

Minutes of the AIS Board of Directors Videoconference, Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Present:

Jody Nolin (6) - president, Affiliations Liaison
Andi Rivarola (15) - 1st VP, Convention Liaison (temporary), Public Relations Social Media,
Public Relations 2020 Convention, Strategic Planning
Bonnie Jean Nichols (17) - 2nd VP, Judges, RVP 17
Michelle Snyder (15) - Secretary, Insurance
Jill Bonino (15) – Treasurer, Foundation Liaison
Gary White (21) - Immediate Past President, Honorary Awards, Finance
John Jones (14) – Registrar/Recorder

Claire Schneider (15) – Director, Recording Secretary
Doug Chyz (4), Director, RVP 4
Gerry Snyder (15) - Director, Awards
Howie Dash (23) – Director, RVP Counselor
Janis Shackelford (15) – Director, Policy
John Ludi (13) – Director, Publication Sales Director
Lorene Crone (7) – Director, Asst. Electronic Services
Neil Houghton (2) - Director, Image Coordinator, Iris Program Resources Digital
Susan Driver (7) – Director, Calendars
Wayne Messer (21) - Director, Exhibition Show Reports, News & Notes, RVP 21

Jim Morris (18) - 2020 Centennial Publication
Veronica Johnson – General Counsel
Susan Boyce (12) – RVP 12, RVP Representative
Susan Grigg (4) – Public Relations & Marketing
Ingrid Bray
Marcia Connolly (1) – RVP 1
Kathryn Mohr (2) – RVP 2
Elladan McLeester (8) – RVP 8
Eva Barry (23) – RVP 23
Carolyn Schaffner
Debbie Hughes (18)

The meeting was called to order on Zoom at 5:00 PM PDT.

A quorum was present.

Motion 1: to accept the minutes of the October 23, 2019, videoconference, as amended.
Motion by Michelle Snyder and seconded by Jill Bonino. Motion passed.

Discussion: The list of RVPs should be included in the October 23, 2019 minutes with vacancies for Region 3 & 24.

MID-YEAR REPORTS

1. AIS Proposed Allocation Investments - Jill Bonino submitted a digital report

The Finance Committee has met and finalized the investment policy. The focus of the allocations is to generate income. The percentages of allocation are the same as in previous proposals. The major change is adding oversight of the investments by the Finance Committee.

Motion 2: to accept **the investment policy** for the allocation of funds as presented by the Finance Committee.

Motion by Jill Bonino and seconded by Andi Rivarola. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: This proposal is almost the same as what was discussed at previous board meetings. The Finance Committee will make the specific investments while staying within the percentages in this proposed policy. A suggestion was made to avoid aggressive and to stay with growth and income investments. Jill added that the funds associated with this investment policy represent about half of the AIS portfolio. This motion deals with the policy for allocation not with specific investments.

2. Bulletin Editor Report – Jane Milliman (absent) submitted a digital report

The next four deadlines for submitting articles to the Bulletin are December 15, March 10, June 10 and September 10.

3. General Counsel – Veronica Johnson submitted a digital report

Most of her work has been with affiliates that want to join with the AIS group tax-exemptions. Veronica encouraged the RVPs to inform their affiliates about enrolling in the AIS group tax-exemption program. There is a link on the AIS website.

The AIS made a significant down payment to Natale & Sons for making the award medals. Their work was unsatisfactory. Veronica and Jill Bonino have been working to recoup those funds.

Working with AIS since 2013, Veronica will be signing off as general counsel. In the future, Dale Strauss, an attorney with Stubbeman, McRae, Sealy, Laughlin & Browder Inc. in Midland, Texas, will be the general counsel for AIS.

Thank you, Veronica, for all your fine work. Gary White especially wanted to say, “Thank you, Veronica. You were exactly what AIS needed!”

4. Judges Appointments 2020 – Bonnie Nichols submitted a digital report

Since this report was posted, one judge has passed away and another has changed her status to retired. With these changes, there are 466 judges in AIS plus 118 retired judges. This includes judges who have been dropped for unpaid dues, a lack of the required training hours, not voting the AIS ballot and by request.

