

Minutes of the 2021 Fall AIS Board of Directors, Saturday, November 6, 2021
At the Courtyard Marriott Hotel, San Diego, California.

Present:

Jody Nolin (6) - President, Affiliate Chair

Andi Rivarola (15) - 1st VP, Convention Liaison, Public Relations, Social Media,
Strategic Planning, Finance Committee

Bonnie Jean Nichols (17) – 2nd VP – Judges, Handbook Revision, RVP 17

Michelle Snyder (15) – Secretary, Insurance

Jill Bonino (15) – Treasurer, Foundation Liaison

Gary White (21) - Immediate Past President, Honorary Awards, Finance

Pam Messer (21) – Membership (attended via Zoom)

John Ludi (13) – Publication Sales Director, Storefront

Cheryl Deaton (15) – Director, Youth

Claire Schneider (15) – Director, Recording Secretary

Doug Chyz (4) - Director, Public Relations & Marketing

Howie Dash (23) – Director, RVP Counselor, Audit, AIS 2022 Convention Co-Chair

Janis Shackelford (15) – Director, Policy, Registrar/Recorder, RVP 15

Jean Richter (14) – Director, RVP 14 (attended via Zoom)

Lorene Crone (7) – Director, Electronic Services

Mike Reed (17) – Director, Awards

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

Scarlett Ayres (23) – Director, AIS 2022 Convention Co-Chair

Susan Driver (7) – Director, Calendars, Photo Contest

Wayne Messer (21) - Director, News & Notes, Website, RVP 21 (attended via Zoom)

Linda Baumgartner (20) – RVP 20, RVP Representative (attended via Zoom)

Betty Roberts (20) (attended via Zoom)

Gerry Snyder (15)

Bruce Wilkie (21)

Linda Wilkie (21)

Kay Ludi (13) - Storefront

Neil Houghton (2) – Image Coordinator, Iris Program Digital Resources (attended via Zoom)

Charlotte Brennard (12) – RVP 12 (attended via Zoom)

Carolyn Hoover (14) – RVP 14 (attended via Zoom)

Olga Batalov (15) – Zoom liaison, SIGNA editor, Region 15 editor

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 am PDT.

Because there were no additional nominations, the candidates elected to the AIS Board of Directors were Wayne Messer, Janis Shackelford, and Phyllis Wilburn.
A quorum was present.

An agenda was distributed. However, because issues came up during the meeting and in an effort to be efficient with the time, the sequence of topics in the minutes does not exactly follow the agenda.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first in-person AIS meeting since the Spring Board Meeting of 2019 and the first AIS Fall Meeting in three years. Everyone in the room and attending via Zoom introduced themselves.

Motion 1: to appoint Susan Driver as Motions Secretary.

Motion by Michelle Snyder and seconded by Howie Dash. Motion carried.

Parliamentarian will be Gary White for this meeting.

Motion 2: that Jean Richter be the fourth candidate for directorship.

Motion by Janis Shackelford and seconded by Michelle Snyder. In an executive session, Jean was approved as the fourth [director] candidate.

MINUTES – Claire Schneider

Motion 3: to accept the minutes of the October 27, 2021, teleconference.

Motion by Michelle Snyder and seconded by Doug Chyz. Motion carried.

REPORTS

A. President – Jody Nolin

An electronic report was filed, information only.

B. Audit – Howie Dash

An electronic report was filed, information only.

C. Convention Liaison – Andi Rivarola

An electronic report was filed.

The 2022 Convention will be held in Las Cruces from April 11 to 16. Howie Dash and Scarlett Ayres are the co-chairs. Information about this convention and accommodations can be found on the 2022 Convention website. The 2023 Convention will be held in Dallas, TX from April 10 to 15. Bonnie Nichols is the chair. The 2024 Convention, in conjunction with the Japanese and

Species Conventions, will be held in Portland, OR from June 17 to 22. Chad Harris and John Ludi are the co-chairs.

