

Minutes of the AIS Board of Directors Videoconference, Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Present:

Jody Nolin – President, Affiliate Liaison

Andi Rivarola (15) – 1st VP, P.R. Social Media, Strategic Planning, 2020 Centennial, Finance,
Convention Liaison (temporary)

Bonnie Jean Nichols – 2nd VP, Judges

Michelle Snyder (15) – Secretary, Insurance

Jill Bonino (15) – Treasurer, Foundation Liaison, Finance

Gary White – Past President, Honorary Awards, Finance

John Jones - Registrar/Recorder

Tom Gormley – Membership

John Ludi (13) – Director, Publication Sales

Anita Moran – Director, Photo Contest

Claire Schneider (15) – Director, Recording Secretary

Dawn Boyer – Director, Advertising Editor

Gerry Snyder (15) – Director, Awards

Howie Dash (23) - Director, RVP Counselor

Janis Shackelford (15) – Director, Policy

Neil Houghton – Director, Image Coordinator, Iris Program Resources (digital)

Phyllis Wilburn – Director, Section & Cooperating Societies Liaison

Susan Driver (7) - Director

Susan Grigg – Director, P.R. & Marketing

Wayne Messer – Director, News & Notes, Exhibition Reports

Doug Chyz - RVP (4)

Elladan McLeeston – RVP (8)

Susan Boyce – RVP rep, RVP (12)

Scarlett Ayers - RVP (23)

Jim Morris – Past President, 2020 Centennial Publication

Lorene Crone (7)

The meeting was called to order on Zoom at 5:04 PM PDT.

A quorum was present.

1. Website update – Jody Nolin

The new website is located at the old URL www.irises.org. The full transition isn't finished, but will be soon. Everyone is encouraged to browse around the new website. There have been a few hiccups, but the team is working overtime on the remedies. So far there are only four editors. The expectation is that others will be learning how to add events and documents to the website. All questions regarding the website should be directed to Bryce Williamson, the new Electronic Services Chair.

2. Minutes of the June 26, 2019, videoconference – Claire Schneider

Motion 1: to approve the minutes from the June 26, 2019, teleconference with corrections and with an addendum from Jill Bonino.

Motion made by Michelle Snyder and seconded by Susan Grigg. Motion carried.

Discussion: Regarding past presidents, only the immediate past president is permitted to vote on motions presented to the Board of Directors. Other past presidents are ex officio members of the board and have a voice but not a vote.

3. Image Coordinator hardware – Neil Houghton

Neil wrote, “The process for adding images to the AIS Registrar’s database and the Encyclopedia often involves having multiple programs running simultaneously and multiple windows open to service them. My 13 inch, aged laptop does not allow me to manage this process well resulting in a lot of time wasted switching windows and context.

“In addition I am also working on editing and creating Digital Programs and videos for distribution to AIS members. Unfortunately, while I have software that will create and edit videos, the speed of my processor and on board memory (8 GB RAM) on my 2013 laptop makes video editing impossibly slow and it often crashes.”

Neil requested funds for a 27” iMac with Retina 5K display for \$1799, a factory installed 2TB Fusion Drive for \$200, additional memory 32 GM RAM, and a magic trackpad and mouse for \$129. The total is \$2328. After some discussion, Applecare was added to the shopping list. And it’s possible that other expenses might come up as the new system is installed.

Motion 2: a motion to pay for the upgrades and software that are needed by Neil Houghton. Motion made by Anita Moran and seconded by Jill Bonino.

Amendment to Motion 2: The motion is amended to allow the purchase of the equipment and software to a maximum of \$3000.

Motion amended by Anita Moran and seconded by Jill Bonino. Motion carried.

Discussion: John Jones said that three and possibly five user permits will come with the software license. Tom Gormley is using FileMaker Pro, version 8.5, and asked to be included in the upgrades, since the latest is version 17.

4. Motion regarding the Board of Directors Award (tabled from June) – Gerry Snyder

Motion 3: that the Board of Directors Award be reinstated in the *Handbook of Judges and Show Officials*, to read:

“This distinctive award is neither a garden award nor an exhibition award. This award is made by The American Iris Society’s Board of Directors to honor an iris which has not won a Dykes

Medal, but which shows clearly in its progeny that it is among the greats of irisdom. [Candidate cultivars for this award are presented to the Board of Directors by the Awards Committee but can be nominated by any AIS member.](#) The Board of Directors Award, which is not an annual award, was established in 1972 and first awarded in 1975.”

The original motion was made by Gerry Snyder at the June teleconference and seconded by Jill Bonino.

This amended motion, which contains one new sentence ([in blue](#)), was made by Gerry Snyder and seconded by Jill Bonino. Motion carried.

