Minutes

Present: Chen-Chung Chen, George Hatfield (President-Elect), Clare Hermans (Secretary), Johan Hermans, Dennis Kao, David Ridgeway, William Riley (President), Yin-Tung Wang

Guests: Ahby Tseng, Niggy Lee & Susanna Liu from TOGA

Absent: Munekazu Ejiri, Alison Gallaway, Kiat Tan, John Varigos (Treasurer)

Meeting: Called to order at 6:00 PM EST (US)

Standing Reports:
1. President’s Report
   a. The Minutes of December 7, 2022, were unanimously approved.
   b. Will reported Malaysia would be updating their application form.
   c. Will outlined the new Agenda format and requested that Committee reports and any documents were circulated 10 days in advance to enable prior consultation and help focus discussion at meetings.

2. Treasurer’s Report
   a. The current monthly statement was circulated with the agenda.
   b. Will reported funds for purchasing the WOCT Tokyo Trophy had been successfully transferred to Munekazu and confirmatory e-mails were sent by Fidelity to Will and George.
   c. Will stated he was working on the end of year tax information.

Current Active Discussion:
1. WOC Committee Report - Taiwan 23rd WOC update
   Susanna submitted a progress report:
   a. The website of 23rd WOC has been launched. ([https://woc23.com/](https://woc23.com/)) and the following information has been posted: Dates and venue; Call for speakers and the topics of the speeches and posters; Judge application form; Transportation and Publications-Order information. Any further updated news will be released via the official website, Facebook, and Instagram.
   b. Plan to spread the WOC news: AOS Facebook group. ([https://reurl.cc/85Zb2j](https://reurl.cc/85Zb2j))
   c. Publicize the WOC and distribute leaflets and seek potential exhibitors at the following events this year: Dresden Orchid Show (Mar. 30 – Apr. 2) and APOC Singapore (Aug. 16 – Aug. 20). In addition, potential speakers would be sought at the Orchid Festival in Japan
(Jan. 5 – Jan. 9) and at TIOS (Mar. 3 – Mar. 19). An A4 leaflet in Japanese has been finished and includes information about dates and venue.

d. Check the schedule in TIOS2023 for WOCT.

Susanna confirmed there had already been 20 lecture and 6 poster applications. George requested an advert for the 23rd WOC which can be sent to different publications on orchids.

2. Student Grants Schedule
   a. It was agreed the aim of the Grants was to encourage student participation in orchids and at the WOC.
   b. The circulated draft schedule will be worked on by Clare, Will and Yin-Tung and recirculated for comment before the next meeting. Then, it will be posted on the WOCT website.
   c. The four revised categories and their amounts were unanimously approved
   d. TOGA confirmed they will fund the Student Grants for the 23rd WOC. The Board thanked them for their generous offer.
   e. Once finalized Board members agreed to promote the Grants. Yin-Tung agreed to extract information about researchers from the virtual 22nd WOC with a view to contacting them.

3. Social Media
   a. George confirmed the Board needed to approve the setting up of any WOCT social media accounts. Therefore, a motion to have a WOCT Facebook page and Instagram account was carried, four votes and one abstention.
   b. Board members were asked to consider suitable people to manage the accounts.

4. WOCT Budget
   a. This item was carried over to the next meeting

Current Activity Pending Approval:
1. Guidelines For Prospective Hosts and Organizers of WOC. These were approved unanimously.

Current Activity Pending Completion
1. RHS Information Sheet for Website. Will and David reported this had been posted.

Miscellaneous Items
1. George informed the meeting that he, Johan and Munekazu were looking at different categories and criteria for WOCT Lifetime Achievement Awards also known as WOCT Medals and make recommendations. Members were asked to think of suitable candidates and provide a brief supporting statement.
2. Dennis confirmed the APOC dates in Singapore were 16th – 20th August 2023, details would be available on the website by the end of January.

Future Activity (Documents Under Study no action required)
1. Future of Proceedings Hardcopy vs. Online Open Source. Copyright issues etc. YW
2. Donor Policy. Will agreed to talk to John about developing one. WR JV
3. Memo of Understanding. Clare confirmed she was working on one, Will agreed to assist.CH WR
4. Malaysia’s proposal to hold a WOC. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda
5. Reports from Committees
   a. Scientific & Education
   b. Conservation
c. Horticulture
   No reports were tabled

Next Meeting
Date/Time: Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023, at 6.00 PM EST US.
Clare Hermans