

District 10 – 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, April 27th, 2024

Meeting Start: 9:09 am

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

Singing by all of 'O Canada' led by Lesli Fischer, President of the Woodstock Horticultural Society.

Lesli Fischer welcomed everyone and thanked all the volunteers and the co-chairs that made the event possible.

Lesli Fischer addressed the membership and reviewed facility safety and building logistics details.

Motion to accept the proposed agenda as distributed - Pat Graham (Assistant Director Middlesex).
Seconded by Cheryl Burr (Lambeth). Carried.

Land Acknowledgement Statement was read by Lesli Fischer.

Approval of Agenda:

Dian Chute asked for a motion from the floor to accept the 2024 AGM agenda. Motion to accept the AGM Agenda was made by Cheryl Cade (Kirkton), seconded by Cheryl Burr (Lambeth). Carried.

Introductions District 10 Board and Special Guests:

Dian Chute (Past District 10 Director) introduced the current District 10 board:

- **District 10 Director** (absent with regrets) – Joyce Schlegel (Strathroy-Caradoc)
- **Assistant Director Elgin** - Jean-Marie Steward (St. Thomas)
- **Assistant Director Middlesex** - Pat Graham (Assistant Director Middlesex)
- **Assistant Director Oxford** (interim) - Agnes Burroughs (Dorchester)
- **Assistant Director Perth & Lambton Shores; Flower Show Convenor** - Bernice Barratt (Stratford)
- **Treasurer** - Samm Okolisan (West Lorne)
- **Secretary** - Jennifer Prgesa (Thorndale)
- **Webmaster** - Leslie Whittington-Carter (Dutton-Dunwich)

Dian Chute introduced the special guests:

- **OHA representatives** – Jim Mabee & Rose Odell
- **Woodstock Horticultural Society President** – Lesli Fisher

Roll Call:

There were 146 attendees in total with 20 societies registered and in attendance.

Minutes of 2023 AGM By Jennifer Prgesa (Thorndale), District 10 Secretary:

2023 AGM Minutes were distributed via email Jan 21, 2024 to regular email contacts and subsequently updated April 25, 2024.

Motion to accept the updated 2023 AGM minutes as distributed - Pat Graham (Assistant Director Middlesex). Seconded by Jean-Marie Steward (D10 Assistant Director). Carried.

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

D10 Financial Statement for January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023, prepared by treasurer Samm Okolisan (West Lorne), was distributed via e-mail Jan 21, 2024 with the AGM Meeting Package and subsequently updated Feb 19, 2024.

Samm Okolisan (West Lorne) made a motion to accept the 2023 D10 financial report as distributed, seconded by Catherine Hayward (West Lorne). Carried.

Samm Okolisan (West Lorne) made a motion to accept the 2023 financial review certificate from the financial reviewers, Cidalia Coelho and Janet Given, seconded by Helen Peternel (Lambeth). Carried

Samm Okolisan (West Lorne) made a motion to accept Catherine Haward, and Karen Rose as the financial reviewers for the 2024 financial reports, seconded by Lee Stevenson (West Lorne). Carried.

Director's Report:

Dian Chute read the [District 10 Director's Report 2023](#) as submitted to the OHA.

Motion to accept the director's report as read, by Pat Graham (Assistant Director Middlesex), seconded by Christine Nagy (Tillsonburg). Carried.

In Memorial:

Dian Chute read the list of District 10 members lost in 2023:

- Ingersoll: Linda Holtby, District 10 Assistant Director for Oxford
- Port Burwell-Bayham: Marian Patterson Walsh
- Strathroy-Caradoc: Pat Ferris, Ivan Picott
- Tillsonburg: Elizabeth Helmer
- London: Ruth Bailie, Fred Jensen, Alan Whitfield
- St. Thomas: Audre Smith
- Lambeth: Christa Beissenger, Barb Fenner, Doreen Holman, Mary Kernahan, Marjorie Manning, Harry McGee, Rosemary Powers, Mary Sheppard, Allan Whitfield, Audrey Wilson

Bylaw Changes:

Dian Chute raised the proposed changes to the Bylaws, to comply with ONCA, which were distributed via e-mail Feb 19, 2024. No proxy votes were delegated by any of the societies to account for. [Proposed Bylaw Changes](#)

Motion to accept the bylaw changes as distributed - Cheryl Burr (Lambeth). Seconded by Mike Matthews (Stratford). Carried.

Dues Increase:

Dian reviewed the proposal to increase the yearly District 10 dues from \$.55 to \$1 per member.

