

**The Great Lakes District  
Of the American Rose Society  
Fall Business Meeting Minutes  
September 19, 2010**

**Opening**

President Duane DeDene called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

**Roll Call**

Secretary Teri Sutton called the Roll:

**DISTRICT OFFICERS Present:**

District Director	Tom Kressbach - yes
President	Duane DeDene - yes
Vice President	Bill LeVasseur - yes
Treasurer	Diane Bennett -yes
Secretary	Teri Sutton -yes
Prizes & Awards	Barry Crassweller

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS Present:**

Horticultural Judges	Jon Bradley Ellie Kressbach - yes
Arrangement Judge	Jean Bradley
Old Garden Rose	Frank Von Koss -yes
Roses in Review	Diane Bennett
Program Development	Vacant
GLD Web site	Clint Bremer
Review Editor	Sarah Hanifi - yes
Review Publisher	Bill Blok
District Directory	Sarah Hanifi
Membership	Betty Watters
Historian	Jackie Steinert
Consulting Rosarian Coordinator	Rose Enders

**LOCAL SOCIETIES REPRESENTED:**

- Cherry Capital
- Detroit - yes
- Grand Valley - yes
- Greater Lansing - yes
- Grosse Pointe
- Huron Valley
- Kalamazoo - yes
- Metropolitan

Northeastern - yes  
Saginaw Rose & Garden - yes  
Thumb - yes

Teri reported 15 were present with 16 necessary for a quorum.

### **Corrections to the April 17, 2010 Minutes**

There were no corrections. MOTION to approve the minutes.

### **District Officer Reports**

#### **District Director** – Tom Kressbach

Tom thanked Detroit again for hosting a successful conference. Future national conventions - Oct 7-11 in Atlanta. ARS spring show & convention in Winston Salem, June 2-6, 2011. This event may conflict with some local society rose shows. ARS national miniature show June 24-26 next year. Ellie & Tom attended the miniature show in Milwaukee along with 160 attendees. Sponsored by three Wisconsin rose societies, none of which had enough resources to host the event by themselves.

Brief word on ARS budget. Tom is on the ARS finance and budget committees. Tom describes the budget as tenuous, with cash flow issues and unpaid invoices. June/July issue of American Rose was 3-4 weeks late. Next committee meeting will be in Atlanta where the board will be faced with difficult decisions. If you have any ideas send them to Tom. All societies seem to have difficulty with declining memberships. Tom reminded everyone to consider making a patron donation. We should also take advantage of several trial memberships available from ARS. ARS membership stands at 10,230 people as of September 1, 2010. ARS is considering adding a new position to handle planned giving to build relationships and encourage bequests. The group discussed ideas of how to reduce costs of printing the ARS magazine such as limiting the use of color pages which are expensive.

Tom is also asking for feedback on the new ARS website. He suggests changing our society's information such as address to where our local meetings are held, including date/time, instead of for example the president's address.

#### **Regional Director** – Jim Hering

#### **President** – Duane DeDene

See new business topics.

**Vice President** – Bill LeVassuer

Provided the following of the upcoming District Conferences and who is hosting

- Spring 2011 April 8 & 9, Bad Axe will include a 2 hour judge's audit course.
- Fall 2011 No Sponsor to Date.
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**Secretary** – Teri Sutton

**Treasurer** – Diane Bennett

Distributed the current financial report. Summarized income and expenses yielding an ending balance of \$2,912.13. Report unofficially approved.

**Prizes and Awards** – Barry Crassweller

**Horticultural Judges** – Jon Bradley, Ellie Kressbach

Ellie reported all audit dates have been sent to the judges. Rick Lozon got reinstated as a judge. Three more need to complete audits. Seven are due in 2011, plan is to host an audit in Bad Axe. If anyone wants a copy of the updates for the handbook, let her know and she will pick-up copies at the Atlanta conference next month to avoid the high postage costs.

**Arrangements Judge**– Jean Bradley

**Old Garden Roses** – Frank Von Koss

Frank mentioned there are two new english climbing roses. He is hearing Austin will change their pricing for garden centers and costs may run as high as \$30-40 a piece. If he had the space Old Garden Roses are the only ones he would grow.

**Roses In Review** – Diane Bennett

Diane handed out copies of the Roses in Review evaluation sheets...due on September 26th. Fifteen people have entered 130 reports online...only 5 received by USPS. If you can't submit online or by mail, you can also email Diane before Oct. 1st.

