

Mid-America Orchid Congress Minutes
2010 Fall Meeting
Louisville, KY
September 26, 2010

The Fall meeting of the Mid-America Orchid Congress was called to order by President Doug Martin September 26, 2010, at 9:10 a.m.

Doug announced the passing of Jerry Kulaja and Mary Weiss, both of whom were judges for many years in their respective centers. They will be missed.

Doug thanked the Kentucky Orchid Society for their collaboration in these meetings and especially thanked KOS President Nancy Bramble and Jim McCulloch for their assistance in planning and organizing the MAOC activities. He also thanked the members of the organizing committee for the MAOC Fall 2010 meeting: Doris Asher, Jan Yates, Jordan Hawley, Beth Martin and Mark van der Woerd. Doug announced that MAOC is financially strong but there are no invitations to host future MAOC meetings. The organizing committee is in discussion with prospective host societies, but none has officially offered to host MAOC meetings. It is difficult for a small committee to develop meetings every six months. Host societies are needed to share the responsibilities. Doug encouraged MAOC members to return to their societies and ask if they would be willing to host future meetings. MAOC has the expertise and is willing to be of assistance. Doug also challenged those in attendance to bring another member of their society to the next MAOC meeting.

Roll call:

Member societies present were:

Alabama Orchid Society	Kentucky Orchid Society
Ann Arbor Orchid Society	Miami Valley Orchid Society
Atlanta Orchid Society	Michigan Orchid Society
Batavia Orchid Society	Northeast Alabama Orchid Society
Blue Grass Orchid Society	Orchid Growers Guild of Madison
Central Indiana Orchid Society	Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City
Central Kentucky Orchid Society	Orchid Society of Minnesota
Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society	Peoria Orchid Society
Greater Lansing Orchid Society	Smoky Mountain Orchid Society
Greater Omaha Orchid Society	South Metro Orchid Society
Greater Toledo Orchid Society	Three Rivers Orchid Society
Heart of Dixie Orchid Society	Windsor Orchid Society
Illinois Orchid Society	Guest: Hi-Country Orchid Club (Fort Collins, CO)

Member societies not attending were:

Blackhawk Orchid Society	Memphis Orchid Society
Central Iowa Orchid Society	Michiana Orchid Society
Central Missouri Orchid Society	Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society
Central Ohio Orchid Society	Northwestern Michigan Orchid Society
Central Ontario Orchid Society	Orchid Society of Greater St. Louis
Eastern Iowa Orchid Society	Orchid Society of the Royal Botanic Gardens
Grand Valley Orchid Society	Paducah Orchid Society
Greater Akron Orchid Society	Prairie State Orchid Society
Greater Cleveland Orchid Society	Saginaw Valley Orchid Society
Greater Pensacola Orchid Society	South Mississippi Orchid Society
Gulf Coast Orchid Society	Springfield (MO) Orchid Society
Illowa Orchid Society	Three Rivers Orchid Society

Kingwood Orchid Society
Lincoln (NE) Orchid Society
London Orchid Society

West Shore Orchid Society of Northern Ohio
Windsor Orchid Society
Wisconsin Orchid Society

The minutes of the Spring 2010 Mid-America Orchid Congress meeting in Omaha were approved as circulated.

Treasurer Jan Yates reported income for the period January 1 through September 17, 2010, is \$17,087 with expenses paid to date of \$6838. Three \$400 conservation grants have been paid to institutions. Although there are bills remaining to be paid from the meetings, it is anticipated there will be profit from the Omaha and Louisville meetings. The Treasurer's report was accepted. Doug thanked Jan for her 5 years of service as treasurer. She has now reached the limit of tenure set in the by-laws. She will continue as Budget chair.

Jan reported local society membership seems to be shrinking, but the formation of new societies is also reported. Information is shared with the Affiliated Societies Committee for follow-up. The report was accepted.

