Clarion Hotel Fort Myers, Florida

Annual Convention June 14 – 17, 2007

FIRST PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE MEETING, 4 P.M., JUNE 14, 2007

President Sam Andrews called the meeting to order, and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Sam Andrews, 1st VP Roz Merritt, 2nd VP Paul Felsberg, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman of Directors Eddie Griffith, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Val Longson.

President Andrews asked for a motion and second to appoint a National Nominating Committee to identify candidates for officer and director positions for the 2008 election cycle. So moved and carried. The president reminded the Committee that with the bylaws change to be approved at the First General Session, the appointments to the Nominating Committee will be one member from each Chapter, and no more than three At-Large Members.

The president next announced the resignation of Executive Secretary Val Longson, and asked anyone interested in this position to please contact him during the meetings this weekend. It may be that the duties of this position will need to be split among several people. President Andrews asked Ms Longson to list the various duties now performed by her, and indicate which of them she would like to continue handling. The most critical immediate need is an event coordinator.

President Andrews announced that *The Seed Pod* was now available for purchase on DVD. A five-DVD set entitled "*The Seed Pod*, 51 Years of American Hibiscus Society History, 1956 - 2006" is now complete, and may be ordered from the AHS treasurer or on the AHS web site using PayPal. The cost is \$100 for USA orders, and \$115 for foreign orders, shipping and handling included.

Clarion Hotel Fort Myers, Florida

Annual Convention June 14 – 17, 2007

FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 4:30 P.M., JUNE 14, 2007

Chairman of the Board Eddie Griffith called the meeting to order, and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Sam Andrews, 1st VP Roz Merritt, 2nd VP Paul Felsberg, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman Eddie Griffith, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Val Longson; Directors Don Schermerhorn, Fred Roush; Immediate Past National President Rita Hall; Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Marti Graves. Absent: Directors Dave Flanders, Bernard Pages, Dr. David Tate, Wayne Cameron, Bradley Christian. Several Directors were on their way to the meeting, but had not yet arrived. Directors Dave Flanders and Wayne Cameron had excused absences.

Minutes of the last Board meetings held November 10 & 11, 2006, in Lafayette, Louisiana, were approved as written and posted on the AHS web site.

Treasurer Walter Bisselle announced that an Annual Report for the fiscal year June 1, 2006 – May 31, 2007, was available for the membership.

Since President Andrews had a full agenda prepared for this meeting, Chairman Griffith requested that he chair the meeting.

The bylaws amendments were printed in the January 2007 issue of *The Seed Pod*. The Bylaws state that any proposed amendments or changes must be printed in the April issue of this publication. On motion made, seconded and carried, an amendment to the Bylaws changing this to "any issue of *The Seed Pod* prior to a Convention" was proposed. **Seedling Study Committee**

This Committee of eight members, chaired by Tony Orpi, was appointed at the Fall Membership Meeting held in Lafayette, LA last November. Its purpose was to explore new and better ways for selecting candidates for Hibiscus of the Year. After talking with several hybridizers, the Committee found absolutely no interest in changing the method of HOTY selection. This Committee is dissolved with the Board's thanks.

Nomenclature

President Andrews announced that an agreement had been reached with the help of Pat Hegwood and approval by the Chancellor for Louisiana State University (LSU) to host the American Hibiscus Society's Nomenclature database on the University's computer system. They will design the database web site using SQL software, and the information will be provided to them in Excel. As of this date there will be no known cost to the Society. We do have an approved budget of \$1,000 if this should change. One requirement in a handshake form is that all information will be the property of LSU and nothing can be entered without their approval. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and approved to accept LSU as the server and that all data will belong to LSU.

There followed a lengthy discussion on the registration process and an explanation of the official International Cultivar Registration Authority for H. rosa-sinensis that now lies with the Australian Hibiscus Society. A motion was made, seconded and approved for

FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 4:30 P.M., JUNE 14, 2007 (con't.)

President Sam Andrews to enter into negotiations with the official ICRA officer to work out an agreement for information sharing.

