May 21, 2005, during the business meeting at the Holland, Michigan convention, Society president Buddy Lee surprised Bob Stelloh with a special Exceptional Service Award “In recognition of the unlimited time and professional talents dedicated to the successful operation and promotion of the Azalea Society of America.” As shown in the photo below, Bob was taken by surprise, which was what the board of directors intended.

The board and other friends in the ASA contributed toward a state-of-the-art personal computer also given to Bob. Secretary John Brown is shown here announcing this part of the award. Bob said he was actually speechless in gratitude and surprise. (Photos by William C. Miller III)

One of the highlights of the annual meeting at the 2005 Society Convention in Holland, Michigan, was the official signing and presentation of the charter to the Alabamense Chapter.

In his remarks about the rapid growth of this new chapter Carlton emphasized the beauty of the azalea gardens throughout Alabama and especially in the Birmingham area, where Carlton and his wife make their home. He welcomed us to come visit and enjoy true Southern hospitality. He then made it official in the board of directors meeting on Sunday, May 22: the Alabamense Chapter offered to host the 2008 ASA convention in Birmingham. The board agreed.

Shown below are secretary John Brown and president Buddy Lee presenting the signed charter to Alabamense Chapter president Carlton LeMond.