

AIFD North Central Chapter Officer Reports

President Elect's Report: Jim Rauch AIFD

WOW!! Did we knock 'em over with the Dayton Home & Garden Show or what? I will try to get all of the photos posted on www.aifd.org or you can see what an incredible pool of talent we have in North Central. Our "People's Choice" award tablescapes blew the crowd away, being the most popular display at the show, judging by the votes that were cast!

The addition this year of two stage shows, which were expertly commentated by Mary Linda Horn and Loann Burke, were well received. Arrangements from the shows were auctioned off, addition to our funds donated to North Central, which totaled over \$700!

Please help me in thanking the following designers who made this show and AIFD Awareness event really spectacular!

Co-chair DH&GS:

Blaine Kohler Loann Burke

Committee:

Carolyn Clark-Kurek Mary Linda Horn (and a very special "Thank You" to David Horn!)
Sue Huelsman Roger Conner
Helen Miller Sue Bal
Mike Brown Brian Wenmoth
Cory Brown Frank Feysa
...And AIFD Fellow Bill Taylor was here to help!!!

We also need everyone to know that the following were generous donors.

- Donell Heber-Walton and the Dayton Home & Garden Show
- Furst Florist
- Unique Designs Florist Studio
- Transflora
- Simpson's Greens
- Esmeralda
- Gardens America
- Nordlie, Inc.

Congratulations to Roger Conner, Flowers by Roger in Middletown, OH who was recognized with the "Mayor's Award." The winner of the "People's Choice" competition was Michael Brown, Nina's Florist in Springdale, OH. Hope to see more of you in Dayton next year; we all had a great time!

As you may remember the board recently sent a survey to members regarding our January meeting with questions regarding location, cost, etc. The results are as follows. Our region has about 170 members, we only received 43 responses. I am assuming the rest of you will be at our January 10 meeting since it doesn't matter where or when. The majority of respondents:

- Didn't know anyone who did not attend due to cost

- Don't prefer a less expensive meeting location
- Do not attend gift mart during this time
- Were divided 50-50 as to a "floating" location
- Want the meeting to stay in Chicago

Thanks so much to those of you who took a moment to respond. Looking forward to seeing all of you in Kansas City! Have a fun spring!

Jim Rauch

Vice President's Report: Alice Waterous AIFD

Wow, it's Officially Spring, and the deer are busy eating my tulips. Thank goodness for foul tasting daffodils.

As I hit the button to sent the article about the Michigan Floral Assoc. Great Lakes Floral Expo, I realized that I omitted someone. JMH Schwanke AIFD, AAF, PFCI appeared as our keynote speaker at the Saturday Night banquet. Found out later that it was his birthday. So thanks, J, and belated Happy Bday.

Someone else I was please to see at Expo was Kim Wood AIFD bringing with her five designers from McNamara Florist in Indianapolis, all competing in the design contest. Two make the design run off, Erin Downs and Shelby Oxlej. Congrats.

So many of you have been busy bees making Flower and Garden shows bloom. I can remember when the only thing happening in March was St. Patrick's Day. So hooray for all the eager, snow weary folks who turn out for those shows.

It was my pleasure to attend the Illinois State Spring Conference. Again, so many NC members active there. Rae Roberts Griffith, Eldon Haab, Karen Koven, Patricia Locke, Rick Orr, Lee Russo, Brent Leech, program presenter, Jodi Duncan, program presenter, Joyce Grattonni, Amy Steiner, Jerry Prokuski, Craig & Donna Theimer (they were also at MI), Pat Scace, Kim Wood, John Windisch, who did a spectacular banquet décor. And as always, Judy Borah working her buns off. Judy received special recognition and a standing ovation for her ongoing work in floral education for the association. Plus, Jerry Hankins, as executive director of the Association. I am sure there is a face I am missing in my memory book, so please forgive me.

North Central AIFD had a table at the Nordlie Vendors Show March 22 in Warren, MI. I manned the table where there were brochures and the AIFD Guide to Floral Design Books for folks to browse (no one bought one). It was great to have the opportunity to talk to people about AIFD and answer the question: Do I have to be a member to attend Symposium? As well as the one: what is an Aphid?

I am preparing to leave this weekend to do an AIRS program with Jane Edwards SAIFD group at Gateway College in Kenosha, WI next week. Look forward to seeing NC member, Jeanette Weinstock and husband Brad who have graciously offered me a place to stay. Jeanette is recovering from knee surgery at this time.

So that's all the news from the edge of the mitten for now.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Waterous

Secretary's Report: Donna Thiemer AIFD

No report submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Dan Kotecki AIFD

Checking account balance as of January 17, 2009: \$13,798.87

Income:

Chicago Flower Show Scholarship Stipend \$2,500

Dinners for January meeting \$2,068

Total Income +\$4,568

Expenses:

Hotel 71 for January meeting expenses - \$3,439.90

Get Well Flowers for Sandy Schroeck - \$67.34

Checking account balance as of February 20, 2009: \$14,859.63

AIFD Foundation managed Scholarship Funds:

Manders/Deprez \$27,041.73

Alison Novak \$2,340

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Kotecki AIFD

National Board Representative: Lisa Brennan AIFD

The National board met at the site of this year's symposium at the Hyatt Regency in Kansas City, MO. It is a wonderful site with much to offer. The Symposium committee has been working very hard and it looks like it will be another educational show. The details can be found on the AIFD Web site and registration is now open. For more information, visit www.aifd.org. I'm looking forward to seeing you there.

The Board received several letters from AIFD members who are educators at various colleges and universities that are seeing decreased support of their programs. Sharon McGukin AIFD suggested that the Institute develop floral industry career awareness marketing material which would be sent out to high school students. It was also suggested AIFD work on the development of an internship program through its members.

The Presidential Inauguration was also reported on. The Society of American Florists was not able to work out an agreement for florists to contribute floral designers for the 2009 Inauguration due to the fact of the current economy.

The 2009 AIFD directory was discussed. Mr. Shaner and the Board reviewed the costs associated with publishing the annual membership directory. This is reason for smaller type facing. It was agreed that the goal was to keep the weight of the directory under one pound for mailing purposes. Because that goal was met there was a huge savings on printing and mailing of the directories. Just a reminder that all the information you see in the directory is also available online at www.aifd.org.

You should have all received the ballots for the upcoming election. Please make North Central proud by taking a few minutes out of your day and vote. Make sure you follow the directions carefully and mail in back promptly. We will be meeting in Baltimore, April 5 to count the ballots.

If you are interested in nominating anyone for an award in Kansas City this coming July please contact Lori Novak AIFD. A list of all the awards titles and descriptions are located in the back of the membership directory.

Please mark your calendars for July 11-16, 2009. "The Sky's the Limit" symposium held in Kansas City, MO. Hope to see you there.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa M. Brennan AIFD

Past President Report: Scott Awad AIFD

No report submitted.