

**NCNH District  
Spring 2007 Business Meeting  
Saturday, March 3, 2007  
Hosted by the San Mateo County Rose Society  
San Mateo, CA**

**Call to Order** The meeting was called to order by Jolene Adams, District Director, at 8:03 a.m.

**Welcome** Jennifer Galli, San Mateo County Rose Society President, welcomed everyone and said, "Enjoy the lovely day."

**Roll Call of Societies** was taken by Gail Carpenter, Secretary. All societies except Hawaii, Lodi-Woodbridge, Mendocino, and Stockton had delegates present. Jolene reminded delegates to sign the attendance register if they hadn't already done so.

**Minutes of the Fall Meeting** in San Ramon were included in packets that were mailed to delegates a month ago. It was moved and seconded that the Minutes be approved. **The motion passed unanimously.** Executive Board Minutes were in the packets mailed out to all presidents.

**Treasurer's Report and 2007 Budget Proposal** Kent Duncan handed out the proposed budget for 2007. He joked that previous Treasurer, Ken Jones, could be let out of custody now, because everything balanced in the recent audit. Kent reported that *The Criterion's* expenses budget is up slightly, and subscriptions budget is down slightly.

There are five societies that are due to pay into the Trophy Fund, so Kent invited them to pay him today. He also informed everyone that District Directories are here for pick up today.

**District Director's Report** was given by Jolene. She reported on the strength of the District, and said that there are no financial problems and our District. Membership is stable, but that we do lose about 18 ARS members a month to attrition, and urged all societies to really get down to business with our membership drives. She said it might take some "missionary-style talking to" to get our membership chairmen and members to work harder to reach out to the public for new members, but that this must be done.

**ARS Report** Jolene reported that everything that could go wrong, did go wrong, in the first two months of this year for ARS. The ARS Magazine was late, and it all had to do with how the printing has been paid for in the past. Payment with the old company has been after-the-fact. That company has been sold, and the new company doing the printing demanded payment up front for the January issue and ARS wasn't prepared. We know the ARS needs money in the operating budget. They need Ways and Means ideas to jack up their available cash. Expenses have

been cut as much as they can be cut, and ARS is struggling to pay for the magazine.

Unfortunately, ARS went with the lowest bidder to work on their web site, so things are still under development. The “store” should be ready to use some time next week.

Rose Gilardi asked for further explanation of why the ARS can't take money out of funds to pay the plumber, etc. Jolene explained that in most cases endowments have been made, and the monies in the various pots can only be used for that particular fund. There are lots of endowments, invested for a nice return, but only for the fund that it is invested in. It leaves no cash. Discussion followed, and Kerri said, “Can't someone make a designated gift to the ARS as a Publications Fund?” Yes, an individual could donate money to ARS and designate that it go for publications. That would be a good thing. No, NCNH cannot charge members “a little extra” for this express purpose because the District is part of ARS. Members decided that we would “pass the Hat”, so to speak. We would have a “poor box” at District meetings to raise money for ARS. Time will tell how well this idea works.

**Let's Talk - About trophies** Tom Bonfigli, reported that there are 21 or 22 perpetual trophies, all in decent repair. In the past three years we have changed/modernized some of the trophy titles. Baldo spoke up saying he thought we should get rid of some of the trophies. He doesn't care for perpetual trophies. Tom said this would be a slap in the face to the people who donated the trophy in the first place. It would be demeaning to the donor, and it would be demeaning to the winners. Jolene reminded us that some are Memorial, and have a long history. There were a number of additional responses: don't enter the category if you don't want to take home the trophy; trophies give novices and new members something to aspire to; some should be retired—i.e., why does a trophy have thorns on it?; the engraved names are nice to see, and when you win, you know yours will be added to the distinguished list.

Kathy Dooley is looking forward to her first trophy. She had a concern for the cost of engraving, (if there were those who did not take their trophies home,) but we were told NCNH covers the cost of all District trophy engraving. That comes out of the Trophy Fund.

