

Fall 2016; 100th Anniversary celebration report;

Although the anniversary celebration started as a subcommittee under the PR and Marketing Committee, it is taking on a life of its own now that we have an editor for the commemorative book, and have started creating 100th anniversary commemorative items.

Thanks to Andi Rivarola we now have a resource for print on demand T-shirts, Sweatshirts, Coffee Mugs and Caps. There are several such vendors as Café Express that we had looked at. One of them, Zazzle, offered many more types of items, including commemorative postage stamps, and polo shirts, but was rather unresponsive when we attempted to contact them. On polling the Coalition of American plant societies we discovered that most of those societies already offer similar merchandise through Zazzle, Café Express and sometimes both. The African Violet Society also uses Land's End and opts for high Quality and considers their merchandize as a promotion for the society not choosing to make money off the sales in order to keep the costs low.

The contract for the 100th anniversary hotel was part of the negotiations with the immediate past convention. The issues that were developed at that convention, essentially food issues, will be addressed for our anniversary. Presently the contract locks in a very low rate for the NY area.

Nancy McDonald is our editor is also editor of HIPS, and we have been working with HIPS to research various materials, lantern slides etc. from the early days of our society. My hat is off to Doug Paschal, who has obtained materials from the Swarthmore Library for our use, and Linda Sercus is working on getting materials stored at the New York Botanical Garden. Linda has also called my attention also to materials at Duke University Library. I also have gathered materials from NC State University Library, which has early issues of Flower Grower Magazine which published the first few years of business of AIS.

A plan of action discussed with Nancy is to ask for volunteers who would summarize 5 year periods of the AIS bulletins that could aid in the development of the history of AIS. We would like to request volunteers to take on this task. Please contact myself and Nancy so we can coordinate who is doing which group of years. Presently Nancy is visiting with a parent who is severely ill. If you are interested in contributing to this history now is the time to step forward.