

## **IRS 501 (c) (3) GROUP EXEMPTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Spring 2008

Since the Group Exemption Committee was formed, 51 AIS subordinate organizations have been recognized by the IRS as qualified organizations exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code. <sup>1</sup>

The 2007 additions were the Monterrey Bay Iris Society, Madison Area Iris Society, Sangamon Valley Iris Society, Magic Valley Iris Society, and the Gem State Iris Society.

For the 2008 update, so far we have been in contact with the Albuquerque Aril and Iris Society, Prescott Area Iris Society, Verde Valley Area Iris Society, and the Fresno Iris Society.

Other affiliate applicants have until August, 2008 to get their information to the Committee to be eligible for next year's group exemption submittal to the IRS.

Additionally, the committee has been in contact with the Toronto Region Iris Society and Region 16 of the American Iris Society (Canada) for tax exemption under Paragraph 149(1 (l) of the Canadian Income Tax Act, a provision similar to Section 501 (c) (3) of the U.S. regulations.

Interestingly, the Canadian Iris Society has requested information on how to apply to become affiliated with the AIS as a cooperating society. The AIS bylaws provide as follows:

Established national or international organizations whose primary purposes are consistent with those of the AIS may be recognized as Cooperating Societies of the AIS. They shall be accorded privileges determined by the AIS Board of Directors. The AIS shall not be responsible for the debts or liabilities of any of its Cooperating Societies, and shall have no power to exercise control over the Cooperating Societies except pursuant to any Cooperating Society Agreement entered into as a condition of Cooperating Society status. (Article II, Section 6)

As discussions between the AIS and CIS progress, coordination will be maintained with the Committee's handling of Region 16 and the Toronto Area Iris Society.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. E. Roy Epperson  
Robert R. Plank

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<sup>1</sup> The number of AIS subordinate organizations with 501 (c) (3) recognition does not include those that acquired their exemptions by applying directly to the IRS.