

District 10 – 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, April 29th, 2023

Meeting Start: 9:14 am

Call to Order & Welcome by District 10 Director, Dian Chute

Land Acknowledge Statement was read by Dian Chute followed by the singing by all of 'O Canada'.

Introductions of Special Guests and the District 10 Board:

Dian Chute introduced the current District 10 board:

- **District 10 Director** - Dian Chute (Thorndale)
- **Past District 10 Director** - Shelley MacKenzie (St. Thomas) (absent)
- **Assistant Director Oxford** - Agnes Burroughs (Dorchester)
- **Assistant Director Elgin** - Linda Holtby (Ingersoll)
- **Assistant Director Perth & Lambton Shores & Flower Show Convenor** - Bernice Barratt (Stratford)
- **Assistant Director Middlesex** - Pat Graham (London)
- **Treasurer** - Samm Okolisan (West Lorne)
- **Webmaster** - Joyce Schlegel (Strathroy-Caradoc)
- **Secretary** - Jennifer Prgesa (Thorndale)

Dian Chute introduced the special guests:

- **OHA representative** - Karen Redmond, District 8 Director
- **Guest Speaker #1** - Paul Zammit
- **Kirkton Horticultural Society President** - Julie Riddell

Julie Riddell addressed the membership and reviewed facility safety and building logistics details.

Roll Call:

There were 160 attendees in total with 20 societies registered and in attendance.

Approval of Agenda:

Dian Chute asked for a motion from the floor to accept the AGM agenda. Motion to accept the AGM Agenda was made by Cheryl Cade (Kirkton), seconded by Cheryl Burr (Lambeth). Carried.

Minutes of 2022 AGM By Jennifer Prgesa (Thorndale), District 10 Secretary:

2022 AGM Minutes were distributed via email May 30, 2022 to registered attendees and redistributed Jan 31, 2023 to all societies.

Motion to accept the 2022 AGM minutes as distributed by Maureen Cocksedge (Stratford), seconded by Stan Rushton (Port Burwell-Bayham). Carried.

Treasurer's Report By Samm Okolisan (West Lorne), District 10 Treasurer:

D10 Financial Statement for January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022, prepared by treasurer Samm Okolisan (West Lorne), was distributed via e-mail Jan 31, 2023 with the AGM Meeting Package.

Samm Okolisan (West Lorne) made a motion to accept the 2022 D10 financial report as distributed, seconded by Bev DeMelo (London Fanshawe). Carried.

Samm Okolisan (West Lorne) made a motion to accept the 2022 financial review certificate from the financial reviewers, Cidalia Coelho and Janet Given, seconded by Christine Nagy (Tillsonburg). Carried

Samm Okolisan (West Lorne) made a motion to accept Cidalia Coelho and Janet Given as the financial reviewers for the 2023 financial reports, seconded by Jean-Marie Steward (St. Thomas). Carried.

Bylaw Changes:

Dian Chute reviewed the proposed changes to the Bylaws which were distributed via e-mail Jan 31, 2023. No proxy votes were delegated by any of the societies to account for.

Resolution #1: Change to Article VII: Meetings, Item 'a' - added second sentence permitting virtual AGM meetings.

Motion to accept the change by Wendy Rush (Grand Bend), seconded by Kathy Holdsworth (Kirkton). Carried.

Resolution #2: Rewording of Article VII: Meetings, Item 'd' to include frequency of board meetings and the addition of virtually held board meetings.

Motion to accept the change by Maureen Cocksedge (Stratford), seconded by Ron Hunter (St. Marys). Carried.

Director's Report:

Dian Chute read the D10 District Report as submitted to the OHA.

Motion to accept the director's report as read by Jean-Marie Steward (St. Thomas), seconded by Helen Peternel (Lambeth). Carried.

One Minute Reports:

One minute reports were presented by Aylmer, Dutton-Dunwich, Ingersoll, Lambeth, London, Port Burwell-Bayham, and Strathroy-Caradoc societies.

