

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association
Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.
BP Energy Center, Anchorage, Alaska

- A. 6:30 p.m. - Refreshments and Socialization
- B. 7:00 p.m. – Call to Order
- Quorum of membership (more than 10%) present: 20 of 166 paid 2018 members
 - Six of seven members of Board of Directors present: Debbie Hinchey (Vice President), Gary Masog (Treasurer), Susan Miller (Secretary), Val Glooschenko (Director), Karen Leis (Director), and Mark Findlay (Director)
Excused Absence: Mark Wolbers (President)
 - All members who attended were given four metal plant tags.
- C. Approval of Minutes of March 8 Meeting
Moved by Gary Masog, seconded by Joe Scarso; passed without objection
- D. Reports of Officers.
1. Treasurer’s Report – Gary Masog
 - **Consolidation of Accounts.** All three of the club’s CDs and the club’s checking and savings accounts are now at Northern Skies FCU in Anchorage. All funds were moved to this credit union in order to consolidate them and because Northern Skies offered the best interest rates among Alaska credit unions.
 - **Income & Expenses.** The treasurer’s Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statement were projected on the front wall of the conference room and Gary explained the details. These documents are attached.
 - **Apple Grinder & Apple Press.** Gary noted that the club now has one physical asset: the electric apple grinder purchased this fall at a total cost of \$1,044.88, including shipping. Gary said the new grinder was used at this fall’s apple pressings. Only a few members attended these pressings. Reasons for this were discussed. As the board researches the purchase of an apple press, it will be important to know how much interest there is among members in using such a press.
 2. President’s Report
 - Debbie Hinchey read to the group the “2018 Year-End Report” written by President Mark Wolbers, which Mark emailed to all members before the meeting. The Year-End Report is attached.
 3. Vice-President’s Report – Debbie Hinchey
 - **Plant Ordering.** For several years, the club has ordered crabapple rootstock for the grafting workshop and other plants for members from the Lawyer Nursery. Now that Lawyer will no longer be selling plants, we will

have to find other sources. Gary and Debbie were able to buy a big supply of *Malus baccata* rootstock at the Lawyer auction this summer. Gary reported that a Fairbanks grower also purchased a supply of Selkirk crab apple rootstock which he may be willing to share with members of our club. Debbie asked members who are interested in buying any of the following through the club to email her:

- Selkirk crab apple rootstock.
 - any of the varieties of Romance cherry bushes
 - any other types of fruit trees or bushes
- **Cherry Bushes Ordered this Spring.** Bron & Sons substantially reduced the cost of the Romance cherry bushes we purchased this spring because Debbie reported to them that so many bushes were dead or dying. Therefore, the club will reimburse members who purchased these plants and responded to Debbie's email about this problem in time for her to report it to Bron & Sons. Reimbursements will be distributed before year end.
- **Cherry Survey.** Debbie will soon be sending a survey to members to gather information about the types of cherry trees and bushes members are growing and the degree of success members are having with these varieties.

E. Old and New Business

1. **Election of New Board Members.** The terms of the following three board members expire this year: Mark Wolbers, Gary Masog, and Val Glooschenko. Club members nominated all three to be re-elected to the board. No one else was nominated. A motion to elect all three was agreed to unanimously (moved by Charles Eddy, seconded by Karen Leis). In compliance with the 2017 changes in the by-laws, these board members will serve two-year terms.
2. **APFGA Website.** Mark Findlay discussed how to access the website and how to locate on it the results of this fall's apple tastings. Mark projected the spread sheets of these results (which he created) on the front wall and explained how to use them. He also questioned whether our current way of measuring the results of the tastings is the most useful. He is investigating other options (for example, judging sweetness, tartness, texture, toughness of skin, etc.). He also showed the "Member Forum" section of the website and some questions and responses in it. Members who need passwords to access the "members only" section should contact Mark.
3. **December Meeting.** Our winter meetings will be about small fruits. The topic of the December meeting will be gooseberries (presented by Gary Masog) and currants. We do not yet have a presenter on currants.

F. Program. Members reported on their fruit growing experience this year and what they learned.

Adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Susan Miller, Secretary
November 9, 2018