

President's Message

by Mary Lou Harden

Welcome aboard, violet friends, for another wonderful year of growing and showing our favorite plant—the African violet! While we celebrate the discovery of the African violet about 125 years ago, we're also celebrating our own 49th year anniversary! As we enjoy every moment of this year, adding new varieties to our collections, new members to our Club, and making new friendships, we will also look forward to a great celebration next year—our 50th (Golden) anniversary.

Our Program Chair, Cece Lane, has arranged for programs that will be educational and will help us all know how to grow better and more beautiful plants. We'll also learn how to use our violets in decorative ways. I encourage all our members to attend meetings – whether night or day, or both. Not only will you learn the tips and tricks in producing lovely plants, you'll also have the opportunity to add new varieties to your collection. As always, if you have questions or need help with any aspect of growing your plants, don't hesitate to ask. We're here to help each other.

I hope you will take advantage of the various shows and plant sales coming up during the next few months. The African Violet Council of Florida show will be in Lakeland October 4-6. The following weekend (October 13-14), we'll be selling plants and supplies at the USF Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Festival. We will also be participating in the Florida State Fair in February, our own show February 21-23, and the USF Spring Plant Festival at the Botanical Gardens next April. Arrangements are being made for the Dixie AVS convention and show in Jacksonville in October 2019.

Be sure to check out our Facebook page found under Tampa African Violet Society, Instagram account (@Tampaafricanviolets), as well as our website www.tampaafricanviolets.com and promote TAVS at every opportunity.

Looking forward – never backward – to another terrific year!