

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society

Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America (CSSA) • Associated Plant Society of California Garden Clubs, Inc. (CGCI)

Minutes of the General Meeting, November 9, 2025

Board Members:

Maria Capaldo, President
Terri Straub, Vice President
Debra Bushweit Galliani, Treasurer
Debra Bushweit Galliani, Secretary
Vincent Darmali, At-large Board Member
Martin Dorsey, At-large Board Member
Nancy Sams, At-large Board Member
Sally Fasteau, Membership Committee Chair
M.A. Bjarkman, CSSA Liaison & Program Chair
Debra Bushweit Galliani, CGCI Liaison

Jim Hanna, Finance Committee Chair & Plant Person

Mike Short, Communications Committee Chair & Webmaster

Committee Members (Tasked):

Ann Nye, Monthly Publicist
Terri Straub, Show & Sale Chair & Mini-Show Coordinator
Laurel Woodley, Facebook
Nancy Sams, Instagram
Maria Capaldo, Newsletter Editor

There were 44 members in attendance. President Maria Capaldo called the meeting to order at 1:32pm in the Zamperini Field Office Main Meeting Room at the Torrance Municipal Airport in Torrance. She welcomed attendees to the meeting and asked for feedback on this venue.

Nancy Sams spoken on behalf of Maria to relay the sad news that Bernard Johnson passed away on Monday. He served as our Society's treasurer for 12 years.

Program:

M.A. Bjarkman introduced Peter Walkowiak, who led a demonstration on "How to Grow Succulents" by showing how he repots some of his plants. He included information about water, soil ingredients, fertilizer, rocks, top dressing, pot size and pesticides. He focused on growing caudiciform plants.

His presentation included questions and answers throughout, and it concluded at 3:05pm.

Announcements before the break:

Maria asked Sally Fasteau to pick two names from the sprinkling can: one to help judge the Mini-Show and one to assist with names for the free plants. She reminded attendees to sign in with Sally and to put their name in the can for a possible free plant later in the program.

Elections: Bob Caplan, the Nominating Committee, announced that the following members have agreed to serve on the Board in 2026.

President: Maria Capaldo

Vice President: Liz Ying

Secretary: Nancy Sams

Treasurer: Debra Bushweit Galliani

At Large Board Members: Martin Dorsey, Teresa Nicoletto, and Linda O'Hara

The slate was elected unanimously.

Holiday Pot Luck: Our next meeting will be the Holiday Potluck at the Palos Verdes Art Center on Saturday, December 13 which will start at 1:00pm on Saturday, December 13. Set-up will start at 12:00pm and volunteers

are needed at this time. This will involve decorating the tables, making coffee, and arranging the dishes as they are brought in.

The Society will supply meat. Vince Darmali has agreed to prepare the beef and and Bob DeCrescenzo volunteered to warm up the ham.

Everyone brings a dish (appetizer, salad or casserole) and the Society provides coffee, tea and water. Dishes should be labeled with their contents in case of allergies. All dishes have to be ready to consume at 1:00pm. We will be unable to cook or warm-up food (crock pots are acceptable), or keep anything in the refrigerator. Bring the beverage of your choice to consume.

We will be awarding a plant to those who have the highest points in the Mini-Show in all categories and will be handing out our plant of the year. Bring last year's plant of the year, *Mammillaria perezdelarosae*, to show how it has been grown. Bring it even if it looks pitiful because we like to compare all the plants one year later. The best grown plant will receive an award. For those who are not members, there will be a charge of \$10 for admission to the Holiday Party.

Maria announced a break to allow attendees to shop the vendors, including Peter who brought some of his nursery's plants for sale.

The Board convened to conduct a brief business meeting during the break.

Break-Reconvene:

Maria recessed the meeting at 3:16pm and it was reconvened at 3:25pm.

November Mini-Show categories: Cactus: Cactus: South American columnar cactus (*Cleistocactus*, *Espostoa*, *Oreocereus*, etc.) and Succulent: *Lithops* and *Conophytum*.

The plants were judged by Peter and assisted by Anita Caplan with overseeing by Terri Straub. Peter announced the winners in first, second and third place who were awarded in novice, intermediate and open categories. The winners will be listed in our Newsletter and on our Website, along with photographs of the winners taken by Mike Short. Anita was offered to select a free plant for helping.

New members: No new members.

Brag table: None.

Birth month plants: Members whose birthdays are in November were offered to select a free plant by Maria.

Door prize plants: Bob DeCrescenzo drew tickets for members to select a free plant, and he announced the names of the winners. Bob received a free plant.

Announcements:

Minutes: The October 12 Minutes were posted. There were no corrections, and the Minutes were accepted as published.

January Meeting: In January we were able to secure the Hess Community Center for our meeting, but it will be from 11:00am – 2:00pm.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Debra read the Treasurer's Report.

Dues Increase: Maria advised that the dues will be increased to \$25 per person starting January 1, 2026 primarily due to higher speaker fees and room rental costs.

Gary Duke announced a popup sale at his Long Beach nursery. Details will be in our Newsletter and on our Website.

Maria closed the meeting by thanking those who attended and asking for assistance in taking down the room and cleaning around their chair. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40pm.

Submitted by

Debra Bushweit Galliani, Secretary