Reports of Committees

Affiliated Societies: Doris Asher reported the Committee met Friday, September 24th, at 6:30. Everyone but Chair Mary Beth Mansour was present. They selected the subject "Finances and the Local Orchid Society" as the topic for the Breakfast at the Spring 2011 Congress.

The 45 registrants who attended Sunday's Breakfast discussed ways to honor past and present members. There was much valuable exchange of ideas and practices. The report was accepted.

MAOC-AOS Liaison: Doris Asher reported on the members meeting of the American Orchid Society held April 28 – May 2, 2010, in Oklahoma City, OK. The Oklahoma Orchid Society hosted this meeting. During that meeting, the following slate of officers was elected: Chris Rehmann, President; Norman Fang, Lowell Jacks, and Sandra Svoboda Vice Presidents; Karen McBride, Secretary, and Peter Furniss, Treasurer. In addition, the following people were elected trustees for three-year terms ending in 2012: Fred Clarke, Tom Etheridge, Don Ghiz, Alan Koch, Fred Missbach, and Linda Wilhelm.

Mid-America judges promoted from Probationary to Accredited were: Greg Filter (Great Lakes), Alexander Manuel (Chicago), Kenneth Mettler (Cincinnati).

These Mid-America people became students in the Judging system: Marie-Odile Benoit (Toronto), Ed Cott (Great Lakes). Maureen Pulignano (Atlanta).

One Mid-America judge changed to Senior Judge: Fran May (Cincinnati)

The following Mid-America judges requested a leave of absence: Judy Adams (Toronto) six months beginning 11/01/09, Gilberto Arrieche (Toronto) (probationary) six month extension beginning 11/01/09, Patti DeMaire (Great Lakes) (student) one year beginning 11/01/09, Michael Lum (student) (Toronto) six months beginning 11/01/09, Arthur Moore (Atlanta) one year beginning 10/01/09

One Mid-America judge returned from leave of absence: Calvin Wong (student) (Toronto).

These judges transferred from and to various Mid-America judging centers: Thomas Larkin from Great Plains to Mid-America, Brittany Payeur (Probationary) from Great Lakes to Chicago.

With regret, the deaths of the following judges were noted: AnnaLee Boyett (Atlanta), Alvin May (Cincinnati).

Doris also reported the following developments in the AOS:

- In July, members received an email communication from President Chris Rehmann announcing the appointment of a task force to investigate the sale of the Delray Beach property including the headquarters building. The Trustees approved the creation of this task force because of the critical state of the Society's anticipated cash flow. This crisis is brought about by the continuing decline in membership. Membership stood at 15,542 at the time of the San Marino, CA, meeting in the fall of

2009, but had declined to 14,961 by the Oklahoma City meeting the following spring. While the Society continues to gain new members, it loses more each month than it gains.

- The AOS website improvement and development continue. If you have not explored www.aos.org recently, please do so.

The report was accepted.

On recommendation of the MAOC Executive Committee, Doris moved MAOC renew its membership in AOS for 2 years in the amount of \$125. The motion was seconded and carried.

Annual Meeting: Beth Martin reported the Annual Meeting Committee has:

- Created an organizing committee of Mid-America officers and committee chairs, which completely organized this Mid-America meeting. In the few weeks between our Omaha meeting in mid-March and the AOS members meeting at the end of April, we made arrangements with Fern Valley Hotel and with Winston's Restaurant, chose and invited speakers, and produced a postcard that was included in the goody bags at the AOS meeting. We also distributed the postcards at judging centers and societies near Louisville and gave 200-300 to the Kentucky Orchid Society to support their publicity efforts. The AOS provided a free ad in the September issue of *Orchids* to promote both Mid-America and the Kentucky Orchid Society Show. We budgeted for 50 registrants and instead have about 70, so we are projecting a profit of at least \$1500.
- Compiled historical data from Mid-Americas held in recent years including: location, number of registrants, number of attendees at dinner and breakfast, cost of registration and meals, speakers. This information should help societies who are considering hosting Mid-America and who need this type of information to prepare a realistic budget.
- Talked to members of several societies about hosting future Mid-America meetings. At this time, we have no invitations to meet with a host society. One society is considering extending an invitation to us for next spring. Their board meets this afternoon to vote.

