

**AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
TULSA, OKLAHOMA
NOVEMBER 6-7, 2009**

FULL MINUTES

President Dr. E. Roy Epperson called the Fall Meeting of The American Iris Society Board of Directors to order at 6:48 PM on Friday, November 6, 2009, and announced a quorum was present. President Epperson asked Board Members, Committee Chairs, RVPs, and guests to introduce themselves.

Present during the various sessions were: **Officers:** President, Dr. E. Roy Epperson; 1st Vice President, Judy Keisling; 2nd Vice President and Treasurer, Jill Bonino; General Secretary, Michelle Snyder. **Administrative Officers:** Recording Secretary, Susan Boyce; Publication and Sales, John and Kay Ludi. **Directors:** Jerry Coates, Cheryl Deaton, Rita Gormley, Paul Gossett, John Jones, Jim Morris, Jody Nolin, Gary White, Lynn Williams, and Bob Pries (by speaker phone). **RVP Representative:** Debbie Strauss. **Immediate Past President:** Jeanne Clay Plank. **Committee Chairs:** Terry Aitken, Maureen Mark, Bob Plank, Janet Smith, and Gerry Snyder. **RVPs:** Darnell Hester (7), John Baker (8), Alan Brooks (13), Judy Eckhoff (18), LeRoy Meininger (21), and Hugh Stout (22). **Guests:** Jean Morris (18), Linda Rader (21), Louise Carson, and Betty Lou McMartin (22).

President Epperson welcomed all and encouraged all present to participate in discussions, with the reminder that only Board members may vote.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS:

President Epperson announced that the AIS General Secretary received no additional nominations, and therefore, the published candidates for the AIS Board of Directors are duly elected by acclamation. They are: Ruth Barker (4), John Jones (14), Jody Nolin (6) and Lynn Williams (14).

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

Kansas City, Kansas - May 11-12, 2009.

One correction to both the Digest Minutes as printed in the AIS Bulletin #354 (July 2009), and the Full Minutes as posted on the AIS Website. The correction is as follows: Morris reported that he received a letter from SLI representative Jim Leonard concerning SLI's earlier request to explore changing their status from a Cooperating Society to a Section of AIS. The SLI Board has withdrawn their request and has tabled the matter until further notice.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

President - Dr. E. Roy Epperson asked that the appointment of John Jones as Motion Monitor be approved. J Plank moved and Gossett seconded. **Motion carried.**

President Epperson noted that three board members, Ruth Barker, Bob Keup, and Bob Pries are not in attendance at this meeting, but Bob Pries is participating in the meeting by speaker phone.

President Epperson presented the following in his report:

1. The American Iris Society's Silver medal which the British Iris Society awards to one of their exhibitors, who exhibits a best stalk of an American hybridized iris, has been engraved and sent to Clive Russell, to be awarded to Zara Evans.

2. The Australian Iris Society is compiling the Australian Judges' Manual and are requesting permission to utilize some of the line drawings and diagrams from the AIS *Handbook for Judges and Show Officials*.

*Plank moved and Keisling seconded:

That the AIS grant the Australian Iris Society request that they be allowed to use illustrations from the AIS *Handbook for Judges and Show Officials*, on condition that they attribute the source. **Motion carried.

3. John Baker has issued an invitation to TBIS for them to hold their 2010 Spring board meeting as part of the 2010 AIS Convention. The TBIS Board voted to accept this invitation and ask the AIS for formal acceptance of their attending this meeting. After discussion:

*Gormley moved and Morris seconded:

That the AIS invite the TBIS as a participant in the AIS convention in Madison, WI in 2010. **Motion carried.

Also mentioned in the discussion: In the spirit of reunifying the TBIS with the AIS:

*Plank moved and Gossett seconded:

That AIS invite the TBIS to become a Section of the AIS. **Motion carried.

4. The *Handbook for Judges and Show Officials*, (page 28) needs to be modified to clearly state the AIS policies on eligibility of iris for the American Dykes Medal.

*Jones moved and Morris seconded:

**That the eligibility of irises for the American Dykes Medal be reaffirmed as: "The American Dykes Medal is awarded annually by the British Iris Society through The American Iris Society and is restricted to

irises first originated and introduced in the United States or Canada. Irises originated elsewhere, although not eligible for the American Dykes Medal, are eligible for other AIS awards provided that the iris was first introduced in the United States or Canada." **Reaffirmed by a vote of 12-2.**

5. The *Handbook for Judges and Show Officials* (page 24) under THE HONORABLE MENTION AWARD, 2nd line is incorrect.

*Williams moved and Deaton seconded:

That the *Handbook for Judges and Show Officials* (page 24), under the modified HONORABLE MENTION AWARD, in keeping with the original intent of SIGNA the words "...and bearded SPEC and SPEC-X" be deleted. **Motion carried.

