

Canadian Orchid Congress
MINUTES OF THE 22nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Langley, British Columbia
October 18th, 2009

Board Members Present:

President, Jean Hollebone; 1st Vice President Elsie Gerdes, Treasurer, Margaret Hewings
Secretary, Carole Gert, Past President, Faithe Prodanuk, Webmaster/Newsletter,
Jerry Bolce and COC Group Insurance, Lynne Cassidy

Apologies: Peter Poot, Mark Elliott, Janette Richardson, Marilyn Light, Valerie Tribes

Attendees Signed in:

Barbara Bowmar	Okanagan Society	COC Representative
Verne Smythe	South Okanagan Orchid Society	Guest
Elizabeth Miller	Orchid Society of Alberta	COC Representative
Chris Ostenstad	Vancouver Orchid Society	COC Representative
Koichi Nakatani	Vancouver Orchid Society	Guest
Art McGregor	Victoria Orchid Society	COC Representative
Mike Miller	Central Vancouver Orchid Society	COC Representative
Kevin Duerksen	Manitoba Orchid Society	COC Representative
Terry Kennedy	Southern Ontario Orchid Society	Guest

1.-0 Call to Order COC bylaws require the presence of not less than 10 members of the Congress entitled to vote, but never less than 3 persons, President Jean Hollebone determined that we were in excess of the required number for a quorum, as 14 Board and Society representatives were present and proxy votes had been received from another 9 Societies. The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

2.-0 Notice of Meeting of the AGM, as per COC bylaw requirement, was sent out over thirty (30) days prior to the meeting (September 11, 2009 and a notice was also posted on the web site).

3.-0 Minutes Motion #1: Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held April 27, 2008, no corrections or amendments were submitted.

Moved By: Terry Kennedy to accept the minutes as presented

Seconded By: Lynne Cassidy

Carried

4.-0 Business arising from minutes:

First four items, Insurance, COC Medal, Slide Program and Wed site changes were tabled, to be discussed following the reports.

4.-1 Review of guidelines for hosting an AGM:

The draft guidelines were revised and adopted and are posted on the web site as guidance for a society considering hosting an AGM. These guidelines will be updated from time to time. Jean suggested that perhaps the Fraser Valley Orchid Society may wish to review them and as the most recent host, give their comments for updating them again. Action: Jean to contact FVOS for comments.

4.-2 Certificate for past Treasurer:

Jean Hollebhone mailed out a Certificate of Recognition to Janette Richardson for her 14 years of council service, along with an Orchid Pin in July 2008.

5.-0 Reports:

(Reports were available for review at the meeting and are filed with the minutes)

5.-1 1st Vice President, Elsie Gerdes

The report was accepted as read.

5.-2 2nd Vice President, Peter Poot (given by Jean Hollebhone)

Discussion followed on whether the slide programs should be digitized and distributed to Societies.

A proposal was made to make sure that permission is received from the author and to continue with the digitalization, then distribute to the Societies with the cost of production.

Moved by: Terry Kennedy to accept the proposal **Seconded by:** Carole Gert **Carried**

5.-3 Secretary – Carole Gert

The report was accepted as read.

5.-4 Treasurer – Margaret Hewings

Moved by: Elizabeth Miller and **Seconded by:** Lynne Cassidy to accept Alan Ludik as Auditor for 2009-10 **Carried**

Moved by: Lynne Cassidy and **Seconded by:** Terry Kennedy for acceptance of the Auditor's 2008 report. **Carried**

COC revenue for the year comes from the membership dues and also the COC auction. Running expenses are \$7,000 per year and the COC reserve is close to \$17,000 but as COC is spending at a rate of \$2,000 a year over income, due to insurance costs being met by the COC,

this is steadily being depleted. COC is now running into reserves on an annual basis and a proposal was made to move to a more sustainable long term approach. Three options were presented.

Option 1: no increase fee, if we move to that program then any programs we offer now, or new programming will not be supported.

Option 2: full cost recovery. Premiums will be calculated to cover full cost of insurance, approximately \$2.00 per member based on current insurance premium estimates.