Beth also solicited comments about the format of this meeting with fewer speakers. The report was accepted.

Since delegates will not be able to vote if an invitation is extended, Beth moved that the Annual Meetings Committee be authorized to accept an invitation if one is extended or to make other arrangements for a Spring Mid-America meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

Audit: No report

Awards: Christine Chowning reported trophies have been awarded to the following individuals and societies at this meeting:

- Mid-America Perpetual Trophy: Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society
- Clifford and Vivian Walters Award: *Miltonia clowesii* owned by Annette and Jim Lurton, members of the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society
- In Memory of Raymond McCollough Award: *Encyclia cochleata* owned by Susan Clarke, member of the Smoky Mountain Orchid Society
- Christine M. Chowning Award: *Angraecum germinyanum* 'Highjack' CCM/AOS, owned by Annette and Jim Lurton, members of the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society.

Christine also encouraged members to look at the newly designed McCollough award. The report was accepted.

Budget: Jan Yates reported projected 2011 unrestricted income of about \$12420. Projected expenses are about \$10370, of which up to \$2175 is in endowed funds, leaving just under \$8200 to come from our revenue. The report was accepted.

Communications: Doris Asher reported one edition of the Mid-American, the April issue, has been distributed since the March meeting. She thanks all who contributed to that issue. The production cost to send to persons without e-mails was less than \$20. The distribution list now consists of 544 records. Mailings go to the judging centers and at least two persons from each affiliated society. She also contacts the editor of the society newsletter, if known. Copies are sent to each person attending the business meeting at the previous Congress. Recipients are encouraged to share the newsletter and information in it as widely as possible throughout their society. In addition, each issue is posted on the Congress' website: www.midamericanorchids.org.

For all mailings, Doris encloses a plea for an email address and for each issue gains a few additional email addresses, which will curtail even further the expense of photocopying and postage for future issues.

Doris will prepare an issue immediately after this meeting in Louisville in which she will report on what has happened here and advertise upcoming meetings of the Congress. She welcomes and needs input/ideas/articles and thanks all of the individuals who have contributed to her first seven issues. The committee consists of Mark van der Woerd, Jeanne Rhinehart and Doris Asher.

Mark van der Woerd provided an update of the MAOC website. The website has been up for a year. Society of newsletters sent to Mark will be posted under the local society on the website. An individual provided a suggestion for improvement to move the information currently on the front page to the back and have information of interest to societies on the front. So, the information comes from you. It could include information on how grant money is used, including pictures, meeting reports, historical information from the Nashville meeting. Societies with notable anniversaries, special member contributions and such should be sent to Mark, who will post the report. Extra money is left in the communication budget due to a suggested change from the webmaster that saved money. The report of the committee was accepted.

Conservation: Russ Vernon reported the Mid-America Orchid Congress Conservation Committee met on September 24, 2010, and after review recommends \$400 grants to the following for the membership to approve: the Cleveland Botanical Garden; Como Park Conservatory, St. Paul; Wheeler Orchid Collection and Species Bank; and to the Blue Grass Orchid Society in Lexington for augmentation of native orchid species at The Arboretum State Botanical Garden of Kentucky. It was moved the grants be approved. The motion carried.

The Conservation Committee requests member societies submit grant requests for botanical gardens with orchid collections in their area and that they also contact land preservation conservancies that are seeking to preserve areas containing orchid habitat for potential MAOC support. Groups seeking grant funds (usually \$400 or less) should write the committee chair outlining their project and the way grant dollars would be used. The committee is asking grant recipients to provide information and pictures that can be included on the MAOC website. The report was accepted.

By-Laws: No report.

Education and Research: No report. The chairmanship is open.

