

Minutes of the AIS Board of Directors Videoconference, Tuesday, February 2, 2021
Special meeting: Judges Handbook Revision

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
Jill Bonino (15) - Treasurer, Foundation Liaison
Gary White (21) - Immediate Past President, Honorary Awards, Finance

Claire Schneider (15) – Director, Recording Secretary
Doug Chyz (5) - Director, Public Relations & Marketing, RVP 4
Howie Dash (23) – Director, RVP Counselor
Janis Shackelford (15) – Director, Policy, RVP 15
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
Wayne Messer (21) - Director, Exhibition Show Reports, News & Notes, RVP 21

Gerry Snyder (15)
Jean Richter (14) - RVP 14, RVP Representative
John Ludi (13) – RVP 13, Publication Sales Director

Debbie Strauss (17) - President of the Median Iris Society
Cindy Davis (11)

This special meeting was called to review, edit and approve chapters in the *Handbook for Judges*. The meeting began on Zoom at 5:01 PM PST and Chapters 3 & 8 were on the agenda. A quorum was present.

Motion 1: to remove the process for reinstating an iris for its eligibility for a HM (Honorable Mention) Award on the AIS Ballot.

Motion by Scarlett Ayres and seconded by Phyllis Wilburn. Motion approved.

Discussion: Gerry Snyder reported that in more than 50 years, there has not been a case of an iris being reinstated. An iris is eligible for the award when it is on the ballot and not eligible when it is not on the ballot. There are historic irises that were introduced but not registered until years later. Eligibility is determined by the date of introduction.

There are a few examples of irises having their classification changed. At least one change of classification was made to correct a mistake. Gary White recalled that an iris registered as a spuria in the 1939 checklist was correctly listed in the 1949 checklist as a Siberian.

If there are not enough irises in a particular class to qualify for an award, then those irises in contention for that award are automatically given an extra year of eligibility. Every iris should have three years of eligibility.

Motion 2: In case of a tie for the Dykes Medal, multiple medals will be awarded. Motion by Gary White and seconded by Bonnie Nichols. Motion carried.

Discussion: Some of the AIS trophies are broken. Several of the bases are totally covered with the engraved names of winners. New bases for the trophies should be purchased to make space for the names of future winners and that would be expensive. It is expensive to ship the trophies in their crates to the conventions. The suggestion is to retire these old trophies, sending them to the AIS library. In the future, small keeper trophies engraved with the winner's name would be presented as awards. If the trophies are retired, not seen by the convention visitors, how will anyone know the history of any award? A suggestion was to post the history of each award on the AIS website. It is the trophy being retired, not the history. A motion is needed to retire the trophies, add the history to the AIS website, and set up a system of awarding small keeper trophies. The issue of what to do with trophies was postponed to a future board meeting.

Motion 3: to approve Chapter 3 Honors and Awards with all the changes and updates. Motion by Bonnie Nichols and seconded by Howie Dash. Motion carried.

Discussion: A concern was expressed about the High Commendation Award, that it is rarely given. This award is for seedling irises in the garden. Is there a way to publicize it so as to increase the number of times it is awarded? Or maybe make it easier to win? Wayne Messer and Mike Reed will look into this and report back to the AIS Board.

Motion 4: to approve Chapter 8 Border Bearded Irises with all the changes and suggestions. Motion by Bonnie Nichols and seconded by Gary White. Motion passed.

One suggestion for the Handbook was to include a tutorial about judging in general. It could be divided into guidelines for exhibition judging and for garden judging. It could be used at each judges training session to review best judging practices. Any volunteer interested in writing this?

The next AIS Board meeting to discuss more chapter revisions will be February 9.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 PM PST.

Respectively submitted,
Claire Schneider