At the Fall Membership Meeting in November 2006, the special Committee appointed to make a final determination on the dissolution of the Baton Rouge Chapter recommended that if documentation of the amount of funds from the plant sale attributable for the benefit of Burden Research Center could be made, the AHS would honor it. No verifiable documentation could be found, and all funds will be retained by the AHS.

President Andrews introduced a distinguished guest, Prof. Tito Schiva of the Institute of Experimental Floriculture, Sanremo, Italy.

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SECOND PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE MEETING, 3:30 P.M., JUNE 15, 2007

President Sam Andrews called the meeting to order, and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Sam Andrews, 1st VP Roz Merritt, 2nd VP Paul Felsberg, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman of Directors Eddie Griffith, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Val Longson.

The president restated that the Society needs a replacement for Executive Secretary Val Longson who resigned, and that he would be corresponding with the President's Committee between now and next summer in the search. Ms Longson was again requested to list the duties she would like for others to assume, or how her duties could be split among several people.

President Andrews next asked for suggestions from the membership for locations for the Fall Membership Meeting in November and the 2008 Convention. There followed a discussion about various locations, such as Jacksonville and Sebring, with nothing being resolved.

The hospitality suite will be open from 5 to 7 p.m.

Clarion Hotel Fort Myers, Florida

Annual Convention June 14 – 17, 2007

SECOND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 4 P.M., JUNE 15, 2007

Chairman of the Board Eddie Griffith called the meeting to order, and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Sam Andrews, 1st VP Roz Merritt, 2nd VP Paul Felsberg, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman Eddie Griffith, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Val Longson; Directors Bernard Pages, Don Schermerhorn, David Tate, Bradley Christian, Fred Roush; Immediate Past National President Rita Hall; Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Marti Graves. Absent: Directors Dave Flanders, Wayne Cameron.

Chairman Griffith reviewed the First President's Committee and First Board Meetings for those who were not in attendance:

Executive Secretary Val Longson has resigned and the search is on for a replacement.

The President's Committee approved the appointment of a National Nominating Committee consisting of one member from each Chapter and not more than three At-Large members. This Committee will meet and elect a Chairman immediately following the First General Session on Saturday morning.

The Seed Pod on DVD, "51 Years of American Hibiscus Society History, 1956 – 2006" is now available in a five-DVD set, completely indexed. It may be purchased by contacting the treasurer or from the AHS web site using PayPal for \$100 USA or \$115 foreign, shipping and handling included.

A proposed bylaws change to Article XIV to publish amendments/changes in the January or April issue of *The Seed Pod*, as well as on the AHS web site was discussed. Bylaws now provide for publishing in the April issue.

Hibiscus Care Sheet

A budget for publishing the hibiscus care sheet is needed. The front is a copyrighted drawing and the back contains care information that Tom Miller and Paul Felsberg put together. The drawing cannot be altered, but Chapters may format the care information to fit local growing conditions. There is room at the bottom on the back for each Chapter to put their Chapter information. The drawing can only be used for this one purpose, but we can reprint it for this purpose as long as we wish. The artist did not charge us for using her drawing, but Nola and Carlos Reynolds will name a hibiscus for her, and will provide pictures for her to make a choice. She will be provided a plant of her choice.

Director Bernard Pages requested that the Convention spend more time on Chapters and Membership.

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FIRST GENERAL SESSION, 9 A.M., JUNE 16, 2007

The president asked Jane Flory to deliver the Invocation and Wally Neef to lead us in the salute to the flag.

President Sam Andrews called the meeting to order, and Recording Secretary Pat Merritt called the roll. Present: President Sam Andrews, 1st VP Roz Merritt, 2nd VP Paul Felsberg, Secretary Pat Merritt, Chairman Eddie Griffith, Treasurer Walter Bisselle, Executive Secretary Val Longson; Directors Bernard Pages, Don Schermerhorn, David Tate, Bradley Christian, Fred Roush; Immediate Past National President Rita Hall; Chapter Presidents' Coordinator Marti Graves. Absent: Directors Dave Flanders, Wayne Cameron.

