

AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

**Hilton Garden Inn
Brandon FL**

**Fall Membership Meeting
November 13 – 15, 2009**

**SPECIAL PRESIDENT’S COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING,
4 P.M., NOVEMBER 13, 2009**

President Eddie Griffith called the meeting to order, and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Eddie Griffith, 2nd VP Don Mixon, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman of Directors Fred Roush, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Val Longson; Directors: Bradley Christian, Cindy Erndt, Paul Felsberg, Joyce Comingore, Ed Flory, Kathy Grandoff, Wanda Schmoyer; Chapter Presidents’ Coordinator Wally Neef. Absent: 1st VP Wayne Cameron and Immediate Past National President Sam Andrews.

President Griffith informed the Committee that Wayne Cameron had resigned his position as 1st VP. Because of continuing scheduling conflicts, Mr. Cameron had to make a decision about priorities. “I was looking forward to working with him on the AHS Board, and he will be missed,” the president said.

Under AHS bylaws, the sitting 2nd VP Don Mixon moves up to fill the remaining term of 1st VP.

On recommendation by the president, and on motion made and seconded, Rita Hall was appointed to fill the unexpired term of 2nd VP. The motion carried unanimously.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

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Fall Membership Meeting
November 13 – 15, 2009

FIRST PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE MEETING, 4:15 P.M., NOVEMBER 13, 2009

President Eddie Griffith called the meeting to order, and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Eddie Griffith, 1st VP Don Mixon, 2nd VP Rita Hall, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman of Directors Fred Roush, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Val Longson.

President Griffith addressed the need for a review of the Seedling Evaluation Policy. Circumstances indicate a need to add a non-evaluating member as a Statistics Coordinator. A numbers person to send out the evaluation forms, collect the data, tabulate the numbers and distribute the completed information to Committee members. This will free the Chairman of the SEC to concentrate on the actual plant evaluation discussions at meetings. Jim Gedicke, a member of the New Orleans Chapter and Associate Member of both Lone Star and Space City Chapters, has volunteered to accept this responsibility. Mr. Gedicke is an accountant with Dominion Oil in Houston, TX, and a “number cruncher” by profession. Director Cindy Erndt contacted Mr. Gedicke and explained the scope of the duties of the Statistics Coordinator. Mr. Gedicke accepted this responsibility.

Randy Cox requested time to address the Committee concerning the breach of the Policy Manual with regard to the outcome of the 2008 Hibiscus of the Year selection. The current policy was in effect from November 2003, and the Seedling Evaluation Committee Chairman did not follow that policy in determining the winner of the 2008 HOTY. He also admonished members not to privately communicate about AHS business. Parliamentarian Paul Felsberg reminded the Committee that, although Texas and Louisiana do not have Sunshine Laws, the AHS operates under Florida's Sunshine Laws.

The 2010 Convention will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Lake Buena Vista, FL, June 17 – 20, 2010.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

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Fall Membership Meeting
November 13 – 15, 2009

FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 5 P.M., NOVEMBER 13, 2009

Chairman Fred Roush called the meeting to order, and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Eddie Griffith, 1st VP Don Mixon, 2nd VP Rita Hall, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman of Directors Fred Roush, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Val Longson; Directors: Bradley Christian, Cindy Erndt, Paul Felsberg, Joyce Comingore, Ed Flory, Kathy Grandoff, Wanda Schmoyer; Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Wally Neef. Absent: Immediate Past National President Sam Andrews.

Nola and Carlos Reynolds have offered to defray the expense of hiring an accounting firm to handle the statistical data for the Seedling Evaluation Committee. AHS member Jim Gedicke has volunteered to assume this responsibility as a service to the Society.

Old Business

Tabled from the June Board meeting was a recommendation to change the designation from Hibiscus of the Year (HOTY) to Seedling of the Year (SOTY). On motion made and seconded, the recommendation was approved unanimously.

A letter was to be sent to all Chapter presidents at the end of this show season reminding them to request their show dates for the 2010 show season from the 2nd VP. Since all show dates have been set and are ready to be published in the January 2010 issue of *The Seed Pod*, there is no need for this letter to be sent.

A discussion about the use of some of the remaining grant funds to produce PowerPoint presentations for use at Chapter meetings was referred to the Publications Committee at its meeting on Saturday.

Finding a sponsor for the reprinting of the Exhibitor Cards was referred to the Publications Committee.

At the June meeting, the Board approved a recommendation from the Show and Judging Rules Committee that a proposal be tried at the two remaining shows of the 2009 show season limiting the final Gold Seal judging in classifications where judges had blooms exhibited. For example, if a judge exhibited in the Open Collector Class, he/she could not vote in that Class if he/she had blooms in the final judging. This was reported to have worked well at the last two shows. During discussion, there was some opposition to this rule change and it was referred to the Show and Judging Rules Committee for further consideration.