Awards and Recognition:

Dian Chute presented the following service pins:

1. Secretary: Jennifer Prgesa (Thorndale), Joyce Schlegel (Strathroy-Caradoc) (retroactive)
2. Treasurer: Samm Okolisan (West Lorne)
3. Assistant Director: Joyce Schlegel (Strathroy-Caradoc) (retroactive), Agnes Burroughs (Dorchester)

Dian Chute presented the following awards:

1. District Appreciation Award (Certificate + plant): Agnes Burroughs (Dorchester)
2. District Appreciation Award (Certificate + plant): Joyce Schlegel (Strathroy-Caradoc)
3. District Service Award (Presentation of plaque and reading of application): Eva Norman Vestergaard (London)

Nomination Report:

The status of the District 10 Board was reviewed announcing that the following positions will be vacated:

- District Director
- Assistant Director Elgin
- Webmaster

The following board members have agreed to stand for their existing positions, or move to an alternate position:

- Past District Director: Dian Chute (Thorndale)
- Assistant Director Perth & Lambton Shores: Bernice Barratt (Stratford)
- Assistant Director Middlesex: Pat Graham (London)
- Assistant Director Oxford: Linda Holtby (Ingersoll)
- Treasurer: Samm Okolisan (West Lorne)
- Secretary: Jennifer Prgesa (Thorndale)

Nominations or volunteers were requested to make themselves known for the vacated and the following new appointed positions:

- Social Media: New
- Reports Coordinator: New

Social Media and Reports Coordinator are members-at-large and will attend board meetings by invitation.

Guest Speaker #1: Paul Zammit

Paul Zammit gave an energizing and insightful talk on the topic of 'Rethinking Beauty in the Garden'.

After Paul Zammit's talk and a short communication regarding logistics, grace was said and Lunch Break commenced.

Return to business: 1:00 pm

Announcements:

Dian Chute made the following announcements:

- The 2023 Fall Workshop will be on Saturday, Oct 21st hosted by St. Thomas society.
- For the In Memorium presentation at the OHA convention in July, Districts have the opportunity to share the names of their members that have passed on. Email names of members or talk with secretary Jennifer Prgesa (Thorndale).

Door Prizes:

Dian Chute and Julie Riddell facilitated the door prize draws with the following winners:

1. Jackie Wells (on behalf of Gary Hendin) (Parkhill)
2. Jennifer Prgesa (Thorndale)
3. Sherry Dailey (London)
4. Karen Rose (Dutton-Dunwich)
5. Agnes Burroughs (Dorchester)
6. Pat Gillespie (Woodstock)
7. Deb McRobert (Kirkton)
8. Gayle Tribick (Stratford)
9. Sue Boyd (Kirkton)
10. Eva Norman Vestergaard (London)
11. Judy Turmel (Kirkton)
12. Nancy Mills (Kirkton)
13. Richard Poortinga (Ingersoll)
14. Mercy Belding (Tillsonburg)
15. Judi Pink (Dorchester)
16. Marion Robinson (Parkhill)
17. Tina Poortinga (Ingersoll)
18. Jerry Pawitch (Strathroy-Caradoc)
19. Jackie Malleck (Thorndale)
20. Linda Rae (Stratford)
21. Loretta Czernis (Kirkton)
22. Judith Parker (Kirkton)

Guest Speaker #2: Paul Knowles 'Cures for Gardener's Disease'

Paul gave a humorous talk on the topic of 'Cures for Gardener's Disease.

Flower Show Results: Richard Poortinga (Ingersoll) & Bernice Barratt (Stratford)

Richard & Bernice thanked the participants for the entries giving special mention to the quality of the daffodils and arrangements classes. There were 91 exhibits in total with 41 horticulture and 28 designs and 22 photo exhibits. The convenors noted that some of the classes were divided due to current weather conditions and to facilitate judging within the time allowed. Appreciation was extended to the flower show clerks Deb McRobert (Kirkton) & Nancy Habermehl (St. Marys).