The president's comments centered on membership, pointing out that Chapter membership is declining and Member-At-Large membership is growing. MAL's now account for approximately 40% of our membership. The Caribbean membership is relatively stable, but not growing; Louisiana membership is growing rapidly with the potential of two more Chapters, making a total of five; Texas membership is steady to slightly declining; Florida Chapter membership has dropped dramatically, but MAL's are growing. We need more growers, more exhibitors, more hybridizers, more young people and more members willing to assume leadership roles.

There followed a discussion of the duties of the Executive Secretary, and that the replacement didn't have to be a woman. James Monroe was Executive Secretary for many years in the early days of the Society.

Nominating Committee

The President's Committee approved the formation of a National Nominating Committee at its first meeting on Thursday. The following members are appointed to this Committee:

Lone Star Chapter: Marti Graves Red Stick Chapter: Damon Veach New Orleans Chapter: Fr. Bob Gerlich Member-At-Large: Gayle Morrison Central Florida Chapter: Victor Zeno Conrad-Sunrise: Jo Conrad Harry Goulding Chapter: James Bridges Member-At-Large: Lynn Andrews Space City Chapter: Cindy Erndt M.B. Acadiana Chapter: Sandra Theall Sunset Chapter: Don Mixon Member-At-Large: Betsy LaFever Gulf Coast Chapter: None Hendry Chapter: Joyce Comingore Golby-Reasoner Chapter: None

Islands Chapters: Bradley Christian, representing as a non-voting member This Committee will meet immediately following this session.

Budget Committee: Walter Bisselle

MAL membership is strong. Chapter membership is steady with a small decline. Budget shows a deficit for this year and may have a deficit next year, but nothing of concern. We are looking for advertisers and corporate support, and anything members can do to

FIRST GENERAL SESSION, 9 A.M., JUNE 16, 2007 (con't.)

generate additional income will help. Keep in mind that the AHS is a 501(c)3 entity, and as such can accept donations of cash, property, etc., to its Chapters or to National.

Bylaws Committee: Paul Felsberg

Amendments to our bylaws proposed at the 2006 Convention were duly printed in *The Seed Pod* at least 30 days prior to this Convention. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve these amendments as printed.

An amendment to Article XIV, Amendments, was proposed to change the last sentence to read: "Publication of proposed amendments in the JANUARY OR April issue of *The Seed Pod*, AS WELL AS ON THE AHS WEB SITE NO LATER THAN APRIL 30TH will normally suffice for such notice." (Additions in all caps.) This proposal was seconded and carried.

The Seed Pod: Rita Hall, Editor

We are adding more pizzazz and a more modern look, and utilizing our color space more efficiently. Planning to liven up advertising and regular articles. We are always looking for articles and ask our members to send them in. Expenses are always increasing, so I will be learning more about Quark and will make some of the corrections, thus reducing the cost about \$300 an issue. Reducing the number of copies printed will not reduce the cost, so we are sending the extras to Chapter presidents for use in recruiting new members. We are considered a small job without priority, so even if we get an issue print-ready early, it can take several weeks to get it printed and to the mailer. A reminder, for \$5 per year you can have your issues sent First Class and get them faster. The last show on the Calendar is the Sunset show on June 30th. Thank you to all who help get out every issue: Pat Merritt for proofing and color pictures; Katie McClain for handling the mailing; Walter Bisselle for preparing the mailing materials; and to everyone for their articles.

Chapter Presidents' Coordinator: Marti Graves

Thirteen of the 15 Chapters were represented and we had an excellent discussion. Show dates need to be sent to the 2nd VP by October 1st, and if your date is static let him know that so that you are assured of that date for future years. Requested the 2nd VP to use the AHSBiz List to send Chapter presidents an email reminder in September about the October 1 deadline. We discussed ways to attract new members, and shared successful meeting program content.

Members-At-Large Committee: Sam Andrews

As the treasurer reported, the good news is that MAL membership is up significantly. We are getting members from around the world. Bob Carran's work with the Seed Bank has been enormously helpful in spreading a positive image, and we are gaining new members. The bad news is that some of these MAL's are as a result of Chapters folding. We are working with our commercial growers to increase memberships.