At the June meeting, a proposal was made to appoint someone to permanently track the judges and judges-in-training to maintain continuity when the office of 1st VP changed hands. After discussion, the Board decided to leave this function in the hands of the 1st VP who can delegate this task if he/she so wishes.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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COMMITTEES AS A WHOLE, 9 A.M., NOVEMBER 14, 2009

President Eddie Griffith welcomed everyone to the 2009 Fall Membership meeting, and called for Committee reports.

Treasurer's Report: Walter Bisselle

The membership list has been scrubbed of non-paying names and, although the numbers are down from last year, the dues are about where we expected them to be.

The Seed Pod: Rita Hall

We have a new advertiser starting with the January 2010 issue. It is the company in Hawaii from which many of us have ordered hibiscus shirts. We are checking into a new printing company to try to cut costs and obtain better service. We are always pleased to consider articles written by our members. Send me your Chapter news and include pictures.

Publications: Paul Felsberg

We have approximately \$1,400 remaining of the \$3,000 Chandler Cox Grant to produce the DVD Catalogue. A discussion followed on ideas for producing additional educational materials for programs at Chapter meetings; the feasibility of producing The Tropical Hibiscus Handbook on a DVD; developing a garden variety hibiscus catalogue; reprinting the new DVD catalogue and using the copies for membership incentives.

President Griffith announced that Chris Noble of Australia, who was for several years the ICRA for Hibiscus rosa-sinensis, has donated to the American Hibiscus Society as intellectual property the web site he built dealing with the bugs and pests that attack hibiscus. It can be accessed from the AHS web site at <http://americanhibiscus.org>

Seed Bank: Bob Carran

This has been a slower year for requests as there are now a few other sources for acquiring seeds. This year I sent out 1,653 seeds compared with about 2,500 last year. In 2008 I sent seeds to 171 individuals; this year only 102. Mailing supplies and postage have increased. The USPS has divided the World into zones and it now costs more to mail to far away places. I send 10 to 15 seeds in each order, about 5 each of 3 different crosses. About 99% of the requests are via email. Thanks to Marti and Greg Graves and Connie Roush for bringing me seeds to this meeting.

Nomenclature: Sam Andrews (Marti Graves representing)

Members of the Committee are: Sam and Lynn Andrews, Marti Graves, Cindy Erndt, Pat Merritt. Dr. George Fister, Bubba Hackett, and Tom Miller also provide input. The LSU participants are graduate student Michael Avinash – Programming, Sam Razi – Development and Programming Director, Dr. Pat Hegwood – Chief Contact and Sponsor, Dr. Rod Hendrick – Sponsor; Australian Contact Brian Cheers – Nomenclature and ICRA Officer.

COMMITTEES AS A WHOLE (con't.)

There are almost 11,500 entries from all over the world in this database. LSU is working on several finishing items such as refining the database search options, adding awards won by blooms, continuing to add and link pictures, testing the various functions of the site, etc. For those without Internet access the paper registration form has been completely revised and is available to complete and snail mail to the Committee Chairman. A copy of the complete report furnished to the Chairman is made a part of these Minutes.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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CHAPTER PRESIDENTS' MEETING, 10:30 A.M., NOVEMBER 14, 2009

Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Wally Neef called the meeting to order with the following Chapters represented:

MB Acadiana, Damon Veach representing	Conrad Sunrise, Paul Felsberg
Golby Reasoner, Gayler Boettcher representing	Gulf Coast, Wally Neef
Harry Goulding, Randy Cox representing	James Hendry, Wanda Schmoyer
Lone Star, Marti Graves	New Orleans, Damon Veach representing
Red Stick, Damon Veach	Space City, Cindy Erndt
St. Croix, Bradley Christian representing	St. Thomas, Mario Francis
Sunset, Fred Roush	Tampa Unbelievable, Don Mixon

Damon Veach, President of the Red Stick Chapter, was elected the new Chapter Presidents' Coordinator to serve until the November 2010 Membership Meeting.

Chapter Presidents were reminded that they need to follow up on their chapter's Show Chairman to make sure he/she performs all of the show duties assigned to this position as set out in the Show Judges' Manual.

Paul Felsberg produced a thin volume entitled "Show Chairman's Manual" that was so old it referred to having the Quartet in place before the doors opened to the public. Marti Graves and Paul Felsberg volunteered to revise this manual, and the matter was referred to the Show and Judging Rules Committee.

