

The Great Lakes District
Of the American Rose Society
Meeting Minutes
Fall Planning Meeting
November 1, 2009
Opening

President Duane DeDene called the meeting to order at 10:47 AM.

Roll Call

Secretary Teri Sutton called the Roll:

DISTRICT OFFICERS Present:

District Director Tom Kressbach
Past President Marilyn Whittaker
President Duane DeDene
Vice President Bill LeVasseur
Treasurer Diane Bennett
Secretary Teri Sutton

Prizes & Awards Barry Crassweller

COMMITTEE CHAIRS Present:

Horticultural Judges Jon Bradley
Ellie Kressbach
Arrangement Judge Jean Bradley
Old Garden Rose Frank Von Koss
Roses in Review Diane Bennett
Program Development Vacant
GLD Web site Paul Columbo - No
Review Editor Sarah Hanifi
Review Publisher Bill Blok - No
District Directory Sarah Hanifi
Membership Betty Watters - No
Historian Jackie Steinert

Consulting Rosarian Coordinator Rose Enders

LOCAL SOCIETIES REPRESENTED:

Cherry Capital - No

Detroit

Grand Valley - No

Greater Lansing - No

Grosse Pointe - No

Huron Valley - No

Kalamazoo

Metropolitan - No

Northeastern

Saginaw Rose & Garden

Thumb

Teri reported 20 were present with 16 necessary for a quorum.

Duane asked everyone to go around the table and introduce themselves.

Corrections to the September 6, 2009 Minutes

There were no corrections. MOTION to approve the minutes, passed.

Old Business

Fall Conference Wrap-up Report

The Grand Valley Fall convention was overall a success.

The Grand Valley convention costs final balance showed a profit of \$38.00. The silent auction profits were \$410, all proceeds kept by Grand Valley. The 50/50 raffle raised a total of \$110, with the winner keeping \$55 and the district got the other \$55.

District Officer Reports

District Director - Tom Kressbach

Tom and Ellie are attending the ARS Fall Convention and Rose Show held in Palm Springs, CA. Tom will gather updates on the contested VP election and current state of ARS finances. All agenda materials for the conference are available as downloads from the website. One of the agenda items is to discuss the possibility of reducing the size of the board, currently at 31. The ARS website has been under

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construction since July and may take a full year to complete.

Upcoming national ARS events in 2010 are: National Spring Convention & Rose Show, April 29-May 2, in Shreveport, LA; National Miniature Conference & Rose Show, August 20-22 in Milwaukee, WI; and National Fall Convention & Rose Show, October 7-11 in Atlanta, GA.

Regional Director - Jim Hering

No report.

President - Duane DeDene

See new business topics.

Vice President - Bill LeVassuer

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

Spring 2010 Kalamazoo (April 16-17, 2010)

Fall 2010 Detroit Rose Society

Spring 2011 Bad Axe

Fall 2011 No Sponsor to Date.

The suggestion was made for two societies to consider jointly hosting a Fall convention. Joint hosting was tried in the past with one group pulling out at the last minute. All societies have difficulty getting enough workers as many local members are not interested in rose shows.

Secretary - Teri Sutton

Passed around a roster with email & telephone numbers for verification.

Treasurer - Diane Bennett

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Diane distributed a report of financial activity from April 19, 2009 through October 31, 2009.

The District's ending balance as of October 31, 2009 is \$3,031.06.

There were no corrections or additions to the financial report. MOTION passed to accept the financial report.

Prizes and Awards – Barry Crassweller

Questions were raised about who is responsible for the trophy table set-up at District rose shows, Prizes & Awards or the Show Chairperson? After discussion of recent confusion the group agreed responsibility for the trophy table belongs to the local society.

MOTION to confirm responsibility of trophy tables at Districts shows belongs to the local society, passed.

MOTION to confirm Prizes & Awards representative brings District trophies to be checked in and out at the show, passed.

MOTION to confirm sending show results to ARS is the responsibility of the show chair, approved.

Horticultural Judges – Jon Bradley, Ellie Kressbach

Co-chair report. Judge reports are due today. So far they have received 20 of 30 reports. Ellie is following up on missing reports. Email reports were sent to 25 judges, 5 via hardcopy. Some email addresses bounced.

With the ARS website down, they can no longer check judge status, however attendees at the judges workshop in GR were given credit.

We have 30 judges, 27 active and 2-3 out due to health reasons. If you know of any potential judges, let Jon & Ellie know.

Arrangements Judge– Jean Bradley

Reports sent and received back. We have 4 active arrangement judges.

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Local societies need to send arrangement show schedules after the first of the year to Jean for approval.

