

Minutes of the American Iris Society Foundation -St. Louis, MO - May 11 , 2005

The annual meeting of the American Iris Society Foundation was brought to order by vice-president, Dorothy Willott, on May 11, 2005 at noon. Trustees present were: Ron Mullin, Claire Honkanen, William Plotner, Dorothy Willott, Roger Mazur, Cal Reuter and Jim Landers. The Planks and Ron & Donna James were guests.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes from the last meeting held in Fresno, CA on April 21, 2004. Willott stated that all trustees received a copy of the minutes. She asked for additions and/or corrections. There were none. Plotner moved that the minutes be approved as printed, seconded by Honkanen. The minutes were approved. A copy of the treasurer's report was also sent to each trustee. Willott asked for additions and/or corrections. Plotner moved to accept the treasurer's report and Reuter seconded. The treasurer's report was accepted as printed.

The next item on the agenda was the Ackerman Youth Essay Contest. Honkanen said the Sr. winner of the essay contest was Shelpelle Sutton. She attends the Southview school in St. Louis, which is on the tour. Claire said she will personally present her check to her when she tours the garden. The junior winner is from Oklahoma, Laura Davidson. Each received a check of \$100.00 from the Ackerman Fund. This year there were 48 entries. Claire stated that she enjoys her job more, each passing year. Landers stated that one of the youth members from his region had an essay published in the Region 17 newsletter and it was also published in the Iris Fan, the Youth newsletter. Claire suggested that each Youth chairperson try to establish a cash award for all youth members that get published. Honkanen also related a story about a young girl whose essay so touched the people at Schreiner's Garden that they sent her a seedling and asked her to evaluate it in her area. She did so, and to this day, still receives a newer introduction from their garden.

Honkanen submitted a bill for \$100.00 for printing and postage for the Ackerman Essay Contest. A motion was made and seconded and it was approved for payment.

Willott asked if there was any old business.

Mazur asked what happened to the by-laws. Plotner said nothing, actually. He and his wife had some medical problems but he promised he would work with Hollingworth to make the necessary changes to coincide with how we do business.

The next item on the agenda was the surety bond for the treasurer for \$201.00. Reuter made a motion to accept Landers seconded and it was approved. Mazur said that this as always is a formality. It must be voted on at a regular trustee meeting, even though the bill was paid in March, when it came due.

The Foundation has voted in the past to bind all of the bulletins for each year and placed in the Library. The bill this year was for \$39.00. Reuter made a motion to pay the bill and seconded by Willott. The motion passed.

The vice-president stated that we must renew our non-for-profit status with the state of Missouri each year. Mazur said that the representative from Missouri, Doris Loveland had moved and the forms were returned to the state and then went back and forth until it finally found her. She sent it to me immediately but I had no time to get a check off to Hollingworth and back to the state before the deadline. If we missed the deadline our corporation would be dissolved. Mazur was able to go on line and complete the forms and pay by personal credit card that same day. This bill is included in his bill to the Foundation. The rate for paying via the internet remains the same but the price is doubled if you send it in via regular mail. Everything should be in order with Loveland's new address now registered with the state. Claire made a motion to pay the bill, seconded by Reuter. Motion passed.

There was no other old business.

The Vice-President Willott passed out a sheet of past grant activities:

2004

George Rodionenko: \$2200.00 Articles appearing in SIGNA. His report included papers that have been published by SIGNA and future articles.

Milan Blazek: \$3,600.00 His report was read and approved.

Carol Wilson: \$4,500.00 Her report came in just before our meeting and it was passed out to the trustees. She also stated her goals and what she had accomplished and what she plans on accomplishing in the coming year. Plotner said that it sounded good to him and recommended future support. The trustees agreed.

New business:

The Foundation received a letter from the library for getting a new computer. Plank said that the AIS has taken care of the computer. A discussion followed with the conclusion that the library will never become self-sustaining through donations. The foundation will not have to make a donation for the computer.

Plank says she would like to have an AIS board member as a liaison between the AIS and the Foundation just as the Foundation has with the AIS. That person will either be Donna James or the Scientific Director, Gary White. No one has been elected yet. The purpose is to eliminate duplication between the AIS and the Foundation. In the past some

people applied for grants to both the AIS and Foundation. Plank would like to see a tighter relationship between the two organizations. Mazur agreed. He stated that in the past the Foundation would send a grant to someone and the AIS received an acknowledgement. The Foundation never got a copy of the acknowledgement and never knew if the recipients even got the money. Everyone promised to work closer together.

Next item on the agenda was the funding of grants.

Hollingworth sent a list of what he thought the grants should be for this year based on the budget for this year and prior commitments.

\$2200.00 Dr. Rodionenko – Continuing support.

\$1500.00 Milan Blazek (Pruhonice/Prague) Continuing support over a two year period going to various places to study, collect and confer with experts.

\$4500.00 Carol Wilson (Portland State University) Continuing support for Molecular systematics/phylogenetics project (This is a proposal that was made to the AIS) The trustees thought it would be great value for the money.

Plotner made a motion to accept the grants as proposed by Hollingworth , Mullin seconded and the motion passed.

The next item: the Texas scholarship. Two requests were made. After a great deal of discussion the trustees voted not to give the scholarship this year, but it was recommended that the final decision is really up to the Iris Society of Dallas.

A discussion of the web site ensued...how should it be updated? Ron Mullin is a new member and a new address for Claire.

Hollingworth also suggested that a poster be made for the Foundation because the panels have become a burden and no one wants to take care of storing and shipping them. Mazur will look into it.

A bank statement was signed by Willott to cash in a CD and placed into checking so that the grants could be made.

Mazur said that he has opened a savings account at one of the two banks the Foundation does business with. This account will collect the interest from the CDs that can be withdrawn at any time as long; as we have \$1,000.00 in that account there are no fees.

Mazur submitted his bills for the last two years in the amount of \$545.85. Reuter made a motion to pay the bill and seconded by Landers, motion passed.

Mazur said he talked to some people about setting up the Foundation as an irrevocable trust. The trustees thought that this could be set up in the by-laws and thereby negate the need to spend money in setting up the trust.

Honkanen asked if Nancy Price had been paid for setting up the web site. She was paid.

The terms of Warner, Plotner, Landers and Reuter have expired. They all agreed to return to the board. Mazur made a motion to re-elect these board members, Mullin seconded, and all were re-elected.

All of the officers agreed to serve the Foundation again, Plotner moved to retain the officers, Reuter seconded; all were re-elected.

Motion to adjourn made by Honkanen and seconded by Plotner.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger P. Mazur