Option 3: gradual increase in fees till cost recovery (Fees will raise by \$.50 in 2010, again by \$.50 in 2013 to full recovery in 2015).

5.-5 Group Insurance Plan – Lynn Cassidy

Lynn indicated that negotiations with the insurance broker were difficult, compounded by late or no responses on time from Societies. As a result a higher premium was paid in 2009 than necessary and a rebate ensued. However, she cautioned that this could not become a regular practice and urged Societies to report and pay by December 1, 2009 if they wish to receive coverage. She also noted that 4 Societies have taken the additional library coverage at full cost recovery (\$25.00).

After discussion the President called for a vote on the above options, noting that only COC Representatives and Board Members may vote and we have proxy votes from 8 Societies.

Option 1: no votes

Option 2: 8 votes plus 2 proxy votes for a total of 10

Option 3: 7 votes plus 6 proxy votes for a total of 13

The COC will proceed with option #3.

The Board proposed that a late fee of \$25.00 to be applied to each Society that has not paid by December 1st. This late fee would cover administrative time spent in follow up with Societies that are late in paying fees. The fee would be assigned to general revenues. Two notices will be posted in the newsletter and following that with phone calls between December 1st and December 15th to ensure Societies are aware of this new deadline.

After discussion, the President called for a vote on the addition of a \$25.00 (Twenty five Dollar) penalty fee for those Societies that have not paid by December 1st.

Majority voted in favour of the \$25.00 late penalty fee.

Carried

5.-6 Newsletter/Website – Jerry Bolce

Jerry pointed out from this report that Brighthouse Graphics had been a real help in designing the COC logo, poster and COC Certificate of Recognition. In view of this it was proposed that a letter of appreciation for all the work they have done for COC be sent.

Motion #2 to ask the Secretary to send a letter of appreciation to Brighthouse Graphics for all the work they have done for the COC.

Seconded by: Terry Kennedy

Carried

Jean acknowledged that Jerry works very hard to keep the newsletter and website current, but noted that there are some major gaps on the website, one being articles on conservation, we have been asking for volunteers now for some time. More detail is needed and someone to work on the editorial ship with Jerry to get that going, as we really don't have anything on Native orchids and conservation on the website, we have links to other sites but not much Canadian content.

Mike Millar, Ben Rostrom and Vern Smythe were names that were mentioned as possible persons to contact regarding setting up a group to work on this project.

5.-7 Membership Liaison – Valerie Tribes (given by Jean Hollebhone)

Jean gave an overview of Membership Report noting that Valerie established a membership list last year and has spent a lot of time on it, trying to keep the list up to date which she then passes on to Jerry. She has also started a new feature in the newsletter – profiling a member Society. If any one is interested in having an article in the newsletter on their Society, they should contact Valerie Tribes.

5.-8 Education report – Mark Elliot (given by Jean Hollebhone)

A list of speakers available for presentations to Societies was updated in March, 2009 and is posted on the web site for Society use. A priority list for new cultural sheets was established.

Mark Elliot resigned as Education Chair due to pressures of work and Gail Schwarz, Orchid Society of Nova Scotia, has agreed to take on the position. Gail Schwarz is currently assigning work to develop the new cultural sheets and would welcome volunteer experts to help. The cultural sheets will be translated into French once they are approved in English.

5.-9 Conservation Report – Marilyn Light (given by Jean Hollebhone)

The report was accepted as read. Discussion ensued about import guidelines. Jean Hollebhone and Marilyn Light are looking at the import guidelines as they are being updated in Ottawa for the upcoming World Orchid Conference in Singapore in 2010, to see that everything is current and in place for the show. The President agreed to try to have this information from the CFIA out by January so that everyone will know what the legal requirements are when bringing orchids to and from the WOC.

6.-0 Educational Travel Subsidy – Jean Hollebhone (as circulated)

Jean Hollebhone reported that the Board has looked at the whole policy and has come up with three options:

- 1) The COC will not provide any funds to support a speaker subsidy
- 2) The COC will provide matching funding for Societies of up to \$200.00 per year for educational purposes. A sum of \$1,000. per year will be set aside in the COC budget to support this program
- 3) The COC will provide matching educational travel funds, as above, but to small, and/or geographically isolated Societies and/or co-operating Societies that have not yet received a travel subsidy as a priority

Discussion followed. Jean Hollebhone called for a vote on the above three (3) options.