Old Garden Roses – Frank Von Koss

Intends to publish “Old Roses You Should Know” in the next district newsletter.

Roses In Review – Diane Bennett

ARS online reports were received, except when a virus was contracted from the website. There was a concern raised about the online form not having enough space for comments. The hard copy reports included newer varieties. All reports are much appreciated.

This year there were 32 reports submitted to date. These reports contain 326 entries covering 159 varieties of roses. These numbers are down from last year, which included 48 reports, 405 entries and 173 varieties.

Program Development – Open

No report.

Great Lakes District Web Site – Paul Colombo

No Report.

Great Lakes District Review Editor – Sarah Hanifi

Not ready due to national being held later, results of fall show, pictures, not much else.

District Directory Editor – Sarah Hanifi

District Directory Updates. Please send new email addresses to Sarah. Local society presidents should also send new officers, CR co-ordinator, P & A representative, Rose Show dates and Bronze medal winners. A good practice is to send updates each year in January.

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Membership – Betty Watters

No report.

Historian – Jackie Steinert

Everyone appreciated the memorial photos of Bunny Skran.

Jackie would like to feature one long-time member in each district newsletter. Please send her names for consideration.

Consulting Rosarian Coordinator – Rose Enders

The Ender's roses in review reports were not accepted online due to the ARS website virus.

Rose handed out copies of a new CR annual report form developed by Tom Woods. This new form is not yet official, nor available on the website, however it will be used as a trial for entries due February 1, 2010.

The need for a society to host a CR school in 2011 was raised. The requirements are a location with two rooms. One to host the school lasting 4-5 hours. The second room for administering the test, which takes approximately 1 hour. The Saginaw society volunteered to research the possibility of hosting the CR school in 2011.

Rose explained the process to certify speakers for CR credit. 1) Send Rose the resume of the speaker, including any licenses, (for example a license on pesticides). 2) The presenters talk must be at least 1 hour duration. 3) Send Rose a list of the attendees, including each person's signature, (required).

Rose awarded Barry Crassweller his Master Rosarian ARS certificate. Congratulations Barry!

New Business

District Bylaws were re-typed by the secretary, emailed and distributed at today's meeting. Question raised about Louisiana vs Michigan incorporation as stated in the bylaws. This may raise a question about liability if someone is injured at a show

in the future.

District Annual Fee

After considering current District finances, it was proposed to set the annual fee at \$3.00 for the Spring & Fall 2010 District conferences. Discussion followed confirming this

must be set annually. It was generally agreed to set it next year at \$3.00 per attendee, as

two conventions are planned. In the future, the fee may return to \$5, especially if there is

only one convention planned during a year.

MOTION made to set the District annual fee to \$3 for 2010 approved, with 1 opposed.

GLD Spring 2010 Conference - April 16 & 17, 2010 - Kalamazoo

Location is the Country Inn & Suites, 1912 East Kilgore Rd Kalamazoo, MI 49002

The hotel serves a deluxe continental breakfast included with the \$89 per night room rate.

Three speakers are scheduled:

Dr. David Cowan, PHD in Zoology, current Chair of Biological Sciences at Western Michigan University. Dave's presentation is about insects found in our Michigan Rose Gardens.

Dean Pennala has been an avid nature photographer for over 20 years. His images have been published in Sierra Magazine and he teaches photography classes at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts. He will teach us how to photograph flowers.

His website is: <http://www.pennalaphotography.com>

Ben Yost is the owner of Farm-N-Garden in Kalamazoo. He is a Michigan State University extension speaker and an expert on soil composition.

District Web Site - A discussion was had regarding finding a person to take over as the District's Web Master. It was suggested that Clint Bremer who maintains the Saginaw Valley Rose and Garden Club's website might be interestested. As he was present at the meeting he was asked if he would accept the position. Clint accepted

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A motion was made to provide Clint with a \$50.00 allowance to cover costs incurred in preparing the web site. This allowance would be open to renewal each year upon review of the website and approval by the governing board.

The new district website address is: www.greatlakesdistrict.webs.com

District News Items suggested to be on the website include:

(conference dates, judges classes, CR list, etc)

Links to local society web pages

Speaker resource listings

Link to ARS web page

District officer contacts - Sarah Hanifi booklet

Map of state showing location of each society

Combining Membership and Program - District Resource Center

Membership/program - A goal was stated that we need to pull together information on local resources speakers, programs, one way might be to combine these two areas. We need a central location for resources such as powerpoint presentations and an up-to-date list of speakers and programs. This topic needs more discussion prior to a motion. Send

ideas to Duane about people who are interested in how to better share resources and provide membership support. Duane will contact Betty to find out her goals for membership.