Any suggestions with regard to the ARS's Roses In Review on-line format can be forwarded to Diane and she will make them known to ARS.

**Program Development** – Open

**Great Lakes District Web Site** – Clint Bremer

**Great Lakes District Review Editor** – Sarah Hanifi

Sarah encourages everyone to forward new updates for the directory and any articles for the newsletter to her.

**District Directory Editor** – Sarah Hanifi

**Membership** –  
No report.

**Historian** – Jackie Steinert

**Consulting Rosarian Coordinator** – Rose Enders

CRs received 3 credits from the spring Kalamazoo conference and 2 credits this week-end in Detroit. Between the two lists CRs are good for 4 years. To continue certification you also need to complete the roses in review.

**Old Business**

- **District Rose Show Awards** – Trophies or not, certificates  
Trophies were gathered and transported to the fall convention. This effort is time consuming and after several discussions to reduce the number of trophies no final decisions have been reached. The consensus is to pare down the number, but how? Several suggestions were made: Offer to give back a trophy to the sponsor or donator; ask the last person to win the trophy if they would like to keep, retire trophies where the name plate is full; donate trophies to non-profit groups for refurbishment and reuse; and replace selected trophies with keeper gifts and/or certificates. Duane will create a committee to develop a plan to reduce the number of trophies.

It was noted that the Meijer Gardens likes the trophies when shows are held there. Also noted that Saginaw Rose Society has reduced their trophy program.

- **Number of District Conferences** – volunteers to research this and form opinion  
The district is having difficulty finding host societies to sponsor spring and especially fall conventions which includes a rose show. No fall 2011 host society is yet identified. The

district is asking if there should be two conventions each year, possibly find a central location to host the show and dinner. Any volunteers for the Fall 2011? GLD is considering changing to one day convention events. The suggestion is to have a spring convention with educational speakers and a fall morning rose show followed by a lunch or dinner awards banquet, eliminating the fall GLD business meeting. The district will continue to have a spring business meeting and the fall planning meeting. Email your ideas and suggestions to Duane, leaning to more one day events for both Spring and Fall. Other societies across the country have moved to this shorter format.

- **ARS Horticultural and Arrangement Judges** – fact sheet on how to become one  
Ellie is working on a fact sheet for horticultural judges and will also work with Jean on one for arrangement judges.

#### **New Business**

- **Fall 2011 Conference Host Discussion** – Refer to Old Business “Number of District Conferences” discussion
- **Local Society Survey** - No. of members, No. of meetings, rose show, etc.  
Duane is going to send out a request for more information on the local societies...number of members, meetings, show info, active members, etc. He is hoping to compile data to help keep the district informed about the local groups.
- **Review of District Meeting Programs by District Board** - Asking host societies to inform the district of planned speakers/sessions. Hoping to avoid duplicates and suggest additional resources. Nothing formal, no change to bylaws.
- **District Donation to the ARS** - Tom requested the district make a \$50 donation to ARS in accordance with our bylaws in the name of Frank Benardella who passed. A second request is to make a \$100 patron donation to the ARS for calendar year 2010. Considering we do not have a quorum, only the first request was approved. The second must wait for the Fall planning meeting scheduled for Nov. 7th, at Coral Gables in Lansing. Discussion lead into altering the bylaws to recognize the district is smaller than when the bylaws were originally written, possibly changing the number required for a quorum or how the quorum is calculated – by officers or local societies.

- **Fall Rose Show Schedule** - Harlan Schumaker raised an issue with the fall show schedule. It was missing last year's changes to make the show exhibitor friendly and easier to enter, especially in the challenge classes. Harlan coordinated a standard district show schedule with Barry and Tom. Changes were incorporated in the 2009 GLD district show schedule, but somehow were missed in the 2010 schedule. Harlan provided 4 electronic copies of the 2009 for use as a template for future shows. There is an area provided for the local society to customize categories. The goal is to standardize and simplify the district show schedule, lessening work for the host society and to keep the categories consistent for exhibitors. A question was raised about moving away from booklet format to 8 ½" X 11" pages which could just be stapled or posted online. It was agreed the format will be up to the host society. A question was asked how many people attended the Detroit convention, estimate was 55 attendees. It was suggested a good practice is to keep track of how many entries and how many exhibitors participate in each show. This information could be helpful in planning future shows at both the local and district levels.

### **Adjournment**

A MOTION was made to adjourn the meeting – MOTION PASSED – meeting adjourned at 11:29 AM.