

Minutes of the AIS Board of Directors Videoconference, September 22, 2021

Present:

Jody Nolin (6) - President, Affiliate Chair

Andi Rivarola (15)- 1st VP, Convention Liaison (temporary), Public Relations Social Media,
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

Pam Messer (21) - Membership

Cheryl Deaton (15) - Director, Youth

Claire Schneider (15) – Director, Recording Secretary

Doug Chyz (5) - Director, Public Relations & Marketing

Howie Dash (23) – Director, RVP Counselor

Janis Shackelford (15) – Director, Policy, RVP 15

Lorene Crone (7) - Director, Electronic Services

Mike Reed (17) - Director, Awards

Neil Houghton (2) - Director, Image Coordinator, Iris Program Resources Digital

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

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

Susan Driver (7) – Director, Calendars

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

Linda Baumgarter (20) - RVP 20, RVP Representative

Carol Cullen (14)

Christine Dickinson (14)

Elladan McLeester (8) - RVP 8

Gerry Snyder (15)

Jean Richter (14) - RVP 14

Jeannette Graham (11)

John Ludi (13) - Publication Sales Director, RVP 13

Lois Rose (4)

The meeting was called to order on Zoom at 5:01 pm PDT.

A quorum was present.

1. Motion 1: to approve the minutes from the regular AIS Board Meeting, August 25, 2021. Motion by Cheryl Deaton and seconded by Phyllis Wilburn. Motion passed.

REPORTS

2. Awards - Mike Reed

An electronic report was submitted. Thank you to Gerry Snyder for his assistance in creating this year's AIS Ballot and tallying the votes. Total cost for the AIS Ballot printing and mailing was \$2099.50. Of the 360 votes cast, 157 were submitted on paper ballots (46%). Ten judges submitted Ballots with no votes. Eighty judges did not vote, an unusually high number.

Discussion: A suggestion was to add a box or set of lines on the AIS Ballot where judges could write an explanation about why they were unable to complete the Ballot. Bonnie Nichols will survey the regional judges training chairs about why any of their judges did not vote or submit this year's AIS Ballot. Judges who do not vote the Ballot for two years in a row are disqualified as judges. However, because of COVID distancing restrictions, AIS requirements for judges were suspended for 2020. Many judges were unable to complete their required hours of training in 2021, again, as a consequence of COVID. There might have been some confusion about the due date of the AIS Ballot because it was the same due date as the Symposium Ballot.

3. Disaster Plan - Wayne Messer

The Disaster Plan needs a regular update. Wayne was asked to create a chain of command for maintaining the master list of people, their positions, and contact information for the Disaster Plan, the Directory in *Irises: The Bulletin*, and on the leadership page of the AIS website.

4. Foundation Liaison - Jill Bonino

An electronic report, information only, was posted.

5. Image Coordinator - Neil Houghton

An electronic report, information only, was posted.

This year was the first year that photos were required to complete the registration of an iris. This policy might have an impact on irises listed in the next AIS Ballot.

6. Iris Programs (digital resources) - Neil Houghton

An electronic report, information only, was posted.

There was praise for Neil's notes for interviewing hybridizers.

7. Legal Advisor - Dale Strauss (absent)

An electronic report was posted.

There was a discussion about which return address to use when communicating with the IRS.

8. Policy - Janis Shackelford

No report was submitted.

The Policy Motions Index will be updated at the end of the year. Most of the motions this year dealt with the new *Handbook for Judges*.

9. Public Relations & Marketing - Doug Chyz

Two electronic reports were posted, information only. Doug added that he has been posting on many horticultural Facebook sites. "There have been positive Comments and Likes, even a couple of Loves, from members of every group posted to so far. Hopefully it may stimulate some interest in AIS by non-AIS members of the groups. There are over 100 non-AIS related Facebook groups with almost 180,000 members."