Option 1 received 1 vote

Option 2 received 0 votes from those present and 4 by proxy for a total of 4 votes

Option 3 received the unanimous vote from those present and by 4 proxies for a total of 18 votes

Liz Miller requested that Societies arranging tours or speakers should let the COC know in order that the information can be published in the newsletter and other Societies can take advantage to participate.

7.-0 Election of Officers – Faithe Prodanuk

Faithe, as past president and chair of the nominating committee, indicated that the current slate of officers had agreed to let their names stand for 2010 as follows:

President:	Jean Hollebhone
1 st Vice President	Elsie Gerdes
2 nd Vice President	Peter Poot
Secretary	Carole Gert
Treasurer	Margaret Hewings

Nominations called from the floor three times. As no further nominations were received, the above officers were elected.

Faithe Prodanuk announced that Mark Elliott had tendered his resignation and that Gail Schwarz; Orchid Society of Nova Scotia will be the Education Chair. Faithe gave a brief bio about Gail which will be published on the web site.

8.-0 New Business

8.-1 Amendment to the Constitution

The COC last updated the bylaws in 2004, and the President suggested a list of areas where the bylaws should be updated, for example:

- 1) Use of electronic communication to inform Societies of events and services
- 2) The addition of the Liaison Chair

- 3) Updates on the COC Medal and COC Certificate
- 4) Recording of Policy procedures
- 5) Meeting interval amend to read a AGM once a year

Jean Hollebhone then proposed to put together a proposal and text of amendments to be circulated for discussion, the Board and Societies to review them, and to be brought forward for discussion at the next AGM.

Moved by: Mike Miller to look at amending the Bylaws as appropriate for next year

Seconded by: Barbara Bowmar

Carried

8.-2 Harmonization of Canadian show schedules

Jean asked if this was something that we should be looking at, having a generic Canadian show schedule.

Mike Millar, who wrote the west schedule, indicated that the B.C. Societies had a harmonized schedule. Terry Kennedy spoke about the Mid-America schedule which is used by most of the Ontario Societies, and indicated it had been modified last year, and that Societies were in the process of adopting it, which might have led to class differences last year but should be resolved this year.

Mike and Terry have resources for help with the schedule, it was suggested that Jerry Bolce post the Mid-America schedule on the COC web site, or a link to it.

8.-3 Membership Numbers

Koichi Nakatani Vancouver Orchid Society brought up the question of membership numbers being reported by the various societies. He had problems that Vancouver Orchid Society was recorded as the second largest society, and questioned whether Societies are being honest in reporting their numbers. Jean Hollebhone responded that reporting of membership is taken annually at a moment in time e.g. December 1 and we trust that Societies are reporting appropriately for that date. Lynn Cassidy indicated that although individual Society memberships may increase slightly over the calendar year, there is still coverage for this difference which is small. Terry Kennedy indicated that she attended most of the Societies across Canada, either at shows or meetings and the numbers given appear to her to be realistic.

8.-4 Next Meeting

The 2010 AGM will be hosted by the Central Ontario Orchid Society – Cambridge, Ontario, September 25-27, 2010

The 2011 AGM will be hosted by the Orchid Society of Alberta – Edmonton, Alberta February 25-26-27, 2011

9.-0 Announcements

- The International Native Orchid Society, Edmonton, Alberta is meeting on June 11-15, 2010. There will be two days of talks and two days of field trips. Registration is limited to 100 participants.

- Jean Hollebhone reminded everyone that any Society giving out the COC Medal, needs to send in a photo with a small write up to be sent to Jerry Bolce for publication in the newsletter, apparently not all Societies are doing this

- Jean Hollebhone thanked the Fraser Valley orchid Society for a magnificent show and dinner and for hosting the meeting. Once again she thanked the Executive for their hard work over the year.

10.-0 Adjournment: The President called for adjournment at 11:30 .am.

Seconded by: Elsie Gerdes.

Carried

Respectfully submitted

Carole Gert
Secretary