

Brief History:

The American Rose Society was founded in 1892 and began as an organization of florists. The first president Myron Hunt was elected February 22, 1893. During the first seven years, the organization suffered the loss of Hunt, and was plagued by apathy. It was revitalized after a meeting on March 13, 1899 but still focused heavily on commercial aspects of rose culture. By 1915, the ARS consisted of 284 members; only 53 were amateurs. The need to attract all lovers of roses was addressed by then president S.S. Pennock. The trustees of the organization authorized publication of an Annual, which was first printed in 1916. A quarterly magazine was started in 1930. J. Horace McFarland served as the editor until his retirement at age 84 in 1943. By the 1950's the magazine was published monthly. Currently the *American Rose* is published bi-monthly.

The Consulting Rosarian Program began in 1926 with 32 volunteers to cover the country. *Roses in Review* was begun as were quarterlies on exhibiting, arranging, Old Garden Roses and Shrubs and Miniature Roses. In 1942, the first permanent society secretary, R.J. Hattan was hired but passed away several months later. Dr. R.C. Allen was hired next and ultimately became society president.

For the first 50 years a board of trustees, who were elected at the annual meeting, ran the Society. In the 1940's a board of directors was established. There are now 18 districts and 10 regional representatives who are elected by the membership of the respective areas. A Vice president is elected nationally and is automatically promoted to President for the next term. All presidents serve 3-year terms. The board oversees the work of an Executive Board.

Initially the headquarters of the society was located where the secretary was based. The first permanent headquarters were in Harrisburg PA. In 1954, the headquarters moved to Columbus OH. Headquarters was moved to 118 acres in Shreveport, LA in 1974 to enable expansion. Much of the land has been landscaped into rose gardens.

The ARS Today:

The American Rose Society is an educational, nonprofit organization dedicated exclusively to the cultivation and enjoyment of roses. The American Rose Society is a national organization with over 15,000 members. There are almost 400 local chapters and affiliates throughout the country. Many of the members of these societies have been designated as Consulting Rosarians, and have agreed to assist other rose growers with their rose problems and questions.

The mission of the American Rose Society is to increase the general interest in the cultivation of the rose for all people and to improve its standard of excellence. The objectives of the American Rose Society are to:

- Encourage amateur and professional rose culture
- Increase the general understanding of and interest in all aspects of roses, including but not limited to the history of roses, hybridization, growing, exhibiting, designing rose arrangements, judging, research, photography of roses
- Improve the standard of excellence of the rose for all people
- Record, publish, and establish priority on rose cultivar names, and rose cultivar ratings

Most ARS members are home gardeners who enjoy growing roses and want to expand their knowledge of rose culture. Many members also enjoy the thrill of exhibiting their roses in competition with other rose-lovers or participating in photography contests and other rose-related activities. The American Rose Society has developed standards and guidelines for guiding these competitions. They also publish a schedule of the various workshops, seminars, garden events, and rose shows. The Society publishes a bimonthly magazine, *American Rose*, available to all members.

The Society has its headquarters located on the grounds of the American Rose Center near Shreveport, Louisiana. The Center is home to a lovely Garden of over 20,000 rose bushes comprising nearly 400 varieties of modern and old roses. There are many events in the Gardens during the year, which are highlighted in the Events Schedule.

ARS is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit educational organization governed by a Board of Directors and operated by the staff at the Rose Center under the direction of an Executive Director and an Executive Committee. Many details about the American Rose Society can be found on the website <http://www.ars.org/>

Officers and Other Key Personnel:

The Board of Directors is composed of elected Directors from geographical Districts and Regions. Most of the regional activities of the Society revolve around the Districts and the local Societies. Each District has an elected Director who enlists other volunteers to carry out the business and activities of the District. The Executive Committee of ARS is comprised of the President, Vice President, Executive Director (non-voting), Treasurer, and two Directors elected annually by the Board. Various Committees are appointed to help conduct the various enterprises of the American Rose Society.

The Current ARS Executive Committee consists of the following individuals:

- Steve Jones , President
- Jeff Wyckoff, Vice President
- Jolene Adams, Director, NCNH District
- Baxter Williams, Director, South Central District
- Cliff Jeter, Treasurer
- Jeffrey Ware, Executive Director

American Rose Society District Directors are listed in Table 1, pages 5-6

American Rose Society Regional Directors are listed in Table 2, page 7

Living Presidents and Past Presidents are listed in Table 3, page 8

ARS Staff and Telephone Numbers are listed in Table 4, page 9

Appointed Officers are listed in Table 5, page 10