

(March 2019)
Inaugural Message

Dear Members:

Permit me to begin by expressing my gratitude to the Board members of our Society for unanimously electing me to serve as the next president of our Society.

In recent weeks as we prepare for our first Board meeting of the year, I have been writing preparation emails that end with the words: **“Learn. Grow. Thrive.”** These three words represent the motto for my vision for our Society, moving forward. A garden and more specifically a rose garden can be a great teacher. It can invite us to increase our knowledge, refine our skills, and lead us to maintain the beauty and wonder of our cultivars. Permit me to use our rose gardens as a metaphor for my vision for the Pittsburgh Rose Society.

Learn

An effective rosarian must always remain open to increasing one’s knowledge of the rose, current thinking, and new skillfulness. Learning may come from our own research and often times through stimulating consultation and discussion with other rosarians. I envision the actions of our Society to be focused on this important element. We are embarking upon a new journey as a Society. It is a time of renewal of our commitment and participation as active members. More than ever we need to learn from one another not only at scheduled society events, but also in the day to day conversations with one another. Even as we sit together and enjoy a cup of coffee we can learn. Since the beginning of my membership I have found this to be true. I have learned and continue to learn from all of you.

Someone once said that “what is important in life is what you learn after you conclude that you know most of what there is to learn.” Learning and being open to learning is an act of humility. It is quite an attractive quality to have in one’s personality. Knowing one’s strengths as well as one’s weaknesses in my opinion is a mark of a truly intelligent person. My hope is that we all will continue to learn from one another. Most importantly, the attitude of openness to learning will make our membership attractive to the prospective members considering joining our exceptional group. And to quote a senior member of our board, “Learning can be fun!”

Grow

In our gardening we may possess much knowledge about our cultivars and what works or does not work. However, that knowledge must lead to action. Roses do not put themselves in the ground. Even with all the discussion about “care-free” roses, our knowledge must lead to action and careful attentiveness.

As a Society new ideas and suggestions must lead us to putting those ideas into action. My vision is that we as a group will continue to share new insights backed up with the experience of acting on those ideas, both the successful and unsuccessful. As I ponder the membership of our Society I continue to be edified by the cumulative wealth of knowledge, experience, and classic strength among us all. My vision and hope is that this wealth multiplies. We are all aware of the notion of “growing pains.” We also know the positive result of pruning our roses. Such pruning encourages new growth. It is critical. My vision for our Society is that we learn from our past mistakes, embrace the growing pains and become excited with the anticipation of a new

spring time growth of our group. I believe more than anything else new and newer members bring an excitement to our Society. We need these members. They are good for us as a Society and good for us personally. Someone once said, "Be careful not to leave five minutes before the miracle." May we remain committed to our participation in the Society and be open to the freshness that new members bring. New members are our miracles.

Thrive

To thrive means "to prosper, to develop vigorously, or to flourish." What joy we have when a particular cultivar in our gardens begins to thrive. All the time spent in soil amendment, fertilizing, disease/insect management, watering, and pruning bears consistent and healthy blooming. To insure continued thriving we must cooperate with Mother Nature and continue to maintain our gardens with an attentive watch. A thriving cultivar speaks for itself and is attractive to all who visit.

My vision for our Society is that we use these same attitudes and skills. At the same time we must remember to enjoy the process, celebrate our victories, and learn from our mistakes. As we embark upon this new chapter of our Society, let us recommit ourselves to learning, growing, and thriving.

Sincerely,

Bill Dorn, CR
President