

Sept 15, 2021

## **Sections and Cooperating Societies - No Action Required.**

To repeat what I said in my last report in May, the most difficult thing about this job is communicating with the Presidents of the various Sections. Since I am on my email daily, it is a mystery to me that others do not seem to read or respond to their emails. Of course, the pandemic has brought a halt to lots of the plans or events that would ordinarily be reported, but in spite of that we have had improved response this past year. If you read the 'Section Happenings' in *Irides* you may notice that I often add photos from my collection that have some relevance to the Sections or Cooperating Societies that are reporting. This gives the editor something to 'dress up' the page a bit.

The AIS Board had some discussion recently about the problems that affiliate clubs and Sections are having getting officers and generally keeping afloat. I was impressed by the recent HIPS webinar that described all the various programs that they have started like Guardian Gardens, and their efforts do distribute rare and endangered historic irises, and organize 'rescues' of gardens of older members who can no longer take care of their gardens. On the other hand, some Sections seem to be content to just publish a bulletin, and others have seed exchanges, or sales. There seems to be a resurgence of these activities as the pandemic wanes. But I suspect that many are having trouble getting members to serve on their boards, and maintaining any kind of involvement amongst the group.

I assume that we will have a meeting of the Section and Cooperating Society Presidents at the AIS Convention In Las Cruces. I will try to bring up these issues to see what they might need in the way of support from AIS, or if they have other issues to discuss.

I was unable to get anyone to volunteer to represent the Sections on the AIS Nominating Committee. So after talking to Kathy Chilton the TBIS president, I agreed to be on the committee myself to represent TBIS (I am the membership secretary). It is disappointing that there is such a lack of volunteerism out there in the iris world.

Here is a graphic (borrowed from the web) that I often put into my local club newsletter:



If the members get sick of the reminders to volunteer, they have not said, and I don't know if it helps.

**Phyllis Wilburn, Section and Cooperating Society Liaison**