**Mid-America Orchid Congress**

**Spring Business Meeting**

**Via Zoom**

**March 21, 2021**

President Barry Jones called the meeting to order via Zoom at 10:07 a.m. with the following societies present:

Ann Arbor Orchid Society

Atlanta Orchid Society

Batavia Orchid Society

Blue Grass Orchid Society

Central Indiana Orchid Society

Central Ohio Orchid Society

Central Ontario Orchid Society

Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society

Greater Lansing Orchid Society

Greater Omaha Orchid Society

Greater Toledo Orchid Society

Illinois Orchid Society

Memphis Orchid Society

Miami Valley Orchid Society

Michigan Orchid Society

Native Orchid Preservation and Education Society (NOPES)

Niagara Frontier Orchid Society

Northland Orchid Society

Orchid Growers Guild of Madison WI

Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City

Orchid Society of Minnesota

Orchid Society of the Ozarks

Orchid Society of the Royal Botanic Gardens

Peoria Orchid Society

Saginaw Valley Orchid society

West Shore Orchid Society of Northern Ohio

Windsor Orchid Society

Wisconsin Orchid Society

The following societies were not represented:

Alabama Orchid Society

Central Iowa Orchid Society

Central Missouri Orchid Society

Eastern Iowa Orchid Society

Essex County Orchid Society

Grand Valley Orchid Society

Greater Akron Orchid Society

Greater Cleveland Orchid Society

Greater Pensacola Orchid Society

Gulf Coast Orchid Society

Huntsville Orchid Society

Illowa Orchid Society

Kentucky Orchid Society

London Orchid Society

Mansfield Orchid Society

Michiana Orchid Society

Mobile Area Orchid Society

Northeast Alabama Orchid Society

Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society

Northwestern Michigan Orchid Society

Orchid Society of Greater St Louis

Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee

Prairie State Orchid Society

Smoky Mountain Orchid Society

South Metro Orchid Society

South Mississippi Orchid Society

Springfield Orchid Society

Three Rivers Orchid Society

Barry congratulated Russ Vernon on his successful “Zoom Education Day” the day before to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wheeler Orchid Collection and Species Bank hosted by the Three Rivers and Central Indiana Orchid Societies. Approximately 150-190 people attended.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Congress approved the minutes from the Business Meeting in Dayton, OH, February 16, 2020, as distributed.

**Election of Officers for 2021:** Russ Vernon, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate:

President: Barry Jones

1st Vice President: Cheryl Erins

2nd Vice President: Donna Lipowicz

Secretary: Doris Asher

Treasurer: Dana White

There were no additional nominations; this slate was accepted by unanimous vote. The Congress thanked outgoing Alexa Noel (2nd Vice President) and Michele Little (Treasurer), both of whom had served for the maximum permitted by the Constitution and Bylaws of five years.

**Budget:** Jan Yates gave a kind of “head’s up” concerning the budget in this most unusual “Covid year”. She will present an official budget for 2022 when the Congress meets in August.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Newly-elected Treasurer Dana White updated the group on plans to transfer the bank account from Michele to her. The Congress’s net worth in the fall of 2020 was $72,564, of which 64.6% is unrestricted.

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| **Conservation Committee:** Committee Chair Bill Morrison presented the following report: |

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“The Conservation Committee conducted its business via email. We included a new member, Keith Nelson.

We had six applications this year. Marjorie McNeely Conservatory wanting to add to their Central and South American collection. Wheeler-Thanhauser Orchid Collection looking to add paphiopedilum species, unlike their usual phalaenopsis request. NOPES asked for money to continue their restoration work.

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum requested funding to buy petri dishes for plating orchid symbiotic fungus and sand for the bottom of their bog planters, for the drainage system. MAOC helped pay for sphagnum moss for the bog planters last year.

The Committee recommends funding each of those at the $400 level.”

So moved and approved.

“The Committee also received two grant requests from the University of Wisconsin - Madison, Ken Cameron's lab.

The first one is Kelsey Huisman, for travel to and around Ecuador to finish a study on Teagueia. The Committee chose not to fund this effort, as we do not fund travel expenses.

The second is Brandon Corder for a study on myco-heterotrophy in native American orchids. Apparently, this was the exact same proposal that he made to and was funded by the Native Orchid Conference. The Committee asks that this one be provisionally funded, depending on follow up questions.”

