

Minutes of the AIS Board of Directors Videoconference, TUESDAY, May 25, 2021

NOTE: The regular May Board Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 25th, instead of Wednesday due to several officers attending an iris judging event.

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

John Jones (14) - Registrar/Recorder

Pam Messer (21) - Membership

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

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 2021 Convention Co-Chair

Susan Driver (7) – Director, Calendars

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

Jean Richter (14) - RVP 14, RVP Representative

Dawn Boyer (17) - Bulletin Advertising Editor

Gerry Snyder (15)

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

Joshua Winzer (22)

The meeting was called to order on Zoom at 5:00pm PDT.

A quorum was present.

This meeting was considered the official Spring Meeting of the AIS.

1. **Motion 1**: to approve the minutes from the AIS Board meeting, April 28, 2021, with a correction from Jill Bonino and a spell-check from Phyllis Wilburn.

Motion by Janis Shackelford and seconded by Bonnie Nichols. Motion passed.

2. **Motion 2:** to approve the minutes from the special AIS Handbook Board meeting, May 11, 2021, with corrections to the date in the header of the minutes.

Motion by Howie Dash and seconded by Bonnie Nichols. Motion passed.

REPORTS

3. Membership Secretary- Pam Messer

Pam recommended creating a task force to rebalance AIS regions because of the disparity in ranges of size and membership. Pam's report contained several interesting charts including a list of the regions and the quantity of AIS members. An ad hoc committee was established to study the alignment of regions and will consist of Howie Dash, Doug Chyz, Gary White, Pam Messer, with Bonnie Nichols to be the chair. Topics will include but not be limited to Region 10 and the Canadian provinces.

Motion 3: To create an ad hoc committee to study the alignment of the regions and report back to the AIS Board by the end of 2021.

Motion by Neil Houghton and seconded by Michelle Snyder. Motion passed.

Pam proposed three possible options for dealing with the e- and life-memberships.

DISCUSSION: Andi Rivarola reported that H.I.P.S. no longer offers a life membership option. The Membership Committee headed by Andi will present recommendations on this issue at a future meeting.

4. Section & Cooperating Societies - Phyllis Wilburn

Information only.

DISCUSSION: It has been difficult for sections to find directors, officers, and newsletter editors. It might be helpful or necessary for the AIS Board of Directors to help them find solution(s) to this problem. Because there are legal issues involved, Jody Nolin will consult with Dale Strauss, AIS counsel, for information about the proper process in case of mergers or dissolutions of the various groups. Another consideration is the awards that sections and cooperating societies give.

5. Storefront - John Ludi

Information only. High praise to John Ludi and Susan Driver for the beautiful 2022 calendars!

6. RVP Counselor - Howie Dash

Motion 4: To approve the following for the 2021/2022 positions:

RVP representative to the Board – Linda Baumgartner, Region 20

RVP secretary – Wayne Messer, Region 21

RVP member of the AIS Board Nominating Committee – Marcia Connolly, Region 1

RVP member of the AIS Board Nominating Committee – Gary Slagle, Region 3

Motion by Michelle Snyder and seconded by Phyllis Wilburn. Motion carried.

7. Foundation – Jill Bonino

Information only. No new grants have been received, approved, or funded since the Fall 2020 report.

8. Treasurer – Jill Bonino

Information only. Jill was complimented on her well-organized and colorful report.

9. Audit – Howie Dash

Information only.

10. Nominating – Janis Shackelford

The list of candidates for director is W. E. (Bill) Dumont (13), Wayne Messer (21), Kathryn Mohr (2), Anita Moran (4), George (Steve) Poole (9), Riley Probst (14), Jean Richter (14), Janis Shackelford (15), Steve Speights (20), and Phyllis Wilburn (14).

The Executive Meeting for the Board to vote for directors will be June 2, Wednesday, 5 PM PDT. Nominations for director can be made from the floor in today's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

11. Handbook for Judges – Bonnie Nichols

Two chapters will be reviewed at one more special AIS Board meeting, June 8th: Ch 21 Reblooming iris and Ch 28 Single Blossom Entry. A Judge's Training Record form will also be presented. The Glossary and Appendix are in the works. The format of the *Handbook* is still being discussed.

12. Trophies and Ballot update – Mike Reed

The ballots are in the mail. Gerry Snyder is working with Mike to put the AIS Ballot online. Eighteen pages, double sided is the size of this year's AIS Ballot.

Regarding trophies, Mike plans to purchase, this year, the large cup that will be used as a prop in photos. It was suggested that Mike write a page or two describing the new AIS trophy award system that would be published in the next *Bulletin*.

The spring issue of *Irises: The Bulletin* is late and will not be combined with the summer issue. The 5th *Supplement* will go onto the website as soon as the PDF is available.

13. Memberpress – Wayne Messer

The software has been purchased and installed. Memberships and membership groups have been started. Wayne is in the process of “testing in the sandbox.”