Bonnie proposed an abbreviated convention schedule for the 2023 Convention, lasting four days instead of six. Two days for garden tours and two days for meetings and presentations. In the planning stage are panel presentations (or discussions) for bearded and beardless iris, the Geek Luncheon, judges training, and awards as well as meetings for a few groups such as Youth and first-time attendees. Sections, RVPs, and other groups will be encouraged to meet via Zoom outside of the convention schedule. The idea is to spend more time in the gardens and use Zoom to conduct meetings. With fewer convention days, the overall cost of hosting and attending a convention will be reduced.

D. Judges – Bonnie Nichols

There are 425 apprentice, G/E and emeritus judges for 2022. The number of judges retired for 2022 is 103. Forty-two judges have been deleted due to death, resignation, delinquent AIS dues or failure to vote the AIS Ballot. This number is of concern because it is double last year's loss. Bonnie has reached out to the deleted judges extant, searching for ways to have them reinstated. Retired judges do not receive the AIS Ballot. Emeritus judges are not required to vote the ballot. Bonnie provided the list of approved judges for 2022 sorted by region.

Motion 4: to accept the recommendations for 2022 judges as reported.

Motion by Bonnie Nichols and seconded by Andi Rivarola. Motion carried.

E. Nominating – Claire Schneider

An electronic report was filed, information only.

F. Registrar/Recorder – Janis Shackelford

An electronic report was filed, information only.

A sincere and well-deserved thank you was given to John and Joann Jones for their assistance to Janis.

G. RVP Counselor – Howie Dash

An electronic report was filed, information only.

All of the RVP positions have been filled, except for Regions 6 and 8. There have been occasions in the past when an RVP, with the Board's permission, has served an additional year.

Motion 5: to approve Jean Kaufmann to serve an additional year as RVP in Region 6.

Motion by Howie Dash and seconded by Andi Rivarola. Motion carried.

Motion 6: to approve the RVP list as presented with one correction, that Jean Kaufmann will be serving a 4th year.

Motion by Howie Dash and seconded by Doug Chyz.

Marcia Connolly (1) – year 3

Neil Houghton (2) – year 1

Gary D. Slagel II (3) – year 2

Dan Fetty (4) – year 2

Randall Bowen (5) – year 3

Jean Kaufmann (6) – year 3

Caroline Winters (7) – year 2

OPEN (8)

Margaret Kelly (9) – year 1

Catherine B Mason (10) – year 2

Cindy Davis (11) – year 3

Charlotte Brennand (12) – year 1

John Ludi (13) – year 2

Carolyn Hoover (14) – year 1

Janis Shackelford (15) - year 2

Bonnie Nichols (17) – year 3

Jim Hedgecock (18) – year 1

Linda Baumgartner (20) – year 3

Wayne Messer (21) – year 3

Joshua Winzer (22) – year 1

Eva Barry (23) – year 3

Don Nelson (24) – year 3

H. Storefront Sales – John Ludi

Four electronic reports were filed. From the report, ‘Customer Order Processing’ (information only), the PayPal system is cheaper to use than the old system. Orders paid for by cash, check or money-order are processed as before. Orders using PayPal or credit-debit cards are processed through the PayPal system. The Inventory and Sales Reports are for information only. Seventy-six *Handbooks for Judges* have been sold. One hundred twenty 2021 calendars remain to be sold.

John described a situation that occurs when AIS is not notified of an address change resulting in the return of the *Bulletin*. AIS is charged postage for the return of a *Bulletin* plus the cost of mailing another *Bulletin* to a new address. A suggestion was to post a very visible notice in the

Bulletin reminding members to notify AIS of address changes. Another suggestion was to ask the affiliates and RVPs to double check addresses of their members.

John showed a sample display holder for AIS medals and proposed AIS sell these from the AIS Storefront.

Motion 7: To set the price for the medal display holder at \$10 each or 3 for \$25.

The motion was amended to set the price at \$11.00 each or three for \$30 to cover the cost of shipping.

Motion by Claire Schneider and seconded by Cheryl Deaton. Motion carried.

John has received the electronic file in pdf format of the 2019 Iris Checklist from John Jones. (No new information as to a solution to the format issue of the hard copy.) The electronic file is available for purchase for \$25.00. When the hard copy (soft cover) becomes available, it will be provided at no cost to the customers who purchased the electronic file.