Rose stated once she gets approval for a speaker who speaks in one society, they are

then approved to present at other locations. We want to avoid getting speakers approved more than once. Also, Rose and Joe will send CRs a questionnaire asking about programs they are doing and get updated contact information.

Local societies are encouraged to email newsletters to the District Director, President & Secretary to communicate local programs/speakers. Powerpoint presentations can be zipped and available on the website for downloading.

Local Society Participation and ARS Membership

As noted in the bylaws, all local societies must be part of ARS. The Downriver society has been removed from the District. Several attempts to contact board members of their society have gone unanswered. In addition, no paperwork or dues were received from them at the ARS. Tom contacted Nancy Lindley and she confirmed they are no longer

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an active society. A reminder was made to local presidents to insure your society's dues are current with the ARS.

Rose Show Judges - Horticulture and Arrangement. There are plans to get more members interested in becoming a judge and to better utilize existing judges. Currently only 4 arrangement judges are active. For judging arrangements in next year's shows we can use 1 accredited ARS judge, (horticultural or arrangement) and 1 Garden Club of America judge. The criteria to become an arrangement judge is to be an ARS member for 3 years, become a horticulture judge before becoming an arrangement judge. Duane is asking for ideas to encourage more judges. Suggestions include: working to create interest in becoming a judge, create a summary sheet of how to become a judge, talk it up and host workshops. Detroit society is interested in hosting an arrangement workshop at the Fall convention.

District Rose Show Awards - Ok as is, less of them, Use of Certificates. Trophies are expensive and are not as commonly funded by family or others. Use of keeper trophies is considered for top awards. Review your show schedule winners and determine which if any, classifications can be eliminated due to lack of entries. Consider adding easier entries such as rose bowl categories. Determine which trophies are most desired and retire some, use certificates to replace retired trophies. Buy certificates and print via computer. Barry will review the District show schedule and and make suggestions of which categories could be eliminated.

District Conferences - Due to the challenges, (local society manpower and financial costs), of hosting two conferences an alternative may be to reduce to one conference per year (alternate Spring Fall, sometime in June/July, hold at a central location). The Spring conference for 2011 is set, but no commitment yet for fall convention/rose show. June and July are peak times for rose shows at local societies. Propose alternate conventions spring one year, fall the next. ARS has similar issues with hosting of national shows, however the miniature shows are less formal and still popular. Cost for attendees is an issue. What about one fall show every year? We already have too few dates for local shows and limited judges. We are set for 2010, we might have an issue with 2011. Think about the challenges and discuss again in April. Send thoughts to Duane, he is considering set up of an ad-hoc committee to research pros/cons, getting more feedback from society presidents and members.

District Newsletter Publication Dates

October issue is delayed due to not enough information. The next issues are to be published late November or early December, followed by March to include information about the Kalamazoo Spring conference; July or early August for Fall. Sarah is asking for articles the newsletter, rose show results, awards and articles.

Changing District Newsletter Subscription Period to Calendar Year rather than individual periods for each subscriber. The District Review has \$1,030 in funding and the District could grandfather everyone in to begin the new subscription period Jan 1st through Dec 31st, like most society newsletter subscriptions. If someone joins in September, they will get a few extra months, but no one loses months. MOTION to change the subscription period to calendar year was approved. Diane Bennett will work with Bill Blok to facilitate the change over to a yearly subscription plan.

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Other:

A question was raised about filing of financial reports. Local societies do that at meetings, and at the end of the year. Does that mean financial reports should be audited? One society had a member question the finances, the society responded by hiring an audit at a cost of \$65.00 to find a 1 cent difference.

Fall District Convention/Rose Show updates in Detroit, dates set for September 18-19, 2010. Location is the Sommerset Inn in Troy, Michigan. The rose show will be held at the English Gardens, 14 Mile and Coolidge Ave. Diane Schrifft is the chairperson. Detroit wants to host workshops for judges and arrangers. They are requesting to keep profits from the silent auction. MOTION Detroit keeps the silent auction proceeds, approved.

A note was made that any district convention patrons must be designated.

Duane recommends reading the book titled, 'Otherwise Normal People: Inside the Thorny World of Competitive Rose Gardening'. The book talks about the elite in rose growing and then the rest of the population. Reminds us to keep in mind we need to make rose growing fun and exciting to attract new members and to avoid talking down or being arrogant when discussing rose growing tips with others. To be helpful to potential new members who may only be interested in how to prevent winter kill. Many local members are not interested in competing at a show.

A reminder was stated for local societies to keep in mind wheelchair access for some of our judges. This means having wheelchair access via an elevator if necessary, keeping isles wider and trophy tables lower.

Adjournment

A MOTION was made to adjourn the meeting - MOTION PASSED - meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.