

The Great Lakes District of the American Rose Society

Meeting Minutes of the Spring Conference in Saginaw

April 27, 2013

Roll Call

President Duane DeDene called the roll. Present were:

District Officers

District Director	Tom Kressbach
President	Duane DeDene
Vice President	Bill LeVasseur
Treasurer	Diane Bennett
Secretary	Kathleen Sibo
Prizes and Awards	Lynn Hammell

Committee Chairs

Arrangement Judges	Jean Bradley
Consulting Rosarian Coordinator	Rose Enders
District Directory	Sarah Hanifi
Historian	Jackie Steinert
Horticultural Judges	Ellie Kressbach
Membership	Duane DeDene
Review Editor	Sarah Hanifi
Roses in Review	Diane Bennett

Local Societies Represented

Cherry Capital	No
Detroit	Yes
Grand Valley	Yes
Greater Lansing	Yes
Grosse Pointe	Yes
Huron Valley	Yes
Kalamazoo	Yes
Metropolitan	Yes
Northeastern	Yes
Saginaw Rose & Garden	Yes
Thumb	Yes

Duane DeDene declared we had a quorum present.

District Director's Report

Tom Kressbach stated that we were happy to have ARS President Adams and Dr. Jim Herring present at our spring conference. He asked everyone in the audience to give a hand to the Saginaw Rose and Garden Society for holding the conference.

The ARS Board of Directors and Finance Committee (Tom is member of both) met in Franklin (Nashville) Tennessee this March. ARS net income has been in the black for two years, however membership continues to decline. The ARS staff has been reduced to save money, but those we still have are hard-working. Tom thanked the people who donated to the Patron fund from our district.

Tom announced a series of future events. On August 2-3 the top exhibitors will be at Top Gun in Finley, Ohio. On September 20-21 the Nation Miniature Rose Conference will be held at

Winston Salem. November 10 is the tentative date for the fall district planning meeting in Lansing.

President Duane DeDene's Report

President DeDene thanked the Saginaw Rose and Garden Society and the vendors for putting on the show. He mentioned that some societies are now building a partnership with some of their vendors.

Vice President Bill LeVasseur's Report

Bill stated that the Grand Valley Rose Society has April 5 or 12, 2014 available for holding the District Spring Convention.

Treasurer Diane Bennett's Report

Diane passed around a complete financial summary of the Great Lakes' District activities since her last report on November 10, 2012. The report included separate charts of all financial transactions monthly in 2012 and 2013. She also included a financial summary from 2000 to 2013. She explained that our website is paid up. We made a \$200 District patron donation to ARS. The Bradleys and other individuals also gave patron level donations to ARS. The district's ending balance as of April 26, 2013 was \$2,660.60. A motion to approve the budget report was made and seconded.

Prizes and Awards Report from Lynn Hammill

She believes that we need to change our bylaws from the current requirement for twice per year meetings of the Prizes and Awards Committee to once per year. Discussion followed. Tom Kressbach stated that with some people doing two jobs, we need to wait until spring to finalize any changes. Lynn suggested that we can draft the new language in the meantime. There was also a suggestion that the committee could hold its second required meeting when we meet in November. Chuck Leibrand made a motion to suspend the bylaws while they are being re-written, but no action was taken.

Horticultural Judges' Report from Ellie Kressbach

John Kelbel is now an active judge, making a total of 23 active judges. We have three apprentice judges who still need judging assignments. She asked the societies to consider asking them to judge their shows. Judges get two hours of credit for attending the conference.

Arrangement Judges' Report from Jean Bradley

Jean stated that she was still missing a couple of arrangement schedules for upcoming shows. Societies need to get those to her very soon for approval.

Old Garden Roses Report

Frank Von Koss was not at the conference.

Roses in Review Report from Diane Bennett

Diane reported that she did not receive the reports of several people who submitted them at the web site. In case of future malfunctions, she asks that people send her an email after they submit a report electronically so that she knows who submitted them and can tell if she is receiving all the reports.

Great Lakes District Web Site Report from Clint Bremer

Societies which have any dates that they want listed on the site should send him an email.

Great Lakes District Review Report from Sarah Hanifi

We will get one issue for summer. She proposes an August deadline for it. Also, it would be good if the dates for fall shows were included.

District Directory Editor's Report from Sarah Hanifi

The 2013 directory was finished by Friday morning. The cost is \$2.00 each.

District Historian's Report from Jackie Steinert

She has received a request for historical information for Battle Creek.

Great Lakes District Membership Report from Duane DeDene

Our membership is slowly declining and we need to attract new members. ARS membership is also declining. The ARS is trying to attract new members by having a trial membership of \$5.00 for anyone belonging to a rose society. Duane believes that we should encourage this in our newsletters. The Grosse Pointe society has started posting their meetings and events in the local paper, and got some new members that way. Some societies are forming partnerships with local nurseries to attempt to draw new members.

District Consulting Rosarian Report from Rose Enders

A few people are in danger of losing their consulting rosarian status from lack of credits. Only one person applied for a school and we need at least ten to run one. The Roses in Review is now voluntary for consulting rosarians, but she strongly urges them to participate in it. Barry Crassweller suggested that consulting rosarians get a credit for submitting the report. The ARS report form will have an added box this year for if you don't grow any of the roses being reviewed, so people can be credited for submitting a report.

District Review Publisher Report from Diane Bennett

Bill Blok needs to have updated email addresses from everyone.

Old Business Report from Duane DeDene

The Great Lakes District has made a \$200 donation to the ARS for 2013. There will be no District convention this fall but Grand Valley Rose Society will be hosting the 2014 Spring Conference.

Local Societies Report from Duane DeDene

Kalamazoo has gotten 22 new members. Duane asked that we let him know what tips we have for getting new members. The Saginaw district grew by adding gardens and other plants besides roses. They have included other flowers of a designated color in their shows. They plan to include vegetables next. Joyce Latta and Tom Conklin said that Kalamazoo was trying to help the independent nurseries. They are also trying out Saturday afternoon meetings to see if more people can come. She recommended trying something new, since you can always go back to what you did previously. Duane said that Grosse Pointe, Metro and Detroit are now doing group events, including social events to attract and keep members. Grosse Pointe and Metro are also doing a combined June rose show.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Submitted by Kathleen Sibó, GLD Secretary