Letter from the President

Fall for many gardeners always seems to come too soon and it marks the seemingly early termination of another all too short growing season. But that’s not all bad! Fall also initiates the anticipation, enthusiasm and planning for next year’s garden which we KNOW will be better than ever before!!

Likewise for Pi Alpha Xi, Fall is the time when local chapters and national committees look with enthusiasm towards what is to be accomplished in the next nine months. Local Chapters are encouraged to initiate regional industry professionals into PAX. This is an excellent way to recognize professionals who have made valuable contributions to the industry and to establish a positive working network with these individuals. Invite PAX alumni and past industry initiates to your initiation ceremonies. Enhancing fellowship among professionals is one of the primary objectives of Pi Alpha Xi.

The members of the national committees are listed in this newsletter. Use this as a future reference and communicate your ideas/concerns/questions to these individuals. The committees always appreciate broad-based input and they are there to work for you. Topics that the committees will be addressing include funding and promoting PAX Scholarships, updating/revising the “Flower Judging Manual”, examining the Floral Design portion of the National Intercollegiate Floral Crop Quality Evaluation and Design Competition, and evaluating how well PAX is serving the woody ornamental and landscape horticulturists within PAX.

Local Chapters are encouraged to submit paragraphs about their activities to the National Officers. The ideas and activities will be shared with the other chapters through this newsletter.

Please take time to read the entire contents of this newsletter and pass the information on to everyone in your chapter. Make copies to distribute if desired. An informed organization is a strong organization.

Have a rewarding year!
Terry Ferriss

FY ’94 Dues Now Payable

Pi Alpha Xi National membership chapter dues of $20 for fiscal year 1994 are due and payable to the PAX National Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Douglas C Needham, Oklahoma State University, Dept. Hort. & L.A., 360 Ag Hall, Stillwater, OK 74078-0511. Initiation fees for new members remain at $15 each.
Minutes of PAX National Meeting at Opryland

Pi Alpha Xi’s National Meeting was held on Tuesday, July 27, from Noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee, in conjunction with the American Society for Horticultural Science’s National Meeting.

President Terry Ferriss opened the luncheon/meeting, welcoming 53 members, representing 23 chapters. A special welcome was offered to Maryla Marynowski, an international member of Pi Alpha Xi from Poland.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. New Members Report: Twenty-three chapters of Pi Alpha Xi initiated 323 new members during academic year 1993, increasing membership in PAX to 9,994.

2. Financial Report: The balance of funds in PAX accounts at the end of fiscal year 1993 was $15,520.25. The audited report was accepted.

3. Minutes: The minutes of the 1992 Annual Meeting of Pi Alpha Xi, which was held at the Sheraton Waikiki in Honolulu, Hawaii, in conjunction with the American Society for Horticultural Science’s annual meeting, were accepted with one correction in the Financial Report—Balance (Checking and Savings Accounts) totaled $12,047.86.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports

1. Fellows Selection Committee: Ken Sanderson offered a character description of Fellow Woody Calin. A card was circulated by Terry Ferriss for signatures and words of encouragement to be sent to Woody.

2. Rules Committee: Vice President Jack Buxton reported that the Rules Committee and the Executive Board had reviewed the Pi Alpha Xi Constitution. He said that suggested revisions would be mailed to each chapter during the fall 1993 term. An included ballot will allow each chapter’s membership to collectively vote on changes to the Constitution. (Editor’s Note: Watch for your chapter’s ballot and copy of the Constitution to arrive shortly after receipt of this newsletter.)

3. Publications and Membership Services Committee: President Terry Ferriss announced that the last issue of the Pi Alpha Xi Lotus Leaf, which was compiled by Ken Sanderson, would be printed, and one copy would be mailed to each chapter and member industry gratis. Additional copies will be available from the National Secretary-Treasurer at cost. Doug Needham announced that the Pi Alpha Xi Lotus Leaflet will serve as the Honor Society’s official publication, supplanting the Lotus Leaf. It will be published three times per year by the National Secretary-Treasurer.

Fellow Woody Calin is thanked and remembered for years of service and dedication to Pi Alpha Xi and the National Intercollegiate Flower Judging Competition.

4. Nominations Committee: No report
5. Contest Committee: The 1993 Floral Crop Quality Evaluation and Design Competition was held at the University of Wisconsin—River Falls. The 1994 contest will be held at the University of Kentucky, and the 1995 contest will be held at Kansas State University. Volunteer host schools are needed for 1996, 1997, and 1998. Contest Committee Chairperson Virginia Walter proposed that Pi Alpha Xi National support the contest with a $1000 contribution to the host school. The motion carried. This support shall begin with the 1994 contest. American Floral Endowment will be contacted for additional support.

President Terry Ferriss announced that Pi Alpha Xi and the Floriculture Education and Floriculture Working Groups (FLED and FLOR) of ASHS would be cosponsoring a workshop on Floral Crop Quality Evaluation on Wednesday, July 28, at 3-4 p.m. She said, “One part of the program is to have a panel of Flower Judging Coaches who would each tell in 3-5 minutes how they fund practices and the National Contest trip, logistically how they get plants to practice with and any other tidbits of useful insight on judging that they wish to share.” Marv Carbonneau of the University of Illinois will be presenting a 20-30 minute overview of how to train a team. Dennis Wolnick of Penn State University will give a brief philosophy statement on why teaching students quality evaluation is important, and he will also take 10 minutes to go over what resources are available to assist in training. An industry representative has been invited to discuss from an industry viewpoint the importance of being able to determine ornamental crop quality.

