

Manatee Orchid Society Minutes, August 13, 2019

President Louis Mendez opened the business meeting at 7:05 p.m.

The minutes of the June meeting were read and accepted as read.

Treasurer, Sharon Kinkaid, reported a balance in the treasury of \$5,311.53. Sharon collected dues from members.

Jeanne Duncan offered her resignation as Refreshment Committee Chair. She would like to be able to take advantage of the Culture Club and other activities to learn more about orchid growing. Julie McClure proposed that the Refreshment Chair serve for three months rather than a full year. This proposal was greeted with approval from the President and others who agreed members would be more willing to serve as Chair if it were for a three-month term. Julie offered to serve as Chair of the committee through November.

Louis announced that long-time member, Barry Reese, died on August 3, 2019 after a six month illness.

Roy Krueger, past President, spoke of Barry's accomplishments as an orchid grower and his contributions to MOS and other orchid societies. He related several humorous stories about Barry and his exploits and adventures.

A get well card was circulated for Membership Chair, Maryanne Hazen, who had injured her shoulder.

Louis Mendez spoke on his success in growing miniature phalaenopsis. He described the medium he uses, growing requirements and showed members a plant with a healthy root system. Roy Krueger then described how he began his orchid collection growing oncidiums and later added cattleyas, both species and hybrids. He explained the difference between species and hybrids with regard to their different growing requirements. Hybrids are generally easier to grow as the two or more crosses provide greater tolerance to changes in the environment while species have very specific growing requirements with little flexibility in their growth habitat. He also noted that orchids that have been cloned will look identical but seed crosses, while they may look alike, are not identical. He advised the best way to determine if

an orchid is a clone or a seed cross is to ask the seller.

He closed by saying that he feeds his collection regularly throughout the year, using one-quarter strength fertilizer and adding systemic fungicide monthly. He uses systemic insect control as needed.

Roy reviewed the small display of orchids on the plant table.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. and the raffle conducted by Cathy Willard.

Respectfully submitted, Mercedes Kratz, Recording Secretary