Total membership on iris related Facebook sites is 401,054. However, the total membership is likely less than that because some members probably belong to multiple iris sites. Doug made the point that many of these members do not belong to AIS and would be a source of new membership.

Bob Pries added information about the effort to save more than 700 large tubs of iris, some endangered species, when the owner was no longer able to care for them. Because there had been no directive from the owner, the fate of the irises ended up in court. To prevent the heartache of losing a lifelong collection of irises, it was suggested that each of us make it clear to our heirs where our irises are located, how they should be distributed, and who should be in charge.

10. Recording Secretary - Claire Schneider

No report was submitted.

11. Secretary - Michelle Snyder

No report was submitted.

12. Section & Cooperating Societies - Phyllis Wilburn

An electronic report was submitted, information only. Communication with the presidents of the sections and societies continues to be a challenge. The representative to the AIS Nominating Committee will be Phyllis.

OLD BUSINESS

13. Judges Handbook - Bonnie Nichols

John Ludi reported that 18 copies of the *Handbook for Judges*, edition 8, have been mailed and five more have been ordered. Feedback about the new *Handbook* has been mixed. Claire

Schneider reported that she is working on a version of the *Handbook* that highlights significant changes from the previous edition. Andi Rivarola has completed the colorized version of ten chapters, including high-definition photos.

At this time, there is no mechanism to count the number of times the *Handbook* or chapter has been downloaded.

14. The 2020 Convention Committee - Howie Dash

The budget and registration form are almost finished, ready to be approved by the Mesilla Valley Iris Society. Publicity for the Convention will go into *Tall Talk* magazine, News & Notes, and the fall edition of *Irises: The Bulletin*. There will be registration options: full convention and ala carte for the bus tours and banquets.

Motion 2: to approve \$2650 to cover the expense of the AV equipment for the AIS Board meeting Monday and Tuesday (at the 2020 Convention).

Motion by Andi Rivarola and seconded by Gary White. Motion carried.

Discussion: The amount covers the cost of the renting the AV equipment, a stand-by technician in case of malfunction of any equipment, a surcharge, and New Mexico taxes.

15. Fall Report Schedule - Jody Nolin

There were no changes to the posted schedule. The spring schedule of reports will be addressed by the next AIS president. Michelle Snyder will email reminders to those people whose reports are due at the October meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

16. Website Report preview - Wayne Messer

Wayne asked what the Board would like to learn about the website so it can be included in the Website Report scheduled for the October. For example, the number of hits per topic. Wayne suggested a survey posted in AISTalk about the website.

17. Fiscal Year Ending - Michelle Snyder

September 30th is the last day of this fiscal year. All invoices and other money matters need to be submitted to Michelle no later than Sunday, September 26th.

18. Website Storage with Host Papa - Lorene Crone

Lorene has received no response from Host Papa. Since there has been no report of slow speeds on the website, Lorene suggests we ignore Host Papa's invitation to expand RAM in the AIS website.

19. Candidate for Director on the AIS Board - Jody Nolin

One of the candidates has had to withdraw. Jean Richter will become the fourth candidate. Michelle Snyder will create a ballot with Jean's name. In an executive session, the Board of Directors will vote that ballot before the November meeting in San Diego. The other three candidates will be elected by acclamation at the November meeting.

20. Fall Meeting in San Diego - Janis Shackelford

So far, only seven people have reserved rooms at the hotel. The deadline for the special hotel rate is October 5. The hotel contract requires 17 reserved rooms for one night. The cancellation policy for hotel rooms is 24 hours in advance. In previous Fall or convention meetings, directors and others were able to attend by phone. Because of COVID, some folks would prefer to attend this Fall Meeting via Zoom.

21. Hybridizer Stories - Doug Chyz

Doug suggested that biographical or horticultural stories for or about each hybridizer should be included in the Iris Encyclopedia. This would be in addition to a list of their registered cultivars.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next AIS Board Meeting will be October 27, Wednesday, at 5 PM PDT. Hallowe'en costumes expected.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Schneider