At this time, President Andrews introduced a James E. Hendry Chapter Charter Member Mrs. Helen Sanders of Fort Myers, Florida. Mrs. Sanders graciously loaned the Society her complete collection of issues of *The Seed Pod* for the DVD scanning project.

Nomenclature Committee: Sam Andrews

See Minutes of the First Board of Directors Meeting

FIRST GENERAL SESSION, 9 A.M., JUNE 16, 2007 (con't.)

Publications Committee: Paul Felsberg & Roland Gaudet

Roland Gaudet announced that Paul Felsberg has agreed to take over the Chairmanship of the Publications Committee, and Roland will continue to handle shipping.

Our handbook continues to be a best seller, with Publications taking in over \$6500 last year. The Show Chairman's Manual will be revised for the first time in 30 years. We are looking into producing a digital catalogue of bloom images. Our show packets have become more expensive to produce. We no longer have a corporate sponsor to print the exhibitor cards and the Society has to pay for them. Two thousand cards are sent out for each show at a cost of about \$30. Not all of these cards are being used each show, and it will be helpful if they can be conserved and used for your show next year. Permanent exhibitor numbers are issued in January each year, and must be requested prior to the make up of the show packets. If you already have a permanent number, it is good forever. If you change exhibitor category during the year, you must request a new number in the new category by January of the following year. The hibiscus care sheets will be printed with the front in color and the back will have care tips in black & white. Some will be left blank on the back if the Chapter wishes to write their own care tips. These will be included in the show packets that each Chapter may custom-order.

Seed Bank: Bob Carran

As of this Convention date I have sent out 1,437 seeds to 96 people around the world. Over 80% have gone to people outside of the USA to Taiwan, Japan, Philippines, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Spain, the Canary Islands, France, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Malta, Romania, Italy, Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Canada, Bermuda, Costa Rica, and the US, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Thanks to my Seed Angels who have kept the Seed Bank operating. The hurricanes have changed the micro-climate in my yard, so without seeds donated by Marti & Greg Graves, Sam & Lynn Andrews, Sandra Theall, Connie & Fred Roush and others we would not be able to answer the seed requests and supply hibiscus seeds free of charge, compliments of the AHS. Please keep your Seed Bank in mind when you have excess seeds.

Seedling Evaluation Committee: Roz Merritt

The Committee was furnished with completed current evaluation forms for 2004 and 2005. The 2004 group will have one more evaluation before the list is narrowed to the final four candidates at the Fall Membership Meeting in November. We had a method in place of avoiding a tie for the Hibiscus of the Year that had never been needed, but the majority of the Committee present voted to eliminate this. Rod Hendrick went over his suggestions for expanding the point range and evaluation criteria to provide a wider range. The Committee agreed to use these criteria for future evaluations beginning with the 2006 Class **Show and Judging Rules Committee: Roz Merritt**

We had a judges' seminar and a Judges meeting combined with the Show and Judging Rules Committee meeting. We have gone from 130 judges to 109 judges. The Chapters were given a lot of leeway in what to do to recruit judges. The high cost of gasoline may require Chapters to offer their judges a small stipend for attending and judging the shows. The supply of good hibiscus plants is crucial to Chapter health by providing operational funds. A Chapter must have the support of its local growers in order to survive. We need more growers, not less. The Committee passed a rule setting the length of exhibit

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wires at 6". Eighteen-gauge wire may be purchased by the box in 18" lengths and cut into thirds, putting a point on one end. The flat end fits into the hole in the existing blocks.

Board of Directors: Eddie Griffith

I serve at the pleasure of you, our valued members. Our Board of Directors meets officially four times a year, twice at the National Convention and twice at the Fall Membership Meeting in November. It is my responsibility to make sure that all members are represented and that AHS business is conducted. If there is an issue that you want brought before the Board, bring it to me and I'll see that it is presented. My contact information is in *The Seed Pod* and on the VIP list you picked up when you registered. I am here to serve you.

On behalf of the entire AHS, President Andrews thanked the James E. Hendry Chapter for their hospitality and for hosting this year's Convention.

