



Page One: News:

- **Traveling Trophies Reminder!** The ARS has 6 'Traveling Trophies' that rotate among the 18 Districts. These are awards for special classes offered in a District Rose Show. The Districts to receive these trophies in 2009 are:
 - Buckeye
 - Central
 - Great Lakes
 - New York
 - North Central
 - Rocky MountainMore information about the trophies, the schedule for those receiving them and past trophy winners can be found at www.ars.org/Trophies/trophies.html
- **The ARS Photography Contest** rules can be found at www.ars.org/Contests/photo-contest.html. Last year over 800 photos were entered into the Contest. The deadline for entries this year is the last Friday in November, the 28th. If you have any questions about the rules, call Paul J. Colombo, Chairman of the Photography Contest, at 313.881.5127 or email him at pjcolombo1@comcast.net.
- **Last reminder to vote** on the Bylaw Amendments explained in the September-October issue of the *American Rose*. The amendments would permit electronic voting by the Board of Directors and the membership. ARS Board support for these changes was unanimous; those without computers would still be able to use paper ballots via the *American Rose* magazine. Paper ballots on this matter must be received at ARS HQs by November 30, 2008.
- **The Free Membership Trial Initiative** will **NOT** end on December 31st of this year. The 4-month trial membership, available to all NEW members of a local society, continues to be in force for the foreseeable future. All that is required is that the local society President send a list of new members with street addresses, phone numbers and email addresses to Laura Pfender, Membership Director of the ARS, at laura@ars-hq.org.
- **The Great Rosarians of the World IX Lecture Series** will jointly honor Heritage Rose Foundation President Stephen Scanniello and former ARS President Marilyn Wellan for their work in promoting the love of roses and bridging the gap between two major factions supporting Modern Roses and Old Garden Roses. Both honorees have worked tirelessly to harness the energies of all rosarians to benefit both love of the rose and appreciation of its virtues.
 - **The West Coast Event** will take place on Sunday, February 8, 2009 at the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens in San

Marino, Ca. For more information email Clair Martin, Shannon Curator of the Rose & Perennial Gardens, at cmartin@huntington.org.

- **The East Coast Event** will take place on Friday and Saturday, June 5 and 6, 2009 at the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens and sponsored by the Manhattan Rose Society. For more information email Pat Shanley, President of the Manhattan Rose Society, at PShanley@aol.com

The website for the Great Rosarians of the World is www.greatrosarians.com.

- Deadlines for submitting nominations for the **Hedrick and Whitaker Awards** are December 31st of this year. Nomination forms and eligibility standards can be found on the ARS website Home page.

Page Two: Views: The United States Postal Service has issued new regulations dealing with bulk mail. ARS Membership Director Laura Pfender explains them and the ARS service to local societies affected by the changes.

NEW USPS regulations go into effect November 23rd...Is your local Society ready?

~ The new regulations will affect local societies and/or districts that use bulk mailing (first class non-profit rates).

~ All mailers must show that they have used one of the USPS approved methods to verify all addresses that mail is being sent to. There will be an additional line on the postage statement declaring that the addresses have been verified, and are, to the best of your knowledge, accurate. Failure to verify the addresses will result in the loss of your non-profit bulk mail rate.

~ This requirement is to cut down on the amount of undeliverable mail, or mail addressed incorrectly, e.g. wrong house number, zip code etc. Lists need to be verified four times per year; each time the list of names and addresses is checked it is valid for 95 days.

~ The American Rose Society will provide list checking/ address verification services to our local societies to comply with these new regulations. This service will be made available to ALL local societies.

~ The cost will be \$25 per quarter/ \$100 per year. Please contact Laura Pfender, Membership Director of the ARS to discuss your mailing list. She can be reached by phone at 318-938-5402 ext 108, or by email at laura@ars-hq.org.

~ If your mailing list has NOT been verified, you will NOT be able to use the non-profit bulk mail discount, which offers a considerable savings compared to first class mail!