The meeting recessed for a break at 8:33 pm and was called back at 8:45 pm.

In accordance with standard practice, Epperson asked for affirmation of interim Board action taken by email vote since the May 2009 Board Meeting.

*Pries moved and Plank seconded:

**That the Managing Editor direct the editor to reinstate the Bulletin position of Photo Coordinator.

Motion carried.

1st Vice President - Judy Keisling deferred her report until later.

2nd Vice President - Jill Bonino deferred her report until later.

General Secretary - Michelle Snyder thanked Susan Boyce for her assistance while Gerry and she were traveling.

Treasurer - Jill Bonino reported on the current end of year financial statement. Noted was the lower interest rates being gained on the CDs, due to the slower economy. Bonino also reported that the Richard Sparling estate donated \$10,000 to the Scientific Research fund and the Jimmy Jones estate donated \$3,433 to the Clark Cosgrove fund for the winners prize awards.

*Bonino moved and Snyder seconded:

That we raise the prizes for the Cosgrove winners by \$50 per year each for the winner, 1st runner up, and 2nd runner up and that those awards be paid from the Jimmy Jones bequest. **Motion carried.

Managing Editor - Terry Aitken requested that Kelly Norris be elected as the full time editor of the AIS Bulletin.

*Gossett moved and White seconded:

That Kelly Norris be elected as full time editor of the AIS Bulletin. **Motion carried.

Aitken also reported on the price options of possibly changing the size of the AIS Bulletin. Also mentioned was the possibility of printing an annual yearbook with the AIS business listings being listed in it.

*Keisling moved and Williams seconded:

That we go to an 8 1/2" X 11" page size for the bulletin saddle stitched. **Motion carried by a vote of

13-1

*Pries moved and Gossett seconded:

That we publish an annual plain paper business edition of the Bulletin and that it be sent out with the Bulletin in January. **Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm, and the Board went into Executive Session.

Saturday, November 7, 2009 - the meeting was called back to order at 8:00 am and the Honorary Awards were announced.

Honorary Awards - President Epperson announced the results of the Honorary Awards.

The Bee Warburton Medal was awarded to Hiroshi Shimizu of Japan.

Hybridizer's Medals were awarded to Jim & Vickie Craig (13) and Charles Jenkins (15).

The Distinguished Service Medal was awarded to Perry Dyer (22).

The AIS Gold Medal was awarded to Ron Mullin (22).

Emeritus Judges are: Paul Black (13), Perry Dyer (22), Kitty Loberg (14), and Mike and Anne Lowe (4).

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORTS:

Membership Secretary - Tom Gormley was not present, but his report indicated a slight decline in membership this last year. A discussion was held about the possible discontinuation of life memberships.

*Plank moved and Deaton seconded:

That we discontinue offering life memberships for sale and that we offer a longer term membership than triennial, published in the January 2010 Bulletin and effective June 30, 2010. **Motion failed by a vote of 8-6.

Registrar/Recorder - Mike and Anne Lowe were not present, but their report requested that the 2009 Registration and Introductions (R&I) be ordered.

* Jones moved and Bonino seconded:

That the AIS publish 400 copies of the 2009 R&I. **Motion carried.

Recording Secretary - Susan Boyce had no report.

Publication/Sales Directors - John Ludi stated that the RVP pin inventory is down to five. More need to be ordered.

*Gormley moved and Gossett seconded:

That we order additional RVP pins. **Motion carried.

Ludi also stated that the inventory of Invitations to Join is very low and needs to be reprinted. Also mentioned is a possible change from a 4 fold paper to a 3 fold paper that will save money.

*Plank moved and Williams seconded:

That the ITJ's be redesigned from a 4 fold format to a 3 fold format on 8 1/2" X 11" paper. **Motion carried.

*Gossett moved and Williams seconded:

That we print 25,000 Invitations to Join at a cost to be determined. **Motion carried.

On one last note, Ludi noted that the AIS Post cards are not selling. Ways were discussed on how to distribute these for free.

The meeting recessed for a break at 9:55 am, and was called back at 10:09 am.

Unfinished Business - none.

New Business -

Awards Chair Ruth Barker was to have given a demonstration on the new Awards Ballot voting via the internet, but was unable to attend this meeting. Gerry Snyder who has been helping her with this, gave the demonstration on how this will work. For the 2010 year the Awards Ballot will still be printed for all judges, but judges will be able to choose whether they want to vote the paper ballot, or whether they want to vote via the internet. Special thanks goes out to Gerry Snyder who has developed this program free of charge to the AIS.

Realignment Committee Chair Jerry Coates reported on the committee recommendation. It was recommended that Regions 3 and 19 be combined. Both Regions have agreed it would be in their best interest to be combined.