Contest Committee Chairperson Virginia Walter initiated a discussion about the floral design component of the National Intercollegiate Floral Crop Quality and Design Competition. Will Healy expressed concern about the time and expense involved for the host school to obtain and prepare material, yet felt that elimination of the contest would be a loss for the students. Barb Fails commented that the contest should be a professional experience, that the American Institute of Floral Design (AIFD) is willing to be involved, and that the Society of American Florists (SAF) may also be interested. Ken Sanderson strongly supported PAX’s continued effort in the design contest.

President Terry Ferriss commented that over 50% of the participants are trained in flower judging, not floral design. She expressed concern about the lack of quality designs and how that represents the universities and therefore their perception by supporting industries. Steve Newman reminded members that both SAF and AIFD host design competitions. Terrill Nell suggested that Pi Alpha Xi retain the judging portion of the contest and change the floral design component to an educational workshop, where professional designers would train students and coaches in new design styles and techniques. He commented that appreciating the importance of floral crop quality requires knowledge of plant material’s use in design.

Terri Starman stressed that students need the hands-on experience of using flowers and commented that PAX’s manual is intended for standardization, not equality with AIFD. Roy Larson supported the design competition, indicating that students need to be on the cutting-edge of cut flowers for design.

President Terry Ferriss made a motion on behalf of Barb Fails that the design contest be changed to an educational workshop on floral design. Terrill Nell seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 18 to 9. He
also commented that the Colombian Flower Council will donate floral materials within three weeks of holidays.

NEW BUSINESS

The 1994 Annual Meeting of Pi Alpha Xi will be held in conjunction with the ASHS National Meeting at Oregon State University in Corvallis, in late July.

1992 Lotus Leaf

Each chapter was sent a copy of the final Lotus Leaf. Information in this edition includes minutes of PAX National Business meetings, a complete national listing of PAX members, biographies of recent PAX Fellows and National Honorary Members. This final issue of the Lotus Leaf is dedicated to the Coaches of the National Intercollegiate Floral Crop Quality Evaluation and Design Competition. A tremendous thank you to Ken Sanderson of Auburn University for compiling this outstanding edition of the Lotus Leaf. We all appreciate Ken’s hard work and effort.

Additional copies of the Lotus Leaf can be purchased for $7 from the National Secretary-Treasurer Douglas Needham.

Kentucky to Host 1994 Competition, Including Floral Design Contest

Yes, the competition will include the floral design contest! The University of Kentucky Team has been planning for the judging and design components of the competition since last summer. Jack Buxton and his team will host the 53rd National Intercollegiate Floral Crop Quality Evaluation and Design Competition April 7 & 8, 1994, at the University of Kentucky in Lexington.

In response to numerous concerns expressed to PAX’s Executive Board and in lieu of a vote at the national meeting representing the majority of active chapters, i.e. only 27/53 attendees voted and their chapter affiliation was unclear, the floral design component of the competition will continue to be held.

The new members (see related story in this newsletter) of the Contest Committee will be charged with reexamining the floral design component of the competition and presenting their findings to all active chapters. A coaches’ meeting will be held at the contest in Kentucky to discuss the Contest Committee’s findings.

Following the competition, a vote from all active chapters will be requested by April 15, 1994, with all votes cast by May 15, 1994. Each chapter will be allowed only one vote, expressing the opinion of the majority of its active membership. Each Local Chapter Advisor is encouraged to actively seek input from active members, alumni, and coach(es) to aid in formulating a vote which represents the best interest of his/her chapter’s members.
Workshop on Judging

Pi Alpha Xi and the Floriculture Education and Floriculture Working Groups (FLED and FLOR) of ASHS cosponsored a workshop on Floral Crop Quality Evaluation, which was attended by over 25 interested persons. Thanks are extended to Marv Carbonneau, Brian Corr, Terry Ferriss, Doug Needham, Terri Starman, Virginia Walter, and Dennis Wolnick for planning and presenting this workshop. Let’s see some new teams in 1994 at Kentucky!

PAX National Committees

Pi Alpha Xi has four standing committees. The committee members are appointed by the President and serve a one year term. The following list of committee appointments was developed based on the volunteers for service, which was received at the National Meeting in Tennessee, and in consultation with the Executive Board Members. The committee chairs are designated with asterisks.

The Publication and Membership Services Committee coordinates the publication of the Recruitment Brochure, Flower Judging Manual, Flower Judging Participation and Awards Certificates, and other publications of the Honorary Society. This committee will also make recommendations on policy, activities, etc. to assure that the society is serving its members in the best way possible. A subcommittee will review and update the Flower Judging Manual. Committee members are:

*Brian Corr
   Ellen Paparozzi
   Lou Berninger
   Terry Ferriss

The Rules Committee reviews the Constitution and By-Laws of the National Honorary Society and suggests changes or additions to the membership. Committee members are:

*Farrell Wise
   Harvey Lang
   Barb Fails
   Jack Buxton

The Contest Committee oversees the activities of the National Intercollegiate Floral Crop Quality Evaluation and Design Competition. The committee will meet with the coaches at the National Contest every year for discussion and input. Committee members are:

*Terri Starman
   Will Healy
   LaMar Anderson
   Doug Needham

The Fellows Selection Committee solicits nominations for Fellows of the Society and is responsible for assembling support documentation for selection. Local Chapters are requested to submit nominations for Fellows and National Initiates to the Executive Board.

The Nominations Committee develops a slate of candidates for National Officers and presents the slate at the National Meeting where a vote will be taken. This committee will be active only every other year since the term of office for National Officers is two years. This committee will be seeking nominations for National Officers to be installed at the July 1994 National Meeting in Corvallis, Oregon. Committee members are:

*Mary Lewness Albrecht
  Jim Klett
  Paul Read