NEW BUSINESS

14. Silent Auction 2022 – John Ludi

Howie Dash reported that the potential of a Silent Auction at the 2022 convention is still being discussed. He and Scarlett Ayres are looking for people to organize and handle the Silent Auction. If the Silent Auction happens, it can be in the same room as the Boutique. Howie will follow up obtaining a legal document for artists working in the Boutique. The artists will need to sign an agreement (i.e., legal document) that clarifies the distribution of proceeds and liability.

The convention dates are April 11 – 16, 2022.

15. Recording Equipment – Neil Houghton

The purpose for this equipment is to make a high-quality video recording of interviews of people who have made significant contributions in hybridizing or to the AIS. Recordings on cell phones are fuzzy.

Motion 5: to allocate \$500 for Neil Houghton to purchase high quality recording equipment. Motion by Michelle Snyder and seconded by Howie Dash. Motion passed.

Discussion: Neil would be in charge of the recording equipment: handling reservations to use the equipment and mentoring interviewers on its use. Hybridizers usually attend conventions, so obtaining and practicing the use of this equipment before the Las Cruces Convention is important.

16. Certification of Design Judges – Dawn Boyer

The proposal is to allow AIS judges to become certified in artistic design so they can judge at AIS shows. A judge who is certified in both horticulture and artistic design would save the cost of hiring an outside design judge and would ensure that irises in the exhibitions are judged accurately.

For certification, the AIS judge would need one hour of Principles of Design, one hour covering the Point Scale, two hours to cover the rest of the chapter on artistic design, two hours of

apprenticeship and two hours of actual hands-on designing with a design judge. Once the hours have been completed, there would be no requirement for further hours of instruction. There was discussion about how a judge might be grandfathered and immediately receive certification. The RVP or regional judges' training chair would keep track of the hours and final certification.

The AIS Board is very interested and asked Dawn, Bonnie Nichols, Jody Nolin, and any other interested people to work out the details of how to implement this certification.

17. Privacy Policy Review – Jody Nolin

Some affiliate presidents do not want their contact information on the AIS website. Some clubs use a club email address instead of a person's address to provide that privacy. There needs to be a way to contact presidents of affiliate clubs, whether it be by a phone number or email. The current waiver gives permission to publish the physical address of affiliate presidents, RVPs, etc. but nothing about phone or email addresses. Jody volunteered to revise or amend the current AIS privacy policy with input from Dale Strauss, legal counselor and present this revision to the Board for approval. It is important to have someone keep track of these waivers.

18. Motion 6: that Andi Rivarola be elected as president-elect to take office as president following the elections of the 2020 Fall Board Meeting.

Motion by Michelle Snyder and seconded by Jill Bonino. Motion passed.

19. Nominations from the floor for Director – Michelle Snyder

There were no nominations for director from the floor. The list presented by Janis Shackelford will be used at the Executive Meeting on June 2.

20. Appointment of Nomination Committee – Jody Nolin

Phyllis Wilburn (section rep), Claire Schneider (director), Howie Dash (director), Gary Slagle (RVP) and Marcia Connolly (RVP). The consultant will be Janis Shackelford. This committee will present a slate of candidates for director at the Spring 2021 meeting.

21. AIS Fall Board Meeting, November 6th - Janis Shackelford

Hotel for the Fall Board Meeting is the Courtyard by Marriott for \$179 plus tax per night. The hotel is located near Liberty Station which has several restaurants. Region 15 has agreed to contribute funds for this meeting. The meeting room has been reserved for all day. Yet to be secured are the P.A. system with 3 microphones on the tables, a stand-up mic for the public, a screen, and tables arranged in a U-shape for the Board members. The election of the new officers should occur during the banquet-dinner. The hotel offers an "Executive Break Package" for approximately \$80 per person which includes breakfast, mid-morning snack, lunch, and mid-afternoon snack including coffee and water. Information and registration information about the

Fall Board Meeting should be published in the summer issue of *Irises, the Bulletin*. Parking is \$10 per day.

Motion 7: that AIS will pay for the Fall Board Meeting and all the materials that go with it.

Amended motion: AIS will pay for the Fall Board Meeting exclusive of travel and accommodations.

Motion by Gary White and seconded by Bonnie Nichols. Amended motion by Gary White and seconded by Bonnie Nichols. Amended motion passed.

Discussion: AIS business will be conducted during the meals, so AIS should pay for meals. The registration fee should be nominal. Local clubs can contribute funds to offset the Fall Board Meeting.

22. Handbook for Judges - Bonnie Nichols

The planned release of the first version (online) of the *Handbook* is August 1st. The print-on-demand version should be available September 1st. A schedule for future updates of chapters has been established. In the future, January 1st of each year will be the deadline for submitting revisions of *Handbook* chapters. Approval of revised chapters would be scheduled for the June Board meeting. Beginning August 1st, judges training sessions should be using the new *Handbook, version 7*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Executive Board meeting will be June 2 at 5 pm PDT.

The next special AIS Board meeting for the *Handbook* will be June 8 at 5 pm PDT.

The next regular AIS Board meeting will be June 23 at 5 pm PDT.

The plan is that August 25th would be the next AIS Board meeting after June 23rd. No meeting in July. The fall reports will begin at the August meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Schneider