

**AIS Image Coordinator and
Digital Resources Coordinator Reports – April 22, 2020
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(I combine these reports because the duties are often intertwined.)

- Working with The Registrar's Database. A long Story with a Happy Ending!

Both John Jones (Registrar) and I (AIS Image Coordinator) have experience with FileMaker Pro, the program John uses for recording registrations. This held potential to work in a way that did not duplicate efforts and allowed us to view and edit each other's information in a carefully controlled way. FileMaker Pro (FMP) is a powerful relational database. It also is proprietary and expensive. Because we are both familiar with the use of this tool it makes sense to stick with it. It's not difficult to cooperate on a Local Area Network (LAN), but remote connection has been a block we could not overcome. Accessing a cloud-based file from two locations is not possible with FMP.

The company offers its own cloud-based version. Licenses for this are extremely expensive. Thanks to John's expertise he knew that I could remotely access his files. Early in 2019 we accomplished this and were both very excited. As a part of making sure that we were using the latest version we both updated to FileMaker Pro 18 Advanced. This action broke our connection. I was back to laboriously working on my own and checking with John when questions arose manually. This was unnecessarily time consuming for us both.

Thanks to John's tinkering and repeatedly working with others in the chain, he re-established the connection and now Rochester and California are working on the same file!

- Process

The Process for submitting images has been updated on the website. It was also published in the 2019 Spring Bulletin. Reminders have also been included in "News and Notes." When registrants are emailed with confirmation, the Registrar reminds the registrants of the requirement and how to contact the Image Coordinator for help in his signature line. Below are ways, in order of ease for the Image Coordinator and reliability, to submit the required images. They are detailed online, so I will not explain further here.

- 1) Upload Directly to an Online Folder
- 2) Email attachments
- 3) Physically Mail the image files on a Storage Device

- Progress

Still the compliance with the requirement to submit images is very low. Because of the overlap of years of registration, it is difficult to give a firm empirical analysis. As much as the Image Coordinator would like to report this, previous efforts have shown how difficult it is. Hazardous

a guess it is about 10%. This is disappointing given all the reminders outlined above. I am in the process of following up with registrants where images are missing. I am also hoping that the recent bulletin article will result in increased, unprompted compliance.

- Communications

There was a misunderstanding that submitting an image to the Wikipedia/Encyclopedia satisfied the requirement to submit an image with registration. This is not true. Despite efforts to coordinate the two it was very confusing and required a great deal of work for the AIS Image Coordinator and the Encyclopedia Image Coordinator.

A conference call was successful in unraveling some of the confusion. The bulk of this was established by identifying that the Encyclopedia is less interested in new registrations.

- 1) The AIS IC will inform the Encyclopedia IC as images have been filed.
- 2) Statements will be published in appropriate places stating that submitting the image to the Wiki does not satisfy the registration requirement.
- 3) Roles and titles may have to be clarified.
- 4) We will continue to communicate to minimize confusions.

We discussed hiring a communication consultant.

- Program resources (DIGITAL)

Our library of online resources remains a free benefit to members in good standing. A link to what is available is on our website. This has been recently updated. The menu also includes tips on the best use of PowerPoint presentations as well as reminders to observe copyright restriction, to use these presentations to educate, AND TO PROMOTE MEMBERSHIP IN THE AIS.

Suggestions for changes and improvements are always requested when programs are sent and changes made as needed. We also encourage additions to the library.

- Etcetera

While focused primarily on image gathering and program distribution I continue to:

- Assist in gathering images as needed, communicating with our many talented photographers
- Respond to requests from the editorial staff of "Irises"
- Offer ideas to the Board of Directors (as well as serving on the Board)
- Assist in advertising as requested
- Volunteer to assist others in computer-based projects

- An Alternative Centennial Celebration.

The Board has discussed and is encouraging alternative ways to celebrate our centennial in creative ways in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic

- Closing Thoughts

The process of working together productively is essential to the success of a volunteer organization like the American Iris Society. I believe we have made significant progress in that direction.