The following link provides further information regarding the USPS requirements.

<http://www.usps.com/ncsc/addressservices/moveupdate/moveupdatemenu.htm>

Page Three: Re-Views: At the close of the year, new presidents take office, many with years of experience and others totally new to the job. Following is a light-hearted look at the experience of a new president by an author who has been a new president three times.

So You Are the PRESIDENT, Now What?

By Jim Delahanty

As one of Shakespeare's more troublesome characters noted, 'some are born great, some achieve greatness, and others have greatness thrust upon 'em.' If you are in the latter category, you have probably just been elected president of your local society after being assured through a combination of cajolery and coaxing that the job was really 'easy' and 'nothing to it.' About the time of your installation, the coaxers and cajolers somehow disappear into the woodwork. So, what do you do next?

The first thing to do is to look at two sources of information. The White Book on the ARS website contains a list of obligations of the local society President to the American Rose Society in Section II, page 7. The major source of the President's obligations, however, is to be found in the local society Bylaws.

ARS Obligations:

The main obligations to the ARS include 3 reporting functions, 4 appointing functions, two positive duties and one negative duty.

Report:

- Send a list of the names and addresses of local society officers and the newsletter editor to ARS HQ in January of every year.
- Send a list of local society members to ARS HQ in January of every year
- Notify the ARS HQ of the recipient of the Bronze Medal (if there is one) in a timely manner

Appoint:

- A Coordinator of Consulting Rosarians
- A member to the District Awards Committee (term is for 3 years to coincide with that of the District Director per ARS rules)
- A Coordinator for the Roses in Review program
- A Membership Chair

(Notify the District Chairs of these appointments. Even better make all of the appointments for a three-year term.)

Positive Duties:

- Encourage rose horticulture in programming
- Encourage membership in the American Rose Society

Negative Duties:

- Do not endanger the non-profit tax status of the American Rose Society

Bylaws Obligations:

Generally, Bylaws list presidential obligations in two forms: ministerial and discretionary. Ministerial duties are those to be performed as a clear responsibility without any leeway: for example, a duty to call a meeting upon the request of a particular number of Board members. Whether the president thinks such a meeting is desirable or not is beside the point, the duty is clear and not subject to the president's judgment. Presidents are usually required to appoint the heads of committees, including the Nomination committee. Usually, they are obligated to preside over meetings of the general membership and the Board of Directors unless incapacitated for some reason. And presidents implicitly have the duty to see that the Bylaws are faithfully observed.

Discretionary duties of the president include general responsibility for the society's growth and oversight of the society activities, ex-officio membership in all the standing committees, and fostering both community outreach and other educational activities through the traditional rose show or some other means. On the micro level of activity, the President may or may not write a monthly message for the society newsletter.

Two Unwritten obligations:

Delegation: Presidents must delegate some duties. Bylaws may specify other officers like Vice Presidents in charge of Programs, or Rose Shows, or other activities. Even if these positions are not specifically enumerated by the Bylaws, they should exist in order to protect the President from overt exhaustion. A President who attempts to do everything will ultimately wind up exhausted and alienated from the society. If you cannot find anyone to perform particular functions in your rose society, you have to ask yourself whether or not this activity is worth doing.

'Default': No matter how many other officers are listed in the Bylaws, the person to whom the society and those outside the society look for answers is the President. If the meeting room is locked, it is the president's duty to find the key. The President is the first responder in any crisis situation, at least partially because a president is visible in a way that no other officer is. If a speaker cancels at the last minute, it is initially the duty of the Program Chair to find a replacement, but it is ultimately the President who announces the substitute program. There is a Treasurer, but the president is responsible for the financial health of the society.

Final Thought:

The average length of time when you stop getting mail addressed to you as President is about five years after your term is over.

The Local Society Relations Committee welcomes comments on the contents and character of this publication. There is a listing of committee members on the ARS website at ARS Committees, as well as complete archives of the ARS & You.