

**SECTION LIAISON CONSULTANT
FALL 2007 REPORT
Raleigh-Durham, NC Nov. 2-4**

I will start this report with Jeanne Plank's request to the AIS Directors, Officers and Committee Chairmen to review the past three years of her term in office as president. Anything additional will be added in *italic* type.

I would like you to review the last three AIS years and submit to me what you consider to be those things that were accomplished in your area of responsibility during the three years I have been in office.

Jeanne Plank, AIS President

Section Liaison Consultant: I have loved this job. I believe I significantly improved communication from "AIS" to the Sections and Cooperating Societies with my Section Happenings column. It appears to have been well received. As a result of it and my direct email or letter/phone communications with the Sections/Cooperating Societies' presidents, membership chairmen and newsletter/bulletin editors, attendance at the Annual meeting at Convention has dramatically increased. I sent out printed agenda requests in advance of the AIS Conventions and then an agenda just prior to the meeting. This sparked good interest, good discussion, and good attendance. This year everyone was represented by at least two members except for the Aril Society.

Following the January 2005 Bulletin that contained little regarding irises and much business "stuff," complaints and suggestions rolled in to the AIS president and other members of the AIS Board. That included this board function. Jeanne Plank suggested that I undertake an effort to get more Section news coverage of the various iris specialties. Thus Section Happenings debuted in October 2005. I have now written nine editions of this column and information flow from the Sections and Cooperating Societies is going well.

Guest AIS Bulletin Editors Jim Morris and Kelly Norris jointly offered feature article space in the July and October issues to all Sections and Cooperating Societies for articles regarding their organization and favorite flowers. SPCNI was featured in July and Kelly informs me that three other Sections have coverage in the October issue.

A Section Committee is currently studying a proposal to provide membership in a Section (member's choice) as part of AIS membership. A report will be provided at the Spring 2008 Section Liaison Meeting. Any proposal approved by this group will be presented to the AIS Board.

Milestones Column: This has been slow to take off but input is starting to come in other than my eclectic research. I enjoy researching data for this column but I look forward to when the membership will finally recognize that this is a good conduit for society/club news to be shared with AIS.

Another idea suggested to me by Jeanne Plank, this column was begun in the January 2007 AIS Bulletin. I have now written four editions of the column. Ideally this column

should be headed by someone in the Affiliates Committee. I will continue to do it in the interim. Affiliate Chairman communication during the affiliation process is recommended to reinforce the availability of this column service to all our local clubs and societies.

Obituaries: Not enjoyable to see so many friends dying, however the data search is challenging. I have tried to standardize the obit approach, treatment and "look." Sometimes Bruce would throw me a curve and print something in different format that didn't qualify as full obit, or slip it in my Milestones column, i.e., DoDo Denney, April 2007. I had no knowledge of this being printed so it wasn't standardized. And I had better info available to me than what was printed, as she was one of those nomads who spent time in different AIS regions because of her acting career. The Region 18 obit on her by Jim Waddick was much better and more factual than what Bruce printed in the AIS *Bulletin*. And how well I remember her in the movie *Breakfast At Tiffany's*, and her gorgeous garden in Kansas City.

Consistent treatment of obituaries is desirable and mandated by Board direction. Professional genealogist and AIS member Mary Wickersham has been invaluable to me in my information research. Full obituaries are printed on persons qualifying under current AIS Obituary Policy. Partial obits are printed on others in the Milestones column.

These are my thoughts on my AIS job assignments.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Morris
Section Liaison Consultant