

Minutes of the AIS Board of Directors Videoconference, Wednesday, April 22, 2020

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

Tom Gormley (5) – Membership

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

Phyllis Wilburn (14) – Director, Section & Cooperating Society Liaison

Wayne Messer (21) - Director, Exhibition Show Reports, News & Notes, RVP 21

Cheryl Deaton (15) – Photo Contest, Youth

Jim Morris (18) – 2020 Centennial Publicationm Obituary Editor

Lois Rose (4) – Exhibition Schedules

Scarlett Ayers (23) – RVP 23

Mike Reed (17) – asst RVP 17

Elladan McLeeser (8) – RVP 8

Eva Barry (23) – RVP 23

Jeanette Graham (11)

Carolyn Schaffner (2)

Paul Black (13)

Mary Platnar (15)

The meeting was called to order on Zoom at 5:02 PM PST.

A quorum was present.

Parliamentarian will be Gary White for this meeting.

1. Approve the minutes from the previous meeting – Claire Schneider

Motion 1: to accept the minutes of the March 25, teleconference, as amended.

Motion by Michelle Snyder and seconded by Bonnie Nichols. Passed unanimously.

2. 2020 Awards – Gerry Snyder

Gerry presented a document that addresses the cancellation of the 2020 AIS Ballot. “My primary consideration in setting up a ballot for 2021, with no vote having been taken in 2020, is to try to be sure that every iris has the same chance of winning an award that it would have [had] if the vote had been taken this year.”

Honorable Mention (HM) – Normally on the 2021 ballot, bearded iris from 2016 and beardless iris from 2015 would be dropped. However, for the 2021 Ballot, those irises will stay on the ballot and bearded iris from 2019 and beardless iris from 2018 will be added. Since 10% of the eligible iris win the award, irises will have the same probability of winning that they would have [had] in a normal year. The ballots for 2021, 2022, and 2023 will have introductions from four years listed, as opposed to the usual three.

Award of Merit (AM) – The same process will be applied to the AM as used for the HM award. The only difference is that while there are introductions in 2020, there are no HM winners—this implies that only 2021 will have four years winners listed, and 2024 will have only two.

Special Medals – The same process will be used as for the AM award.

Dykes Medal – The process for the Dykes Medal will be different, since there is no gap between winning a Special Medal and going on the ballot for the Dykes. There will be no ballots with four years of Special Medal winners.

Discussion: Riley Probst, Paul Black and Jim Morris have sent letters to the AIS Board asking that the 2020 AIS Ballot be reinstated. Their rationale is that the 2016, 2017, and 2018 cultivars will have an unfair advantage because they will have had one extra year of review by the public. Many of the hybridizers in Region 14 favor having the 2020 ballot reinstated. With the addition of an extra year of cultivars, the ballot will become very large.

Other comments: Social distancing directives have cancelled spring garden tours making it difficult if not impossible to study garden irises. With regard to the COVID-19 virus epidemic, the only irises that can be safely viewed would be those growing in our own gardens and few people grow large numbers of the newer irises. With visits to gardens being cancelled or discouraged, there is an increased possibility that people might use catalogs and social media to vote the Ballot. The Ballot was cancelled during the crisis of World War II so the cancellation of the 2020 Ballot during this current crisis should not be unexpected. It is socially irresponsible

for AIS judges to be out in public unless visiting an essential service such as a medical service or a grocery store.

3. Spring Reports – Michelle Snyder & Claire Schneider

All the written reports are due to Michelle by May 1st. The reports that require action will be presented at subsequent teleconferences. Claire has put together a schedule for the presentation of those action reports that is organized by theme. For example, all of the reports that have to do with finance would be scheduled for one meeting: audit, finance, insurance, membership, storefront, foundation, treasurer, etc.

4. Nominating Committee – Wayne Messer

Because the AIS 2020 Spring Meeting was cancelled, the nominating process for directors has been changed. The slate of eight candidates and their bios will be sent to Michelle Snyder by the Nominating Committee before the May 27th teleconference. To accommodate nominations “from the floor,” a two-week window BEFORE the May 27th teleconference will be opened. Wayne was directed to write an announcement about the process of nominating “from the floor” that will be published in News & Notes and posted on the AIS website. Wayne will include those nominations “from the floor” when he presents the slate of candidates to the Board of Directors at the May 27th teleconference. An executive session for electing the final four candidates for director will be scheduled after the May 27th teleconference.

5. Virtual Convention Tour – Neil Houghton

The cancellation of the 2020 Spring Convention has been an immense disappointment, so “how about a virtual celebration of 100 years of AIS?” This could be a video, slide show or just photos which Neil can post in a special Facebook group, separate from Iris Lovers and the AIS Facebook page. Anyone can join the group by contacting Neil or Andi Rivarola. Scarlett Ayers suggested creating a time capsule in the form of letters addressed to an AIS region or person that would be stored in the AIS library and delivered to the 200th Celebration. The letters could ask questions about the future such as, “Are there iris gardens on the moon?” Andi Rivarola suggested adding photos and other digital content to the time capsule. Information about participating in the Virtual Convention Tour should be included in News & Notes. A list of the irises in the Centennial gardens might be available to use as suggestions for more photos for this tour. Contact Neil for more information.

6. Long-term COVID-19 planning – Jody Nolin

It doesn't look like the COVID-19 epidemic is going away anytime soon. There is concern that future events such as the 2021 AIS Convention might be cancelled. The availability of an effective vaccine will influence all schedules. In the meantime, contingency plans need to be created especially in regards to future conventions. A suggestion was to push all events forward

one year. In other words, push the Las Cruces Convention to 2022, the Dallas convention to 2023, etc. The clumps of iris would have an extra year of growth.

A discussion group will consist of Howie Dash, Scarlett Ayres, Bonnie Nichols and John Ludi. Anyone else who has opinions and suggestions to contribute should contact Jody.

7. Photo Contest

What is the status of the photo contest? Cheryl Deaton has been inactive and Amberlee has withdrawn from this contest. Anita Moran has been the most active. If the photo contest is to continue, then someone needs to work on it or help Anita with it. Jody will follow up.

8. New Business

a. Notification of availability of the Bulletin to e-members – John Jones

About two weeks in advance of the publication of the AIS Bulletin, notice is supposed to be sent to e-members that the Bulletin is available online. However, the e-lists currently being used do not seem to reach all who should receive this information. John Jones asked for and was granted permission to use the email list for News & Notes for notifying folks about the availability of the Bulletin.

b. Availability of this year's R&I – John Jones

Most of the registration cards have been sent out. Hopefully the R&Is will be sent to the printers in mid-May. This is ahead of last year's schedule.

9. Announcements

The next teleconference will be May 27th.

All the reports for the Spring Meeting should be sent to Michelle Snyder's email (not posted in AISTalk) address by May 1st.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Schneider