Motion 8: To accept the proposal from Sundance Press for printing 750 copies of the 2023 calendar for \$1952.50.

Motion by Michelle Snyder and seconded by Cheryl Deaton. Motion carried.

John recommended that despite a slight increase in the cost of postage, the prices for the 2023 calendars be the same as for the 2022 calendars: \$8 each and the Early Bird Special price be \$7.

John, who has been in charge of the storefront for years, knows the cost of items and postage, how many of each item to order and the break-even cost.

Motion 9: To allow AIS Storefront manager to set pricing for any storefront items to reflect increases in shipping costs without board approval.

Motion by Gary White and seconded by Michelle Snyder. Motion carried.

I. Treasurer – Jill Bonino

Jill provided paper copies of the Treasurer's Report, Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss, Restricted Funds, Convention Income & Expenses, and a Draft Budget.

“We [AIS] came as close to hitting our projected budget during this fiscal year than we have in a long time.” The Board had budgeted a loss for the General Fund of \$2863 and ended with an actual loss of \$2422. The total operating loss was \$8137. With her research, Pam Messer, membership secretary, decreased the Life Member Dues Restricted Fund by \$4035. The loss in the Registrar's budget came from the expense of the transition of registrars from John Jones to Janis Shackelford.

Motion 10: that the credit card issued to John Jones be cancelled and authorize credit cards for Lorene Crone (electronics) and Janis Shackelford (registrar), effective immediately. Motion by Jill Bonino and seconded by Michelle Snyder. Motion carried.

Motion 11: that an additional AIS credit card be issued to the AIS president as a backup card to the AIS treasurer. Motion by Jill Bonino and seconded by Michelle Snyder. Motion carried.

The Finance Committee, composed of Andi Rivarola, Jody Nolin, Bonnie Nichols, Joshua Winzer and Gary White, chair, recommended consolidating AIS investments and moving them from Edward Jones to Global Wealth Management under the supervision of Karl Johnson. The investment fee that AIS pays Karl is three quarters of one percent, annually on the fair market value of the AIS account.

Cambridge Investment Research Inc. is the documentary agent, and the clearing house is Pershing. The AIS approved Investment Policy uses percentage allocations to limit investments in different types of funds based on whether the fund is focused on Growth, Income, Growth and Income, or Aggressive Risk. The Finance Committee has met 6 to 8 times in the last year to rebalance the funds when they see it necessary.

About the 2020 Convention. The books are closed and AIS ended with a net income of \$6928. Donations to the 100th Anniversary Fund and the Board's allocation of a portion of the Gerald Richardson Estate fund covered the expenses incurred even though the Convention was cancelled due to COVID.

About filing Form 990 and 990T. For the last 13 years, these forms have been filled and filed manually. However, three days before the filing deadline, Jill discovered that these forms were required to be filed electronically. Thanks to the work of Cheryl Deaton and H&R Block, the IRS finally accepted AIS' electronic return. In the future, there will be a charge of \$350 for this service.

New president. The Board will need to approve a banking resolution that adds Andi Rivarola, new president, as signer and remove Jody Nolin as authorized signer on the AIS bank and investment accounts.

From the Balance Sheet as of 9/30/2021. AIS has total assets of \$1,176,379.00 from checking, savings, unrestricted investments, and restricted investments.

From the Income & Expense - general and restricted funds. This report shows, line by line, amounts approved for the 2021 budget, actual income and expense, and net income or loss.

Because of COVID, there was little activity in exhibition income. Income is expected to increase next year in the Storefront due to the increased sale of *Handbooks*, medals, and Check Lists. A suggestion was to reinstate affiliate fees. There was discussion about eliminating the rainy-day fund. If we didn't approve the reinstatement of the affiliation fees, we need to do that at the Dec 8th meeting too.

About the Restricted Funds. New Board members asked for a report on the purpose of each of the AIS Restricted Funds. Jill will present a report about this at the Dec 8th meeting.

A reminder that each convention host should receive \$1500 seed money from the previous convention host.