New Chapter Presidents:

Maureen Buono, Conrad Sunrise Chapter
Sandra Theall, Michael Bernard Acadiana Chapter
Jerry Smyth, Harry Goulding Chapter
Cindy Erndt, Space City Chapter

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Archivist/Historian: Barbara Hagan-Smith

Please send me your Chapter's newsletter each month. Also, any memorabilia or old records should be archived. Send them to my sister Betsy LaFever, 31515 Cross Creek Lane, Wesley Chapel, FL 33543. I will catalogue and archive them when I am there next. Send other material or correspondence to me at 116 Northrop Rd., Woodbridge, CT 06525.

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SEEDLING EVALUATION COMMITTEE, 1:45 P.M., NOVEMBER 14, 2009

Chairman Rod Hendrick was absent and President Eddie Griffith appointed Greg Graves to chair this meeting. Present: Kathy Grandoff, Cindy Erndt, Annelle Cox, Greg Graves, Bradley Christian. Absent: Rod Hendrick, Sam Andrews, Pete Conrad and David Tate.

The Class of 2006 was statistically narrowed to the final four cultivars for Hibiscus of the Year for 2010:

Sweet Pink: 27.33	Voodoo Magic: 23.88
Early Times: 23.50	Yoda: 23.12

The cultivars dropped were:

Clairvoyant Lady: 20.86	Night Runner: 22.25
Royal Sentry: 20.33	Seventh Heaven: 21.67

After a lengthy discussion, the Committee members present recommended that Chairman Rod Hendrick be removed from the Seedling Evaluation Committee. This recommendation carried with one abstention. This recommendation will be presented to the President's Committee at its meeting later in the day.

The Class of 2007 was discussed and three cultivars were dropped because of poor performance:

Macho Man	Rebellious Lady	Ritzy Gal
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The Class of 2008 was discussed, but it is too early for meaningful evaluations of these cultivars.

There were no bids received from a designated grafter. After discussion, the Committee decided to return to the past method of seedling distribution to SEC members. Each winning hybridizer will furnish wood or a growing plant that is at least 12" above the soil to each member. The Committee recommended to the President's Committee that the AHS reimburse hybridizers for shipping costs.

Tom Miller reminded the Committee that the Seedling Evaluation Mail List is available for discussions among members.

The Committee unanimously elected Greg Graves as its Chairman.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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SHOW & JUDGING RULES COMMITTEE, 3 P.M., NOVEMBER 14, 2009

1st Vice President and Chairman of this Committee Wayne Cameron resigned, and the new 1st VP Don Mixon chaired the meeting. A Judges' Seminar ran concurrently with this meeting led by President Eddie Griffith and Secretary Pat Merritt. Present: Paul Felsberg, Marti Graves, Zelma Neef, Bonnie Orpi, Pat Merritt, Randy Cox, Ed Flory. Absent: Pete Conrad and Bobby Dupont.

The problems reported at the June meeting were reviewed and all seem to be resolved. Judges who have not judged a show in two or more years need to observe at a show before resuming their status. They may judge with permission from the 1st VP and/or Show Chairman.

The placement of blooms on wires was discussed. The blooms are supposed to be placed facing up (horizontal), not forward (vertical). The Show Director should place blooms on the Gold Seal tables so that each bloom presents its best face.

Wire length must be 6". Show Directors should carry a pair of wire cutters with them.

Judges were reminded not to talk among themselves and to keep their final Gold Seal ballots to themselves. They were also reminded to be quiet and not to talk to the Director and his/her assistants while they are counting the votes.

If a regular bloom can have points taken away because it is too small, can points be deducted if a miniature bloom is too small? We deduct points from miniature blooms if they are over 5" but do we deduct points from a regular bloom that looks like it is on steroids? A lengthy discussion followed resulting in the conclusions that we have three judges at each table that can produce a majority vote, and that the judges should think about what blooms will really shine on the head table. Our shows are to entice the public to join our Society and grow these beautiful flowers.

The need for local Judges' Seminars was stressed, as not all judges attend the membership meetings.

A lengthy discussion ensued about continuing the experiment of not allowing judges to vote during final Gold Seal judging in the Class in which they have Gold Seal blooms. This excludes the Miniature Class. If a judge has only single blooms in his/her Class, but no double blooms, he/she may vote in the doubles Class. A recommendation was made that this experiment be continued through the June Convention, at which time the Committee will reconsider it. The recommendation passed 5 to 2.

