helped with the auction Saturday night: the auctioneers, clerks, other members of the Committee and also the persons who donated items and certainly the bidders. Without all of these people we could not have a successful auction. Our auction last evening brought in $2,200. This will be split with the Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City since this is a hosted meeting. Our raffle item is a commissioned vase by Ephraim Pottery; the raffle brought in $425. The winner of the drawing was Acting Secretary Doris Asher. Ephraim has agreed to make additional copies of this vase at a cost of $190.50 which includes shipping.

Motion to approve passed.

**Nominating:** Chair Doug Hartong asked for a moment of silence to honor the memory of Jim Newsome, who died this past summer. Doug presented the following slate for 2019:

President: Russ Vernon

1st Vice President: Jack Shumaker

2nd Vice President: Alexa Noel

Secretary: Doris Asher

Treasurer: Michele Little

There was a motion to accept the slate by acclamation – passed.

As there was neither any Old Business nor any New Business to come before the delegates, Russ adjourned the meeting at 10:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Acting Secretary Doris Asher