J. Honorary Awards – Gary White

The Board of Directors retired to an executive session where Gary presented resumés of the nominees. The following honorary awards were approved by the Board of Directors:

The Hybridizer Award will be given to Michael Sutton.

Distinguished Service Medals will be awarded to Jody Nolin, Andi Rivarola, Bonnie Nichols, Claire Schneider, and Cheryl Deaton.

The AIS Gold Medal will be awarded to Jim Morris.

These awards will be presented at the 2022 Convention in Las Cruces.

Back in full session, Gary nominated 'Chubby Cheeks' (SDB by Paul Black, 1985) for the Board of Directors Award. From an AIS blog, July 27, 2015, by Tom Waters, "In the nearly 65 years since the first SDBs were introduced, there has been a steady improvement in form and substance...the greatest breakthrough was Paul Black's 'Chubby Cheeks' in 1985. A prodigious parent for decades, this iris and its descendants set a new standard of form for the entire class." Over the next 30 years, there have been at least 246 irises registered with 'Chubby Cheeks' listed in the parentage of these irises, as noted in the official registrations. At least 50 different hybridizers have introduced irises with 'Chubby Cheeks' listed in the parentage of those iris registrations.

"The Board of Directors Award is neither a garden award nor an exhibition award. This award is made by the AIS' 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 irisdome." (*Handbook for Judges*, Chapter 3, page 7)

Motion 12: to award the Board of Directors Award to 'Chubby Cheeks'.

Motion by Gary White and seconded by Scarlett Ayres. Motion was unanimously approved.

Discussion: It was suggested that a picture plaque be the actual award. Mike Reed and Jody Nolin will investigate.

Thank you to Gary White for his 17 years of service as an AIS Board member.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Guidelines for making donations to AIS Library – Doug Chyz

At the October 27th AIS meeting, there was a suggestion that the AIS Library establish guidelines for receiving materials, including a method for people and families to donate personal materials, such as hybridizing diaries. Doug will continue to work on this.

2. Publishing advice posted in iris Facebook Groups – Doug Chyz

At the September 22nd AIS meeting, Doug reported that there have been positive comments and “likes” posted by members of every iris Facebook Group and even some culture advice about iris. He suggested that some of these posts could be collected into a column to be published in each issue of the *Bulletin*. Doug will continue to work on this.

3. Dealing with irises registered by somebody besides the hybridizer – Howie Dash

Because the position of registrar is in a transition phase, this topic will be taken up at a later date.

BUDGET – Jill Bonino

A paper copy of the Draft Budget 9-30-2022 was distributed. The budget has five operational sections with columns for the actual values from 2021 (income and expenses) and the draft budget for 2022 (income and expenses). The following are figures from the original draft budget. Under Member Services, income is projected at \$66,600 with expenses of \$80,286. Exhibitions Service has a projected income of \$2,000 with expenses of \$1,500. These values will depend on the number of affiliate shows in 2022. Registrations has a projected income of \$14,000 with expenses of \$19,500. Storefront Services has a projected income of \$14,750 with expenses of \$10,330. Administrative Functions has a projected income of \$33,500 with expenses of \$36,115. During the meeting, changes were made to line items in the budget. For example, printing more Handbooks, binding 200 Anniversary Supplements, purchase more honorary medals, reinstatement of affiliate fees, transfer of the Rainy-Day Fund to a “needy” account, etc. Because of numerous changes, a final budget will be presented at the next AIS Board Meeting.

There was an extended discussion regarding the Rainy-Day Fund. Because it is no longer needed, Jill proposed dividing that fund into two restricted line items: convention support and a travel budget for the president. Before they can become permanent items in the budget, allocation guidelines will need to be established. Another discussion centered on the Electronic Services Fund, specifically what can be purchased and who supervises the purchases of electronic equipment. Restricted funds are earmarked for specific items and operations.

Consideration should be given to stream-lining the registration process. This might involve hiring a professional to review the registration process and make recommendations.

Jill will make corrections to the budget, clarify the purpose of restricted funds, and have the budget ready for review and approval at the December AIS Board Meeting. In addition, Jill will bring a draft of guidelines for the expenditure of various restricted funds.