Discussion: In 2008, this award was deleted from the *Judge's Handbook* by the Board of Directors. But there hasn't been a new edition of the handbook since 2008, so the award has continued to be in the handbook. The reason for reinstating this award is that there are cultivars out there that have not won a Dykes Medal and should be recognized for the number and quality of the progeny they have produced. Up until a few years ago, Dykes Medals were won primarily by tall bearded irises and this award could recognize irises from other classes. It's important to remember that most awards go to the cultivar and not to the hybridizer. Perhaps the criteria for nomination could be left up to the Awards Committee.

5. Affiliate report – Jody Nolin

Jody submitted a written report which is posted in AISDocs > 2019 Board Documents > Fall Reports. The report is information only, no action items.

Discussion: Out of 156 affiliates, 153 have renewed. Jody recommended that we find a way to streamline the process for clubs to renew their affiliation. RVPs want to be included in the renewal process, perhaps as the person who completes the Paypal transaction. There were several suggestions about how better to conduct renewals. This discussion will be continued at a later time.

6. Report of the schedule of mid-year reports – Michelle Snyder & Claire Schneider

A major traffic jam of reports for the October 23rd and November 27th teleconferences was alleviated when several committee chairs agreed to move their reports to other teleconferences. There was a recommendation that some reports be presented once a year, at the Spring Convention meeting, instead of twice a year.

Officers and committee chairs were reminded to submit a digital copy of each report to Michelle Snyder two weeks before the date of presentation. Michelle will send out reminder emails with the dates of presentation and due dates of digital copies of reports. Digital copies of the reports will be posted so they can be read before the meeting. **It was suggested that each digital report begin with “Information only” or “Contains action items.”** The teleconferences will proceed more efficiently if information-only reports are posted online and not read during the meeting. Not reading information-only reports would leave more time for the discussions of reports that contain action items.

7. Publication of directors' personal information – Andi Rivarola

Andi relayed a story of how a person took the home address of a regional officer off the website and made an appearance at that officer's home. There are two issues, the safety of persons who have their contact information on an AIS associated website and the legal liability of AIS if such a person were to be harmed. Websites and publications contain personal contact information for AIS directors and committee chairs, regional and affiliate officers. Perhaps home addresses that are posted online or published in newsletters and bulletins could be reduced to city and state, or even totally eliminated. There is also the question of the liability of AIS if injury were to occur to an AIS member as a result of publically posted contact information.

Discussion: Times have changed. We are not the safe neighborhood society we once were. Safety could be improved if the only contact information on a website or in a publication were an email address and phone number. It is easy to find personal information about anyone online, thus making the removal of specific contact information moot. However, a lot of people still conduct business by mail, including AIS officers. If that were the case, those people could use the phone to obtain a mailing address. On the other hand, should we give in to a world of potential harm? It is a choice to live with or without fear. A suggestion was made to create a release form that would be signed annually by any person whose contact information is posted online or in a publication. If people want to work in AIS, from local club to the national level, they should be willing to make their personal contact information available to the world. AIS is an open, welcoming society, isn't it?

Andi will investigate how non-profits handle personal security versus being an open society that presents a welcoming atmosphere. Andi also will ask Veronica Johnson about the legal liability of AIS in the event that an iris society person is injured by someone who used contact information from the website or from a publication.

8. New business

a) Website, continued.

Wayne reminded everyone that events such as today's videoconference can be added to the new website and to some of the AIS discussion groups as well as to Wayne's News & Notes.

There is no final date of transition of webmaster from John Jones to Bryce Williamson. The transition will be gradual. John stated he's really in no hurry. After all, he said, it's only been six years since asking for this transition.

If anyone wants to learn how to edit the website, contact Jody and she will walk you through the process.

b) Is there an inventory of AIS equipment? Michelle Snyder said that the values listed in the AIS insurance policy is for the library contents and John Ludi's Storefront inventory. Michelle has some addresses of those who have AIS equipment at their house, for example, John Jones' equipment for the registrar's work. Jill Bonino and Michelle will use invoices to compile a comprehensive list of AIS equipment and year of purchase. That list will be used to complete a realistic set of insurance policies and could be used to plan and save for the update of equipment and software.

c) Howie Dash postponed an update on the introduction versus registration of irises to the August 28th videoconference.

d) Tom Gormley asked about Dwayne Booth's proposal that some AIS positions be given a raise in salary. This issue will be handled by the Finance Committee, Gary White chair.

e) A reminder to those who will be presenting their mid-year reports at the August 28th videoconference: Michelle Snyder will need a digital copy of your report by August 14th so it can be posted in AISTalk.

9. Motion to adjourn made by Michelle Snyder.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM PDT