Historical: Lois Holmes related an incident that took place in Louisville in 1991. The Twins and Braves were to play in the World Series. Throughout the Mid-America banquet at which Lois was the speaker, Lowell Jacks went around the room leading people in the chop. Friends from Kansas City, St. Louis and Atlanta put their chairs in front of the podium and there they sat. They were stuck there and the game was starting. Lois had a little gadget the group thought was a small TV set and the group thought she could see the game, but that was in error. Periodically, she would send the group a note with a "score" on it. At the end of the game she gave them a note saying "three to one." And, that was really the final score of the game. In Minneapolis they

had a 31” snow on Halloween. Lowell Jacks phoned and said, “Mother Nature got even with you.” The report was accepted.

Show Schedule: Lois Cinert reported the committee met on Friday evening. At the meeting the committee discussed some of the changes with the phalaenopsis and cattleya classes and problems with some taxonomic changes. The committee needs to know where problems in plant entry are occurring. Lois needs the number of plants entered in each class and comments about what worked well and what did not work well. There seem to be some problems in where lines are drawn (e.g., oncidium intergeneric entries, flower sizes). The committee needs to know what changes are needed. We are in the middle of a 5-year sequence; so there are two more years to decide what, if any, changes to make. She asked judges to report any errors in the classes. The report was accepted.

Ways and Means: The quilt donated by Gwen Hartmann and made by her sister was raffled in which Doris Asher’s name was drawn.

Roberta Ginavan thanked Gwen for her lovely contribution for the raffle. She also thanked the persons who assisted with the auction: Karen McBride, Doug Martin, Judith Rapacz, Barry Jones, Mark van der Woerd, Heidi Whetmore, Lois Holmes, Aileen Garrison and Jan Yates. She also thanked Dixie and Jim McCulloch for their support.

The auction proceeds Saturday night were \$2610 and the quilt raffle brought \$600. Lowell Jacks received Jan’s award for being the biggest spender. The report was accepted.

Orchidist of the Year: Lois Holmes reported for Tim Brooks. Quite often persons named Orchidist of the Year are officers. It is refreshing when someone has worked diligently for their local society. This year the award goes to a couple. She has chaired 3 MAOC meetings. The Orchidists of the Year are Dixie and Jim McCulloch. The report was accepted.

Old business: None

New business: The report of the Annual Meetings Committee, included discussion on ways to encourage societies to host MAOC. Beth Martin stated there are two questions that must be answered: Who is responsible for what? and Who is financially responsible for what? MAOC has the expertise and MAOC has operated at a net profit for at least the past 5 years. Beth moved that 50% of the Mid-America auction income be donated by Mid-America to the society or societies hosting the meeting. The 50/50 split would make the meeting a true partnership. Jan Yates stated MAOC has the discretionary income. This will make a greater stake for the local society—registering for the meeting, attending the auction, more people attending the show which also helps vendors. In cases where a society hosts both MAOC and AOS, AOS would receive the auction proceeds. The motion was carried.

Mark van der Woerd reported the nominating committee consisting of Beth Martin, Karen McBride and himself met in Omaha, NE, had a lively e-mail discussion, and met again on September 25 in Louisville. The committee proposed the following slate of officers for the upcoming year:

President: Doug Martin
1st Vice President: Aileen Garrison
2nd Vice President: Jordan Hawley
Secretary: Roberta Ginavan
Treasurer: Alexa Noel

There were no additional nominations from the floor. The proposed slate of officers was elected.

Announcements: Mark van der Woerd recounted how he had been advised to worry about the security of his job in Fall 2009 and in January 2010 had been placed on half-time, month-to-month employment. For that reason he believed he could not attend the March Mid-America meeting in Omaha. However, friends intervened and collected money to pay the expenses for him to attend. He tried to send thank you notes to the friends, but missed two: Jan and Judith Rapacz because they kept moving and Beth and Doug Martin, whom Mark felt needed more than a card because he believed them to be the instigators. He wondered how to honor all his friends. On September 1 he got his job back. In honor of his friends Mark is donating \$650 to the Conservation speaker fund.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Roberta Ginavan
Secretary