It should be noted that this discussion of the budget lasted for a couple of hours, in clear contrast to budget discussions in past meetings which could last for a day and half.

Motion 13: To accept the draft budget ending 9-30-2022 as amended.

Motion by Michelle Snyder and seconded by Cheryl Deaton.

Motion to table approval of the 9-30-2022 budget until the December AIS Meeting.

Motion by Howie Dash and seconded by Michelle Snyder. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Application for Affiliation – Jody Nolin

A sample application was distributed to the Board.

On the 2022 Affiliate Application there are boxes to check for permission to publish contact information. Jody recommended that all affiliates, regions, sections, etc., set up dummy email accounts for their association. The use of dummy email accounts should reduce the quantity of SPAM. In addition, Jody encouraged the associations to designate multiple people to have access to those email accounts.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following people were nominated for these offices and elected by acclamation.

President – Andi Rivarola

First VP – Bonnie Nichols

Second VP – Howie Dash

Secretary – Claire Schneider

Treasurer – Jill Bonino

Motion 14: To elect these officers by acclamation: Andi Rivarola as AIS president, Bonnie Nichols as 1st VP, Howie Dash as 2nd VP, Claire Schneider as secretary and Jill Bonino as treasurer. Motion carried.

At this point, Jody Nolin handed the gavel to Andi Rivarola. Sadly, the tiara, AKA crown, was in absentia.

Linda Wilkie of Nebraska and Bill Dumont of Victoria, Canada were appointed by Andi Rivarola to fill out the one-year director terms vacated by Howie Dash and Claire Schneider.

The following are committee chairs:

Affiliate Liaison – Jody Nolin

Audit Committee – Howie Dash

Awards – Michael Reed

Calendars – Susan Driver

Convention Liaison – Andi Rivarola

Electronic Services – Lorene Crone

Electronic Services Website – Wayne Messer

Encyclopedia Manager – Bob Pries

Exhibitions Schedules – Lois Rose

Exhibition Supplies – Nick Stewart

Exhibition Reports – Adam Cordes (new)

Finance Committee – Gary White

Foundation Liaison – Jill Bonino

Garden – Bob Pries

Garden National Collection – OPEN

Garden Display and Test Garden – OPEN

General Counsel – Dale Strauss

Honorary Awards – Jody Nolin (new)

Image Coordinator – Neil Houghton

Insurance – Michelle Snyder

Iris Program Resources Digital – Neil Houghton

Iris Program Resources Speakers – Hooker Nichols

Judges – Bonnie Nichols

Judges Handbook Revision – Bonnie Nichols

Library – Robert Hollingworth

Membership Development Committee – Andi Rivarola

Photo Contest – Susan Driver

Policy – Janis Shackelford

Public Relations & Marketing – Bob Pries, Doug Chyz

Public Relations & Marketing News & Notes – Wayne Messer

RVP Counselor – Howie Dash

RVP Representative – Linda Baumgartner

Scientific Advisory Committee – Robert Hollingworth

Section & Cooperating Society Liaison – Phyllis Wilburn

Silent Auction – OPEN

Social Media – Andi Rivarola

Strategic Planning Committee – Andi Rivarola
Symposium – Riley Probst
Webinars - Gary White
Youth – Cheryl Deaton

Motion 15: to approve directors and committee chairs as presented with two changes: Honorary Awards by Jody Nolin and Exhibitions Show Reports by Adam Cordes.
Motion by Bonnie Nichols and seconded by Doug Chyz. Motion approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Spring Convention April 11 to 16, 2022, in Hotel Encanto in Las Cruces, NM. Co-chairs are Howie Dash and Scarlett Ayres.
2. The interview of Barry Blyth has been recorded and is in the final editing stage. Scarlett Ayres asked that anyone with videos or photos of Barry or his cultivars, please send to her so they can be added to the Barry Blyth interview.
3. Thank you to Olga Batalov for being the Zoom liaison for today's meeting.
4. Michelle Snyder thanked everyone for working with her over these years.

The next Board of Directors Meeting will be a Zoom meeting, December 8, 2021, at 5 pm PST.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 PST.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Schneider