There will be a presentation on the product Messenger at 2 p.m., and a short PowerPoint program showing all of the Hibiscus of the Year winners from its inception in 1972 through 2006, including the candidates for the 2007 Hibiscus of the Year. Also included are past winners of the Judges Favorite Bloom competition along with the candidates for this year.

The National Nominating Committee members were reminded that they are to meet right after adjournment in the Board Room.

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SECOND GENERAL SESSION, 9 A.M., JUNE 17, 2007

President Andrews asked Katie McClain to give the Invocation and Wally Neef to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The president asked everyone to keep Dave Flanders and Duncan Othen in their thoughts and prayers as they undergo surgical procedures this week. He also thanked everyone for coming to the Convention and noted that about one-third had traveled some distance.

<u>AWARDS</u> <u>Chapter with the most members in attendance:</u> James E. Hendry Chapter, Fort Myers.

<u>Executive Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service:</u> Sandra Theall, Michael Bernard Acadiana Chapter, Lafayette LA

<u>Treasurer's Award:</u> St. Thomas Chapter for having all of their membership dues and forms in by May 31, 2007.

President Andrews next called for Chapter reports.

Michael Bernard Acadiana Chapter: Sandra Theall, President

The Fall Membership Meeting gave our Chapter the opportunity to share hosting all of the AHS members who were adventurous enough to attend. It also gave our members an opportunity to put faces with names they had only read in *The Seed Pod*. Our participation in the Festival des Fleurs in March is the first opportunity to introduce the public to hibiscus in the new year. Our sale on both days was very successful and brought in fifteen new members. Our show is scheduled for June 24th and is the last show of the season for LA-TX. We learned on June 5th that the school where we have held our show for many years was closed for a fire code violation and we had to scramble to find another venue. With good newspaper publicity we should have a good show at the new location, Cathedral Carmel where we held our very first show.

Central Florida Chapter: No Report

Conrad-Sunrise Chapter: Eddie Griffith, President

We continue to evolve as one of Florida's most dynamic Chapters. We hold meetings all year around with at least four of those programs including a "hands on" workshop. Two meetings feature a fund-raising auction in which attendees participate by donating garden and household related items, and of course place their bids. Our last auction brought in over \$1000. This gives our Chapter much more flexibility to produce quality events and

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programs, including an increase for the judges' honorarium, as we recognize that rising fuel costs have taken its toll on those who drive so far to support our show. We have begun bimonthly "safaris" that feature a Chapter-sponsored field trip to select gardens and areas of interest. Last season was prosperous for our Chapter and we expect next season to be even better.

Golby-Reasoner Chapter: Gayler Boettcher, President (Sam Andrews, representing)

Although our Chapter has added more members in the past year than it has in any year in recent memory, we still find ourselves barely maintaining last year's numbers. The new members are "youngsters," which are a most welcome sight among the grey heads. We began our year with a listing of Programs and Events for the entire year in our membership directory. While some programs or events had to be adjusted in one way or another, the sense of direction provided was really worth the planning effort required. In addition to our eight Chapter meetings and programs, we had a Christmas party at the local Yacht Club, a potluck dinner at a member's house, an installation luncheon at a local country club, and a picnic at a botanical park. We are finding it extremely difficult to find a location for our show that we can afford. Our exceptional newsletter Petal Power continues to provide a means of recognizing active members and a platform for promoting coming events.

Treasurer Walter Bisselle reminded those who are having difficulty finding affordable show venues, to check with their county facilities who, in Florida, are obligated to give beneficial treatment to non-profit organizations. The 501(c)3 status granted to the AHS extends down to its Chapters.

Gulf Coast Chapter: No Report

Harry Goulding Chapter: Jim Bridges, President

Our Chapter is doing very well. We had our 23th Annual Mother's Day show where we had 1,064 blooms exhibited. We are looking forward to our 25th Anniversary show in two years and are planning a really big show. Our Chapter is getting some younger members, and we now have 75 memberships.

