

The Local Rose Society Advisory Committee

“Your Bridge to Resources”

By Bill Dorn, CR



During the Fall of 2021, our ARS President Diane Sommers introduced her vision of helping our local rose society presidents and their societies to become more connected by providing helpful resources that will assist them in their leadership roles and in promoting their societies' growth. This vision became a reality in the formation of a new national committee called the Local Rose Society Advisory Committee (LRSAC). I have the honor of serving as the chair of the LRSAC. Permit me to tell you about this exciting new group.

The ARS committee consists of both current and past presidents of local rose societies across the country and beyond. The committee members represent the 18 districts of the ARS. These districts have been grouped in four regions in the United States. We have been meeting monthly for the last year.

Simply put, the mission of our committee is “to provide a bridge between local rose societies and the American Rose Society for communication, resources, help and ideas.” Our goal is “to strengthen local societies, increase retention among existing members, and drive membership growth.” Our purpose is “to foster communication between local societies and the ARS, to promote mutual sharing of local society ideas, best practices, programs, and challenges,” and “to serve as a dedicated resource that provides added value and support to local societies and their members.”

We can best accomplish our mission, goals, and purpose by focusing on four key areas. These include programs, membership, leadership support, and local fundraising. We have organized ourselves with subcommittees dedicated to each of these key components of a local rose society.

I am happy to report that our committee sponsored its first and historic Presidents' Virtual Meeting on December 10, 2022. Over 120 current and incoming presidents attended this exciting convocation. After introducing the committee to attendees, we spent time listening to the needs, successes, and challenges presented by local presidents. As part of the meeting, participants received innovated ideas to help develop programs in their societies. The meeting was well received with 95% of attendees responding that the meeting was helpful. Our committee plans to host additional presidents' virtual quarterly meetings this year.

As 2023 progressed, our committee offered articles in the *American Rose* highlighting the four key areas described above. As part of the ARS website redesign project, we plan to provide resources that will be of interest to our local rose society leaders.

This is an exciting time in the American Rose Society. The Local Rose Society Advisory Committee is dedicated to be your bridge to resources that will promote our local and national growth as one of the most important horticultural societies in the world!



Bill Dorn, CR is the Chairperson of the LRSAC. He serves as the Penn-Jersey District Director and President of the Pittsburgh Rose Society. He maintains a personal rose garden of 120 cultivars. He is a consulting rosarian and a horticulture judge.