Helen Peternel (Lambeth) asked if OHA dues are going to be increased this year as well? **ACTION: Joyce Schlegel to request and follow-up.**

Motion to accept the proposal for District 10 dues increase by Gary Hendin (Parkhill). Seconded by Helen Peternel (Lambeth). Three nays (Ingersoll). Carried.

Greetings from the OHA President delivered by Jim Mabee:

Jim Mabee delivered the message from the OHA president: [OHA March 2024 President's Report](#)

Floral Presentation:

Cathy Groulx (Woodstock) introduced Rose Odell who created several inspiring and beautiful designs live using materials such as banana leaves, grapes, kiwis, italian ruscus, and kale.

Dubois Presentation: [Get, post, link presentation](#)

Gary Hendin (Parkhill) presented a new collaboration with Dubois under a two year agreement with OHA allowing for members to get 10% discount from anything purchased from [Dubois](#). The agreement allows for 2% rebate to local society (quarterly payments) and 2% OHA rebate (quarterly payments) for all purchases. Cards are available for societies to distribute to their members. Monogrammed aprons are also available, which can be sold direct to societies only, in groups of 50. Two sizes are available mid-size for \$14 and full size for \$25 each.

Flower Show Results:

District 10 AGM Flower Show Report Submitted by District 10 Flower Show Convenor Bernice Barratt:

“New Growth from Old Roots” was the theme chosen by Woodstock, the hosting society. The Youth and Photography class titles were chosen from the OHA competitions schedules and the design titles were based on our District theme for 2024.

After reviewing the information collected from the clerking sheets, there were several corrections from the verbal report made at the AGM meeting. They are as follows.

Participation in our 2024 AGM flower show competition came from 14 of the 20 societies. There were a total of 78 exhibits in the Horticultural Division, 36 in the Design Division, 19 in Photography, and 12 Special Exhibits, which was a new division for the show. This came to a grand total of 145 exhibits and all together they made a wonderful display. Congratulations to all who participated!

Julie Riddell was the judge and she was assisted by Nancy Habermehl from St Marys, Sarah Donovan, and Janet Scott both from Woodstock. The team had to work quickly to sub-divide several horticultural classes. Unfortunately, we also had to carefully move several designs to accommodate the large numbers of entries. The team tried out a new recording/charting system to tabulate the number of entries per society. It worked well and it was also easier to track which societies are participating in the flower show.

Flower Show Winners:

Best in Show in Horticulture Award - Ingersoll
Judge's Choice in Design Award - St Thomas
Best in Show Award in the Photography Division - St Thomas

District 10 Board Nomination Report:

The following board members have agreed to stand for their existing positions:

- **District 10 Director:** Joyce Schlegel (Strathroy-Caradoc)
- **Assistant Director Elgin:** Jean-Marie Steward (St. Thomas)
- **Assistant Director Middlesex:** Pat Graham (London)
- **Assistant Director Oxford:** Agnes Burroughs (Dorchester)

The following members have agreed to stand for the following positions:

- **Assistant Director Perth & Lambton Shores:** Deb Pihl (Kirkton)

All other positions will be appointed by the board.

Lunch Break & Flower Show Viewing

Return to business: 1:00 pm

Keynote Speaker - Darren Heimbecker from Whistling Gardens:

Cathy Groulx (Woodstock) introduced Darren Heimbecker from Whistling Gardens. Darren entertained us with his light-hearted presentation covering the history and origins of Whistling Gardens, some of his favourite peonies, peony myths, and new developments in his light and music shows.

One Minute Reports:

One minute reports were presented by the following societies:

- Lambeth
- Strathroy-Caradoc
- Thorndale
- Tillsonburg
- Port Burwell-Bayham
- St. Thomas
- West Lorne

Tillsonburg specifically called out the work that Joyce Schlegel and OHA Secretary Kelli Taylor did this year to streamline reports resulting in much less duplication, making life easier for those that need to submit reports.

District 10 Board Nominations/Elections/Installation:

Nominations for each position for the 2024 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 Perth & Lambton Shores: Deb Pihl (Kirkton) current Board members were declared acclaimed to their new position:

- **District 10 Director:** Joyce Schlegel (Strathroy-Caradoc)
- **Assistant Director Elgin:** Jean-Marie Steward (St. Thomas)
- **Assistant Director Middlesex:** Pat Graham (London)
- **Assistant Director Oxford:** Agnes Burroughs (Dorchester)
- **Assistant Director Perth & Lambton Shores:** Deb Pihl (Kirkton)

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

Awards Presentation:

Dian Chute presented the following awards:

1. **District Appreciation Award for Outstanding Service (Certificate + plant):** Agnes Burroughs (Dorchester)
2. **Honour Roll Pin for Commitment to District, Society and OHA:** Shelley McKenzie (St. Thomas)
3. **Board Service Award (Hosta):** Bernice Barratt (Stratford)
4. **District Service Award -** Julie Riddell (Kirkton)

Jim Mabee presented the following awards:

1. Deb Pihl – Assistant Director Pin

Rose Odell presented the following awards:

1. Dian Chute – retiring District 10 Director

Prizes & Draws:

District Prize Draws Winners:

1. Share The Wealth Draw: \$255 – Esther Spicer (Thorndale)
2. Custom Bird House - Ron Hunter (St. Marys)
3. Peony Plant - Rita McPhail (Port Burwell)
4. Heat Mat - Janis Kapp (St. Marys)
5. Flower Tray – Sue McCann (Ingersoll)
6. Whistling Gardens Tickets - Judi Pink (Dorchester)
7. Farmer’s Almanac Guidebook – Jude McHugh (Port Burwell)
8. Calla Lily – Mark Colpaert (Strathroy-Caradoc)
9. Calla Lily – Tina Berdan (Port Burwell-Bayham)

Society Prize Winners:

1. Gord Piggott (Woodstock)
2. Lisa Knight (Strathroy-Caradoc)
3. Agnes Burroughs (Assistant Director Oxford)
4. Helen Peternel (Lambeth)
5. Rita DoCanto (Grand Bend)
6. Karen Hodgins (Grand Bend)
7. Linda Henderson (Ingersoll)
8. Bernice Barratt (-Stratford)
9. Jackie Malleck (Thorndale)
10. Morag Ardron (St. Thomas)
11. Penny Esseltine (Tillsonburg)
12. Janet Scott (Woodstock)
13. Angela Lassam (Tillsonburg)
14. Marg Dykeman (Ingersoll)
15. Shelly MacKenzie (St. Thomas)
16. Tina Berdan (Port Burwell-Bayham)
17. Norma Last (St. Thomas)
18. Cathy Groulx (Woodstock)
19. Dena Luyt (Tillsonburg)
20. Lorraine Colpaert (Strathroy-Caradoc)
21. Janet Butts (Strathroy-Caradoc)

Silent Auction Winners:

The Woodstock society silent auction raised \$1,615 towards their AGM expenses. Prize winners were as follows:

1. \$25 Gift Card Westland Greenhouse, Potted Anthurium & Yeti Cooler – Mark Colpaert (Strathroy-Caradoc)
2. Arise True Yoga Passes & 60 Min Massage – Janet Scott (Woodstock)
3. Arise True Yoga Passes & Gift Basket - Janet Scott (Woodstock)
4. Nordic Spa Experience & Massage – Tanya Weber (Woodstock)
5. Stand-up Weeder & Massage – Ron Hunter (St. Marys)
6. \$200 Gift Card Can-tario – Martha Meyer (Woodstock)
7. 55 Gallon Rain Barrell, hand crafted bird feeder and butterfly house – Tina Berdan (Port Burwell-Bayham)
8. Gift basket and Succulent Arrangement – Tina Berdan (Port Burwell-Bayham)
9. Garden Pruner – Jude McHugh (Port Burwell-Bayham)
10. Painting – Lesli Fisher (Woodstock)
11. \$200 Gift Card Indoor Gardner – David Bastien (Glencoe)
12. \$50 Gift Card Canadale, \$25 Gift Card Family Flowers & Garden Gloves – Pam DaCosta (Woodstock)
13. \$25 Gift Card Family Flowers & Gazing Ball with Stand – Mary Anne Ward (Woodstock)

14. Decorative Garden Shovel, Garden Bag, Bird House & Boston Fern – Martha Meyer (Woodstock)

15. Water/Fountain Pump, Bird Feeder, Flower Pot, Dessert Squares – Lisa Knight (Strathroy)

D10 Fundraising Totals:

District 10 fundraising efforts raised \$425. The fundraising breakdown was as follows:

- 50/50 - \$125
- Door prizes - \$175
- Pins & books - \$110
- Rheo Thompson Chocolates - \$15

Invitation to 2025 AGM:

Stratford invited all societies to the 2025 AGM which will be held April 26, 2025 hosted by the Stratford society.

Closing Remarks:

Lesli Fisher (Woodstock) thanked all the Woodstock volunteers, the high school student volunteers, scouts and ventures organizations, as well as all attendees.

Dian Chute (Past District 10 Director) expressed her thanks to D10 and as well to Woodstock on behalf of Joyce (District 10 Director).

Meeting Close: 3:15 pm

Minutes: Jennifer Prgesa (Thorndale), Secretary