In the final analysis, no motion was made to retire trophies or to make a change.

**Let's Talk - About Elections** Jolene is in the first year of her last term. In 2009 we will need to elect a new District Director. Jolene said anyone interested in becoming Director, start now to attend conventions, conferences, and go to those board meetings—get political and get active. You must have been in ARS for three years and have served NCNH. Get your name out there. Someone asked, and yes, a previous District Director can run again.

**Let's Talk - About Spring and Fall Business Meetings** A complaint was made saying we need a rose show and educational seminars and a banquet, etc. at our spring meetings similar to what many other Districts do. Discussion followed. Joe Burek commented we have a hard enough time getting people to host the Fall Conference which has all those things, it would be hard to get societies to host two such meetings a year. You would soon run out of societies. Diana Steps said small societies cannot afford to participate in such a large undertaking. The smaller societies can host these one day events (as we do now) — it is within their means to participate at this level. Rose Gilardi informed us the spring business meeting has not been around all that long. She started adding a Spring Business Meeting, because it's hard to run NCNH on one meeting a year. Two meetings made the District easier to run. We have no reason for two “conferences” a year. Muriel Humenick reminded us that back in the 60's there were only 12 delegates, and the host provided a brief lunch and an informal meeting. Now, she believes, potlucks bring delegates. The general consensus of delegates agreed we will continue as we are. No motion was made to change.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Dean Davis - Education:** Dean sent e-mails to all presidents and got zero responses. He is trying to determine how many members in each society aspire to be a CR? We need to set up schools. Where the interested members are is where the schools will be held. He asked that people respond one way or the other. Jolene also asked presidents to start responding.

**Elsina Dean - Consulting Rosarians** Elsina reported a great year in 2006; there were 25 new CRs added to the District. She urged delegates to check their rosters and talk to members about becoming CRs in 2007. There are 42 CRs that need to be recertified before December 31, of this year. Crs can always check their status on the District web site.

There are a total of 177 CRs in the District, and 110 CR reports were submitted online. She is pleased with the online capability. If time permits, she plans to downsize the CR report to one page, emphasizing education and knowledge.

Elsina talked about the Aug. 15th deadline for sending nomination to ARS for Master Rosarians. So many who are not recognized are very worthy and deserving. It is not a secret—you can recommend yourself (not kosher, but acceptable.) You do need documentation to show that the applicant has actually done this or that.

Elsina says Baldo is willing to work with people who find it hard to travel by making a home education seminar where members can gain points at home.

Elsina also reminded people that there will be a seminar on October 5th at the start of the “Strike It Rich” District Fall Conference in Jackson. The CR seminar is called “Earth Friendly Gardening,” with Otto Lund presenting. Applications to register for this conference are available today.

**Judy Bonds - Horticulture Judges** Judy announced that there are nine apprentice judges that are available to be asked to judge your shows this year. A list of those apprentices is on the front table for delegates to take home. She also called for anyone who has not done so, to turn in their Judges' Report, or file it online. Apprentice Judges do not need to fill out the report. Judges can also check their status on the District web site.

**Dolores Moffat - Arrangement Judges** The important thing Dolores announced was the revision of "Guidelines for Judging Rose Arrangements." The book is in effect now, and you can order this new, revised edition from ARS for ~\$15, plus shipping and handling.

Dolores told of a special refresher class for arrangers that was held on February 24, and all Arrangement Judges have extended their audit dates. All judges have turned in their Arrangement Judges Reports, as well, making it possible to determine the Outstanding Arrangement Judge of the Year.

Dolores cautioned schedule writers NOT to copy last year's schedule. There are scorecard changes, special classes added, personal adornments additions, and lots of changes to the arrangements in the Oriental Manner. Miniature arrangements have been added, with Princess and Duchess. In other words, get the new Guidelines for Judging Rose Arrangements before you put together your schedule.

There will be an Arrangement Judges' School next spring (2008,) the details of which can be found on the District web site.