The rule that a judge may not vote in the Best of Show category if he/she has a bloom in contention remains in effect. Also remaining in effect is that Best of Show blooms must receive a majority vote.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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SECOND PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE MEETING, 4:30 P.M., NOVEMBER 14, 2009

President Eddie Griffith called the meeting to order, and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Eddie Griffith, 1st VP Don Mixon, 2nd VP Rita Hall, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman of Directors Fred Roush, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Val Longson.

Seedling Evaluation

On motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the position of Statistics Coordinator for the SEC was created, and Mr. Jim Gedicke of the New Orleans Chapter was appointed to this position. The Statistics Coordinator will have no voting participation. He will collect and compile the evaluation data from each Committee member and send the finished forms via email to each Committee member and the Executive Secretary. The exception to this is that the completed forms showing the finishing order of the final four for Hibiscus of the Year will be sent to the Executive Secretary only, and they will not be made available to anyone until after the Awards Banquet at the June convention.

President Griffith led a discussion on revisions to the Seedling Evaluation Committee Policy Manual pages. All revisions were unanimously approved by the President's Committee. Revised pages are made a part of these Minutes.

The President's Committee unanimously approved the Seedling Evaluation Committee's recommendation to change the designation "**Hibiscus of the Year**" to "**Seedling of the Year.**"

The President's Committee unanimously approved the following SEC recommendations:

- Removal of Rod Hendrick from the SEC.
- Reimbursement of shipping costs to winning hybridizers.
- Election of Greg Graves as Chairman of the SEC.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

THE SEEDLING EVALUATION COMMITTEE (Revised 11/14/2009)

THE SEEDLING EVALUATION COMMITTEE

1. Members are appointed by the President's Committee to evaluate seedlings in contention for "Hibiscus of the Year" awards. Committee members elect or re-elect a chairperson at the fall meeting each odd number year. The size of the committee is set at a maximum of ten members.
2. The Committee is composed of persons in differing climatic and geographic areas who have substantial growing experience and expertise.
3. **Committee members study and evaluate the total plant, not just the bloom.** Considerations include the overall bush and its growth habits and traits, as well as the bloom itself. Members are cautioned that seedling evaluation is not a forum for establishing the popularity of a bloom, but rather is a means of determining the best overall plant from a given selection.
4. The Seedling Evaluation Committee Chairman presides at all meetings of the Committee, and is an active, voting participant in Committee activities.
 - a. The Statistics Coordinator will collect and compile evaluation data from SEC members and furnish completed evaluation forms via email to each Committee member and the Executive Secretary. The forms showing the finishing order of the final four naming the Seedling of the Year will be furnished only to the Executive Secretary. The Statistics Coordinator has no voting participation.
5. Because complete member participation is crucial to the proper functioning of this Committee, each Committee member will:
 - a. Grow and care for, to the best of their ability and at their own expense, all "Best of Show Seedling" winners currently under evaluation by the Committee.
 - b. Attend membership meetings and conventions as often as possible. If unable to attend a meeting, he/she must furnish a written report individually listing each cultivar, plus any additional comments desired.
6. **ANY MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE WHO FAILS TO EITHER ATTEND OR FURNISH A WRITTEN REPORT FOR TWO SUCCESSIVE MEETINGS, OR FAILS TO RESPOND TO A CALL FOR A VOTE OR EVALUATION EITHER IN PERSON OR BY ABSENTEE REPORT, SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE FAILED IN THEIR DUTIES AND WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR EXPULSION FROM THE COMMITTEE.**
7. Each member of the Seedling Evaluation Committee will grow the "Best of Show Seedling" winners as long as they remain in consideration by the Committee. Requirements for considering a seedling winner for Seedling of the Year are:
 - a. The cultivar must comply with AHS rules for showing seedlings and must have won "Best of Show Seedling" at an officially sanctioned AHS Show.
 - b. Partial or complete registration will be required as soon as possible after a seedling wins best of show. Complete registration should be submitted within two weeks of the show.
 - c. All Best of Show Seedling hybridizers will furnish scion wood for grafting or a plant that is at least 12" above the soil to each Committee member. For January through June shows by the June Convention of the following year, and for July through December shows by the fall membership meeting of the following year. Hybridizers may request reimbursement from the AHS treasurer for reasonable shipping costs. **FAILURE OF THE HYBRIDIZER TO DO THIS**

AUTOMATICALLY RESULTS IN THE CULTIVAR BEING DROPPED FROM CONSIDERATION FOR THE SEEDLING OF THE YEAR AWARD.