James E. Hendry Chapter: Joyce Comingore, President

We were pleased to host the 2007 Convention. We meet at the Calusa Nature Center on the first Sunday of each month. We finance this by members giving volunteer hours at the center. We entered plants at the Ft. Myers/Lee County Garden Council's Flower Show at Edison Community College and won the rosette ribbon for first place educational display. We participated in the Twin Eagles Home and Garden Show, the Harborside Convention Center Home and Garden Show, toured ECHO-Educational Concerns for the Hungry Organization, and held our annual picnic at Lakes Park where Wanda Schmoyer tends the hibiscus gardens. Our sponsor cut his funding for this year's show, so we lost money on it. We must find ways to cut our show expenses. We have 35 memberships, plus five affiliates, and look forward to a fall tour of Yoder Bros. and are working on a hibiscus bed to be put in the future Ft. Myers/Lee County Garden Council's Botanical Gardens.

SECOND GENERAL SESSION, JUNE 17, 2007, (con't.)

Lone Star Chapter: Marti Graves, President

This is our 30th year. We had two successful shows; the first was in a new location in Sugar Land, a booming community southwest of Houston. An article in *The Houston Chronicle* with big color pictures of hibiscus blooms the day before our show brought out huge crowds who purchased over 1,000 plants. The second show was this past Sunday at our familiar location in Bellaire. Plant sales were brisk, judging was fair, advice was dispensed, and the head table was spectacular. Our members have been enjoying a variety of programs at our monthly meetings, March to October. Our Holiday party jointly held with the Space City Chapter was a very nice evening. Local garden clubs, civic associations and Master Gardener meetings have had presentations on hibiscus by our Chapter members.

New Orleans Chapter: Fr. Bob Gerlich, President

The New Orleans Chapter, like the City of New Orleans itself, continues to struggle with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Members have lost homes and gardens and, consequently, priorities have shifted. Several members have moved out of state, while others have downsized or moved into temporary housing. Our membership has dropped from a high of near 80, pre-Katrina, to approximately 60 today. The general public remains enthusiastic about hibiscus, and the Chapter is financially secure. Our greatest challenge is to expand in a weakening economic and population environment. The Chapter is exploring projects to aid in the recovery of the City's Botanical Gardens. Hopefully, this will help improve the City's premier gardens and fulfill our goal of fostering an appreciation of *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*. Our 10th Annual Show was May 27th at Loyola University. We are looking at alternatives dates and locations that would be more accessible to the public. Thanks to Bobby Dupont, our head table and decorations remain outstanding!

Red Stick Chapter: Damon Veach, President (Rod Hendrick, representing)

Our Chapter had its most successful spring plant sales ever, with plants furnished by Dupont Nursery. Our membership now stands at 47 regular members and 12 affiliates. Our newsletter continues to draw favorable comments, and it is issued eight times a year by Internet only. The International Hibiscus Garden has a different look this year. All the pots were taken up, and the plants went directly into the ground. We have the option of taking them up in the fall and moving them to the greenhouse, or just buying replacement plants next year. One accomplishment is a personal one, the cleanup and planting of hibiscus in the Orangerie. The four beds represent plants hybridized in Louisiana, Florida, Texas and the Pacific region. Donations to this project are always appreciated, and we now can say that Baton Rouge and the State of Louisiana has a year-round tropical hibiscus display.

Space City Chapter: Roger Friend, President (Cindy Erndt, representing)

We have 24 active memberships, gaining eight new ones this year. We sponsored three shows this year, changing the venue for one to Texas City, a town about half-way to Galveston. We increased our plant sales by 104% from the shows held in Pasadena by placing an ad in the local Texas City paper. We placed a box on the checkout table for a drawing to win a free hibiscus plant. This gave us a start on a mailing list for contacts about starting a new Chapter in that area. We meet from February through October.

SECOND GENERAL SESSION, JUNE 17, 2007 (con't).

Sunset Chapter: Don Mixon, President

Long-time AHS and Sunset Chapter member and former National Treasurer Johanna Henry is very ill, but sends her best wishes to everyone. We are growing by one or two members per year. We are only doing two shows a year. Our members give educational hibiscus talks to various interested groups. We had to find a new location for our June 30th show, and it will be at the Faith Presbyterian Church in Seminole. We had good publicity and our members will make sure it is a great show. The members of the absolute best Chapter in the AHS just git er done!