**Carol Burek - Membership** A list comes to Carol from ARS with new ARS members that live throughout our District. Carol sends the names to the appropriate president because, though they have joined ARS, they may not know about your local society. (You will also learn the names of ARS members whose membership has expired.) Contact the new names directly as a means of obtaining members who already show an interest in roses. Carol also says to call your past members and ask them why they dropped. Get in touch directly.

**Ann Marie Harris** of the Reno Rose Society said they saw declining membership and decided they needed to grow, or die. They hired professional help, and involved the Parks Department to design a beautiful, tri-fold color brochure, which they have distributed to local nurseries. Other societies told of having made up brochures on bright paper. Others said posters can be placed in the windows of local nurseries. Another suggestion: give free raffle tickets to guests when guests are brought to meetings, giving out donated prizes.

**Linda & Ted Burg - Criterion Editors** Linda thanked people for articles, but said there are not enough of them being submitted for *The Criterion*. She said any article that might be of interest to the District is welcome, no matter how long or short it might be. Linda was asked if the newsletter could be sent over the internet as a PDF file, but she said, no, it is too big. When asked when the deadline is, she said, "When you get it to me!" "Actually," she said, "this month it would be the end of March, the 1st of April."

Often people subscribe for a year, and drop. Linda urged all of us to renew.

**Muriel Humenick - Nominations & Awards** Muriel is the liaison between NCNH and ARS. Today she talked about the silver honor medal award. She had sent out a notice asking for nominations for this award, but got no responses. If anyone here today has a name, give it to Muriel today. She also had a suggestion for societies on how to use the second ARS magazine that presidents receive. She says take it to a meeting and ask for hands from non-ARS members. Give the magazine to one of those people. Let them take it home and study it. If you do that each month, you will get some new ARS members.

Muriel announced she has a new book out, called Roses for Northern California. She had some for sale at her table. She held it in her hand, and Jolene asked if she brought some books for the raffle. While Muriel thought about why she hadn't done that, our Raffle Chairman, Lesa Lane, came over, swiftly took the book and placed it on the raffle table. Done deal! Muriel just laughed.

**Alice Affleck - Dist. Directory & Roses In Review** Alice informed us that the District Directory was available today for \$3 each. She said the Marin Garden Center Rose Garden in Ross was inadvertently omitted from the Public Gardens listing. Other corrections are: Mt. Diablo's show is now May 12th at the Dublin Sr. Center; Sierra Foothills moved their date to Oct. 20, 2007; Monterey Bay's all day show will be May 5th. (Make changes to dates on page 2 in the 2007 District Directory.)

The Directory Update Form and a Change of Address Form is on the District's web site.

We were not number one across the nation for our Roses In Review report this year. Deep South District beat us. The leading numbers in the RIR reports were Bill Reynolds with 133; Tom Bonfigli with 117; Baldo Villegas with 97.

**Lesa Lane - Raffle** Lisa conducted the raffle, which, (after a first money count,) looked as if it netted over \$600 for the District. San Mateo held their own, separate raffle and recouped the cost of the breakfast treats and some of the expense of setting up the rooms for the meeting.

### **Site Selection - Future Sites**

Lesa went over the following dates with us. We still need a location/host for Fall 2009:

Fall 2007 Mother Lode RS, Jackson - Oct. 5-7, 2007

Spring 2008 Butte RS, Chico - March 8, 2008 (Newman Center, Chico)

Fall 2008 October 3-5, Redding RS, Redding, CA

Spring 2009 <tba>, Sacramento RS

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Marianne Jameson, President of the Mount Diablo Rose Society thanked members of hers and all other societies for making the Fall 2006 Conference a success. She happily reported that they ended up in the black.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Jolene announced last year's winners for the bulletin contest—in local “Division B,” Marin Rose Society won silver. At the district level, *The Criterion* won gold in 2006. The list of Award of Merit articles was announced.

Judge Emeritus certificates were awarded to Eulalie Godfrey and Sally Joy.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Carpenter, NCNH Secretary