- d. The complete evaluation process may last up to three and one-half years, i.e.,
 - 1) A seedling winner from a 2000 Show would be evaluated during 2001, 2002, and 2003.
 - 2) At the fall membership meeting of the third year, all seedlings still in contention will be evaluated. At this time, the evaluation scores will determine the final four.
 - 3) Hybridizers of those four cultivars will be notified by the Seedling Evaluation Chairperson of their retention in competition and will be instructed to forward at least three good-quality images of their seedling to the Executive Secretary's office no later than February 1. **FAILURE TO PROVIDE SUCH IMAGES WILL RESULT IN ELIMINATION FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION.**
 - 4) Before May 1 each year the best three or four cultivars will be determined by a final evaluation, plus the last three evaluation scores.
 - a) The Statistics Coordinator will distribute the final evaluation forms to all Committee members no later than April 15.
 - b) Members will evaluate the final four as instructed and return to the Statistics Coordinator to be received no later that May 1.
8. Only those members with a "**NEED TO KNOW**" (Executive Secretary, Seed Pod Editor, and Statistics Coordinator) should know the names of the winners and their hybridizers. Names will be kept secret to enhance the element of surprise and anticipation at the Awards Banquet of the next convention.
9. At the appropriate time, images provided will be supplied to such publications as require them.

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Brandon FL

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SECOND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 5:20 P.M., NOVEMBER 14, 2009

Chairman Fred Roush called the meeting to order, and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Eddie Griffith, 1st VP Don Mixon, 2nd VP Rita Hall, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman of Directors Fred Roush, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Val Longson; Directors: Bradley Christian, Cindy Erndt, Paul Felsberg, Joyce Comingore, Ed Flory, Kathy Grandoff; Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Damon Veach. Absent: Immediate Past National President Sam Andrews. Excused absence: Director Wanda Schmoyer.

The Board unanimously ratified all of the actions taken by the President's Committee at its meeting earlier in the day. See 2nd President's Committee Meeting Minutes for details.

On motion made and seconded, Kathy Grandoff was elected Chairman of Directors.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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FIRST GENERAL SESSION, 8 P.M., NOVEMBER 14, 2009

President Eddie Griffith welcomed everyone to the First General Session, and asked Jane Flory to deliver the Invocation and Wally Neef to lead the salute to the flag.

President Griffith recapped the events of the meeting thus far:

Wayne Cameron's resignation as 1st VP and Don Mixon moving up to that position from 2nd VP.

Rita Hall appointed to serve as 2nd VP.

Rod Hendrick removed from the Seedling Evaluation Committee. President Griffith thanked Dr. Hendrick for his service to the Society.

Seedling Evaluation Committee creating the position of Statistics Coordinator and appointing Jim Gedicke to that position as a non-evaluating member.

Greg Graves elected as Seedling Evaluation Committee Chairman.

Kathy Grandoff elected as Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Nominating Committee: Joyce Melebeck, Chairman (Marti Graves representing)

The slate of candidates to serve the Society for 2010 – 2012 is:

President:	Don Mixon
1 st Vice President:	Fred Roush
2 nd Vice President:	Paul Felsberg Deb Spencer
Secretary:	Pat Merritt

Directors to serve 2010 - 2014

Director, TX/LA:	Cindy Erndt C. J. Melebeck Damon Veach
Director, FL:	Mary Bridges
Director, MAL:	Sam Andrews
Director, Islands:	Mario Francis

Mrs. Graves asked for nominations from the floor and there were none. Nominations will remain open until the end of the Second General Session on Sunday morning.

All candidates need to send a short biography and a photograph to *The Seed Pod* Editor Rita Hall.

FIRST GENERAL SESSION (con't.)

Executive Secretary Val Longson announced that the 2010 Convention will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Buena Vista (Orlando), Florida June 17 – 20, 2010.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY

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SECOND GENERAL SESSION, 9 A.M., NOVEMBER 15, 2009

President Eddie Griffith welcomed everyone to the Second General Session, and asked Rita Hall to deliver the Invocation and Wally Neef to lead the salute to the flag.

Unfinished Business: By Laws

Paul Felsberg will work on wording to include the Florida Sunshine Laws.

President Griffith called on Mario Francis, president of the St. Thomas Chapter, to share what he is doing to revive the Island Chapters.

The Tortola Chapter is coming back to life, and the St. Thomas Chapter has grown to 35 memberships with 50 members. They are working on starting a Chapter in St. John. He would also like to see an AHS Convention in St. Croix or St. Thomas.

2010 Convention

June 17 – 20, 2010, Embassy Suites, Buena Vista, Florida (near Orlando).

Nominations

Marti Graves read again the slate of candidates for the 2010 elections and called for nominations from the floor. There were none and the nominations were closed.

The president reminded everyone that Unbelievable Hibiscus was hosting a barbecue immediately following the meeting, and all are invited to attend.

With no further business, the Fall Membership Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia B. Merritt, Secretary