Brandon's request was moved and provisionally approved, pending Doug Martin contacting him and Ken Cameron (his advisor) and verifying the request.

**Ohio Valley Orchid Fest:** Annual Meetings Committee Chair Eric Sauer, who is also the chair of this Orchid Fest: announced an event on August 27-29, 2021, to which Mid-America is invited to hold its meetings. Planning is still preliminary, but the site is a 12-acre church facility. There will be orchid judging but no exhibit judging as the orchids will be grouped by genus. There will be orchid vendors. One speaker will be AOS President Robert Fuchs. Some of the activities will be in person; some will be via Zoom The Congress accepted the invitation to meet at that event.

**Constitution and Bylaws Committee:** Chair Charles Wilson walked the group through the revised Constitution and Bylaws which had been published for all to see in the Spring 2020 issue of The Mid-American.

Motion to approve passed unanimously.

**Audit Committee:** Chair Alexa Noel apologized for the lack of an audit report. However, due to Covid, it was impossible for the Audit Committee to obtain the Treasurer’s records. Alexa did receive notice of necessary filings both to the State and also to the IRS, thus assuring that MAOC’s tax exempt status is intact. As soon as she is able to obtain these financial documents, she will complete the audit.

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

“Our Committee has been working with the Affiliated Societies Committee to reach out to societies with Zoom meetings. We plan to continue and increase these meetings with the next one in June.

We have set up a private FaceBook account for Mid-America for member societies to share events with the rest of the MAOC. Anything posted here will be put on the calendar on the MAOC website. Use email address, not Zoom logins.

The Committee is also enlarging The Mid-American with articles from member societies, information from Affiliated Societies meetings, and articles showing what MAOC does. It hopefully will come out quarterly. We hope societies will send articles to us.

We are planning to have a gmail account set up and will ask societies to send their newsletters to this email. We will not post anything in The Mid-American without permission from a society.”

**Affiliated Societies Committee:** Committee Chair Donna Lipowicz gave this report:

“Jeanne Rhinehart and I were delighted with the turnout at our meeting on March 1st. It was exciting and inspiring to see everyone and hear what you all have been doing. We are also very excited for our Canadian friends to be joining us. I'm impressed with all the new ways our societies are embracing the Zoom meetings and social media to promote our passion, virtual auctions, sharing speakers, newsletter pictures. This is what MAOC is about -- helping each other to be better at what we do. Now to briefly summarize items discussed on March 1st:

• March 20th Speakers & Tour of Orchid Species collection register by 3/17/21, details on MAOC website.

• March 21st MAOC Business Zoom Meeting 10AM invite is below and will also be sent to all societies.

 • Create a space to list access to shared Zoom speakers hosted by MAOC societies.

 • Private Facebook page for MAOC has been created, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/460364925167798> Request to join at that address. Even non-Facebook users can access information here. If you have a Zoom meeting you want to share (or other items) put it here.

• A calendar has been created on the MAOC web site. Any dates posted to Facebook will be copied here. You can also email Jeanne, jeanws@me.com if you have anything you want her to post.

 • Listing of web addresses for MAOC Societies to contact others. The Excel file was sent to the attendees at our two recent meetings. A second Excel file was provided with the web addresses of all listed MAOC societies.

 • Excel Orchid Show Registration file with new class schedule available for societies.

• MAOC has education topics available on the MAOC website for society usage, Conservation newsletter.

 • Some AOS Judging Centers are offering more access to their education sessions, Great Lakes JC & Atlanta JC.

• Orchid Mall has great resources, [orchidmall.com](http://orchidmall.com)

• Dendrobium cheat sheet to aid in registration/judging correct class for Denrobium sections. Under review prior to release.

• Speaker on Habenarias is Sara Hurdel slhurdel@gmail.com

 • MAOC meeting with group that advises nonprofit organizations suggested by Eric Sauer, apparently not too costly.

• MAOC dues for 2021 will be greatly appreciated from our member societies. Mail to Dana White, 5855 Deerfield Rd., Milford, OH 45150. She will be sending out new forms after our March meeting.

 • If anyone has anything to add or thought of something else feel free to email us at jeanws@me.com or ladysliper@roadrunner.com.

• The next Affiliated Societies Zoom meeting tentatively scheduled for June 2021.”

**Adjournment:** There being no additional business to come before the Congress, President Barry Jones adjourned the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Doris Asher