Best in Show Awards were award to:

- Best in Show Horticulture: St. Marys
- Best in Show Design: St. Marys
- Best in Show Photography: Kirkton

Greetings from the OHA President Charles Freeman delivered by Karen Redmond, District 2 Director:

Karen welcomed all to District 10 AGM, thanking all attendees for supporting local and district events and activities. Karen presented the OHA President's message from Charles Freeman. Highlights of the President's message:

- The OHA has been working on their strategic plan, including a newly reworked mission statement, that will be brought to the floor at the OHA AGM in July
- OHA 50/50 draws have been successful and the funds are used for grants and scholarships
- OHA encourages societies to nominate a garden hero in your society and put a sign on their yard (surprise them!) as part of Garden Days 2023. The colour of the year for 2023 is purple.
- OHA is working with TPON to try to negotiate change for yearly reporting
- Regarding insurance coverage, when hosting events with 3rd party vendors, \$13.50 per vendor can provide insurance at OHA or district events if they don't have their own insurance. If 100% of their profit is going to society they can fall under your insurance, however if they take any of the proceeds, they need additional vendor insurance.
- The 2023 OHA Convention will be held in Ottawa July 21-23rd, 2023. Photo submissions can be submitted even if not attending.
- The 2024 OHA Convention will be held in Guelph July 11-14th, 2024 hosted by District 7. The theme is 'Heartland of Rivers Flowing and Gardens Growing'.
- Societies are reminded to be kind and patient with respect to reporting and OHA website. Membership was encouraged to reach out now to district director or OHA rep, and not wait until reporting time if you don't have a password or need additional support.

The full March 2023 president's message will be circulated to the D10 membership with these minutes.

District Nominations/Elections/Installation of Board:

Nominations for each position for the 2023 District 10 Board were called for 3 times looking for further nominations from the floor. No new nominations were received, therefore with the addition of one new member for the position Assistant Director Elgin, Jean-Marie Steward (St. Thomas), current Board members were declared acclaimed/moved to their new position:

- District Director (interim): Dian Chute (Thorndale)
- Past District Director: Dian Chute (Thorndale)
- Assistant Director Perth & Lambton Shores: Bernice Barratt (Stratford)
- Assistant Director Middlesex: Pat Graham (London)
- Assistant Director Oxford: Linda Holtby (Ingersoll)
- Assistant Director Elgin: Jean-Marie Steward (St. Thomas)

For the appointed positions, a nomination was made for the Social Media position for Rick Mann (St. Marys), and with no more nominations from the floor the remaining current members were acclaimed:

- Treasurer: Samm Okolisan (West Lorne)
- Secretary: Jennifer Prgesa (Thorndale)
- Webmaster (interim): Joyce Schlegel (Strathroy-Caradoc)
- Flower Show Convenor: Bernice Barratt (Stratford)
- Social Media: Rick Mann (St. Marys)

The following positions are vacant as of the conclusion of the 2023 AGM:

- District Director: Vacant
- Reports Coordinator: Vacant

Karen Redmond installed the new District 10 Board. All membership was asked to, and agreed to, support the newly installed board.

Invitation to 2024 AGM:

Carol Henshall (Woodstock) invited all societies to the 2024 AGM which will be held April 27, 2024 hosted by the Woodstock society.

District Prizes:

The following prizes were drawn:

1. Canadian Tire Gift Card: Carol Freer (Strathroy)
2. Narcissus Arrangement: Jean-Marie Steward (St. Thomas)
3. OHA Calendar & Floral Arrangement: Mary Peterson (Kirkton)
4. Book: Nadine Weedmark (London)
5. Plant: Mercy Belding (Tillsonburg)
6. Share The Wealth Draw (\$250): Lorrie Landsborough (Ingersoll)

D10 AGM Fundraising:

Fundraising activities totaled \$908 from the following sources:

- Share The Wealth Draw: \$250
- Prize Draws: \$407
- Pin & Book Sales: \$251

Closing Remarks:

Julie Riddell (Kirkton) thanked Deb Pihl (Kirkton) for her overall organizations and coordination of all the event details. Deb McRobert (Kirkton) was commended for the decorating and design of the venue décor and centerpieces. Mary Lou Thompson (Kirkton) was thanked for her hard work as the registrar. Mary Brant (Kirkton) and Lori Thompson (Kirkton) were credited with organizing the food, and Janice Mitchell for the catered dinner. Julie thanked Robert Trout (Kirkton) for the audio-visual support, and finally thanked all for the flower show participants making for an excellent flower show.

Dian Chute (Thorndale) expressed her thanks to Kirkton Horticultural Society for hosting such a great event, and that the district is looking forward to the 2024 AGM in Woodstock next year.

Meeting Close: 3:30 pm

Minutes: Jennifer Prgesa (Thorndale), Secretary