Discussion: It would be helpful for the show chairs to have a list of all judges and their contact information. Such a list does not currently exist. Instead, when there is an inquiry about judges, Bonnie refers them to the appropriate RVP. Gerry Snyder will use this updated list of judges for the next AIS ballot.

Motion 3: to approve the list of judges (as submitted in an electronic report to AIS docs.) Motion by Susan Boyce and seconded by Howie Dash. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Judges Handbook – Bonnie Nichols submitted a digital report

The committee has typed up the chapters in the handbook and sent appropriate chapters to various hybridizers for comment. Thank you to Gerry Snyder for setting up a Google drive folder where the chapters can be stored and shared.

6. Library – Dave Silverberg (absent) submitted a digital report
No action is required.

7. Nominating Committee – Wayne Messer submitted a digital report

The committee members are Wayne, Anita Moran, Belinda Carroll, Jean Richter and Michael Reed. The committee will place “want ads” in the Bulletin and News & Notes requesting nominations including self-nominations. One aspect to publicize in the want ad is that the AIS Fall Meeting only occurs every three years. In the other years, the Fall Meeting is replaced with videoconferences.

Wayne had several suggestions to assist the Nominating Committee. Generate a list of directors that includes their terms and potential to serve again. Maintain a list of potential candidates who would be interested in serving at a later time and/or who have special skills needed by AIS (e.g. banking, fund raising, legal). Create a list of previous Nominating Committee members.

Discussion: It should be made clear to potential director candidates the financial commitment required for being a director. For example other associations reimburse travel expenses of directors attending board meetings. The AIS does not. A suggestion was that directors ask their home region to cover some the expenses associated with being a director.

It should be made clear to candidates the expectation to chair or co-chair an AIS committee. The AIS canoe needs everyone to pull their oar. Descriptions of all the AIS officers and committee chairs are on the website which should be useful to potential candidates.

Membership on the Nominating Committee changes each year so continuity is difficult. The AIS positions being represented are the same, but the persons are not. Two members of the Nominating Committee are directors. A suggestion is that directors be appointed to the Nominating Committee to serve two years, but staggered. In any year, the Nominating Committee would have a director serving their first year, learning the committee routine. The other director, who would be serving a second year, would be the chair.

8. Speakers – Hooker Nichols (absent) submitted a digital report
Information only.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion 4 to approve the RVPs George Hilderbrandt in Region 3 and Don Nelson in Region 24. Motion by Howie Dash and seconded by Michelle Snyder. Motion approved unanimously.

Discussion: RVPs can serve three consecutive years and then must retire for at least one year before becoming RVP again. George will serve only one year. The names of the new RVPs will be added to AISTalk, RVPdiscuss and the roster of RVPs in the Bulletin.

OLD BUSINESS

Insurance update – Michelle Snyder

Michelle received an email from the Hartford broker which said they will revise the audit from 2017-2018 which could result in a refund to AIS. They have just revised the 2018-2019 audit and will return \$162 to AIS.

AIS advertisement

In the February issue of *Fine Gardening*, page 9, AIS has its very first commercial advertisement. WooHoo!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Honorary Awards

Gary White, Emeritus Judge
Donald Spoon, Hybridizer's Medal
Alan McMurtrie, Hybridizer's Medal
Robert Hollingworth, Distinguished Service Medal
Roland Dejoux, Bee Warburton Medal

2020 Convention

Alan McMurtrie has offered to give a presentation at the 2020 Convention.

The convention agenda will be available soon, early January.

Poland Trip

The flight has been identified and deposits need to be sent to Anna Cadd ASAP. For more information about this trip contact Jody.

Next videoconference will be Wednesday, January 22, 2020, 5 PM PST.

Mid-year Reports - For those mid-year reports being presented at the January 22, Michelle Snyder will need a digital copy of those reports no later than January 12th. They will be posted in AISTalk. Please sub-title your mid-year report with the appropriate note: "Information Only" or "Action Required."

More than 30 people attended today's videoconference, many of them RVPs. This is wonderful!

Meeting adjourned at 6:13 PM PST.

Respectfully submitted, Claire Schneider