St. Croix Chapter: Jim Burns, President (Barbara Hagan-Smith, representing)

We meet from September to June. At present we have 26 members. Our programs included some hands-on workshops, presentations on propagation of rootstock, irrigation, grafting, hybridizing, pest management, repotting, pruning and a year-end picnic. We sold many plants at our well-attended January hibiscus show, and at the Agricultural Fair in February. Our March show was at the St. George Botanical Garden Flower Festival. All the judges, directors and assistants arrived to set up the show, but due to very hot temperatures and extremely dry conditions, we only had eight blooms entered. We decided to cancel the show and display the few blooms we had and pass out extra issues of *The Seed Pod*. This was the first time in our 27-year history that we had to cancel a show. Our members thank the AHS for its support and helpful assistance.

St. Thomas Chapter: No Report

BVI Chapter: No Report

Future Meetings

The president announced that the date and location of the Fall Membership Meeting will be set and the information will be in the October issue of *The Seed Pod*.

The Annual Convention site is now selected and approved by the Board of Directors instead of the general membership. The dates and location of the 2008 Convention will be announced later this year.

President Andrews also reminded the membership that the President's Committee is in contact via the Internet when matters that need attention arise between meetings.

There being no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia B. Merritt, Secretary

2007 AWARDS BANQUET

SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 2007

HARRY GOULDING GRAFTING AWARD

Presented by Eddie Griffith on Friday to RANDY & ANNELLE COX

BEVERLY AND NORMAN BRUBAKER TROPHY FOR 2006 JUDGES' FAVORITE BLOOM

Presented by Lila Mulholland DANCING FIRE Hybridized by Nola and Carlos Reynolds

NORMAN REASONER TROPHY FOR THE CHAPTER WITH THE MOST AMATEUR EXHIBITORS FOR THE 2006 SHOW SEASON

Presented by Zelma Neef A Tie GULF COAST CHAPTER AND NEW ORLEANS CHAPTER

A. B. MORRISON MEMORIAL AWARD FOR THE MOST BEST OF SHOW SEEDLINGS WON IN THE 2006 SHOW SEASON Presented by Gayle Morrison NOLA AND CARLOS REYNOLDS

SWEEPSTAKES AWARDS

<u>Amateur</u> Presented by Sam Andrews Florida: Jim and Mary Bridges Texas/Louisiana: Carolyn McCarroll Islands: Clement & Johanny Magras

<u>Collector</u> Presented by Damon Veach Florida: Paul Felsberg Texas/Louisiana: Janice McNatt Islands: Roger Downing

Open Collector Presented by Marti Graves Florida: Nola and Carlos Reynolds Texas/Louisiana: Dr. David Tate Islands: Debra Tryon

2007 AWARDS BANQUET, Page 2

SWEEPSTAKES (continued)

<u>Commercial</u> Presented by Jo Conrad Florida: Unbelievable Hibiscus (Mixon/Grandoff) Texas/Louisiana: Ann and Dave Mitchell Islands: Errol Chichester

2007 HIBISCUS OF THE YEAR Sam Buser Traveling Trophy for Hibiscus of the Year Will Gaudet Memorial Award Presented by Roland Gaudet

> **<u>BRIDE'S BOUQUET</u>** Hybridized by Nola and Carlos Reynolds

Runners-Up, Presented by Eddie Griffith:

<u>Second Place</u> <u>Magic Moments, hybridized by Bobby Dupont/Fr. Bob Gerlich</u>

<u>Third Place</u> <u>Think Pink, hybridized by Nola and Carlos Reynolds</u>

Fourth Place Roz Merritt, hybridized by Barry and Susan Schlueter

<u>Honorable Mention</u> <u>Heart's Desire, hybridized by Bobby Dupont/Fr. Bob Gerlich</u>

PRESIDENTIAL CITATIONS FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE AHS

Presented by Sam Andrews Bobby Dupont Kathy Grandoff

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S AWARD Presented by Val Longson

Sandra Theall