*Coates moved and Snyder seconded:

That Region 3 and Region 19 be combined into a new Region 3 on the termination of their respective RVP and ARVP terms on 1 Jan 2011. The new region would be comprised of PA, DE, and NJ. **Motion carried. Coates reported on the possibility of another region being dissolved, but more information is needed before any decisions can be made.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Affiliation - Chair Brad Kasperek was not present, but his report showed an increase of three new affiliates, which brings the total to 170 affiliates. It was stated that there is a need for a contact person to assist the affiliates when problems arise.

*Jones moved and Gossett seconded:

That we create an Affiliates Liaison as a standing committee chair, and that we create an Affiliates email serve. Each Affiliate to be contacted to provide a contact person for the email serve. **Motion carried.

Awards - Chair Ruth Barker was not present, but her report lists the High Commendation Awards for 2009. Her report further also notes the request, by the hybridizer to have her iris be removed from the TB AM competition ballot.

*Williams moved and Deaton seconded:

That 'Hallowe'en Treat' (Otterness '05) be removed from the TB AM eligibility list on the ballot at the request of the hybridizer. **Motion carried.

Calendars - Chair Terry Aitken reported on the prices and delivery time of the calendars. In the past by using the printer in Hong Kong, even though the delivery time was very long, the price was cheaper. Now, Bridgetown printers in Portland has fairly comparable prices and the delivery time is much shorter. With the shorter delivery time, the 2011 calendars will be available for sale at the convention.

*Williams moved and Nolin seconded:

That we use Bridgetown printing for 2000 copies of the 2011 calendar. **Motion carried.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:56 am and called back to order at 1:24 pm.

Convention Liaison - Chair Paul Gossett reported on the results of the 2009 convention questionnaire. Gossett noted starting with the 2010 convention a new meeting will be in the convention schedule. On Wednesday morning there will be an Editors Panel session for all editors: for regions, sections, local, and bulletins. Gossett also stated that he is still in need of a site for the 2013 convention.

Donations - Chair Donna James was not present, but her report indicated a downturn in donations.

Electronic Services - Chair John Jones reported that iris register continues to be successful. The AIS Website redesign is still ongoing, but has been slowed down due to a piece of software incapability. A lengthy discussion followed on creating an e-membership category and the great amount of work that it will take to do this.

*Pries moved and Gossett seconded:

That we create three types of memberships: a Virtual membership, Print membership, and a Full membership comprising both. **Motion carried.

Exhibitions - Chair Jayme Adams was not present and did not send in a report. President Epperson reported on the multiple problems that have happened with the exhibitions program this last year. He announced that the Exhibitions responsibilities will be split into three different sections. Lois Rose will receive the draft show schedules, approve them, send out the certificates, the show supply order form, and the show report form. Susan Boyce will receive the supply order forms and checks, and ship out the orders. Karen and Ray Jones will receive the show reports, verify the results, mail out the medals and exhibition certificates, and prepare the annual exhibitions show report. President Epperson will direct Jayme Adams to ship all of the inventory, show reports, and all other miscellaneous exhibitions supplies and paperwork to Susan Boyce for her to sort out and forward to the other exhibitions committee members and AIS secretary. Due to the unknown quantity of leftover ribbons and other exhibition supplies, President Epperson request of the board to order a full supply for the upcoming year.

*Gossett moved and Jones seconded:

That the AIS President be authorized to order, if necessary, all exhibition supplies needed to replace the stock of the Exhibitions Committee. **Motion carried.
President Epperson will mail a letter to all affiliates informing all of the new changes.

Foundation Liaison - Chair Gary White reported on the low rate of interest being earned on CDs, and also the low number of donations being received. A study of the impact of various insecticides and pesticides when sprayed on irises will begin in 2010.

Immediate Past President - Chair Jeanne Clay Plank reported on the additional job descriptions being added into the the operations manual.

The meeting recessed for a break at 3:27 pm and was called back at 3:40 pm.

Insurance - Chair Michelle Snyder reported that all the insurance policies are in full effect.

Iris Program Resources (Speakers) - Chair Dana Brown was not present and did not send in a report.

Iris Program Resources (Slides & Digital) - Chair Janet Smith reported on the activity of the slide and digital rental programs.

Judges - Chair Judy Keisling reported that there are 572 fully accredited judges and 62 apprentice judges recommended for appointment for 2010.

*Keisling moved and Snyder seconded:

That the roster of judges for appointment or reappointment for 2010 be approved. **Motion carried.

Judges Handbook Revision Committee- no report.

Library - Chair Tracy Plotner was not present, and did not send in a report.

Photo Contest - Chair Kitty Loberg was not present but her report noted the long time difference between when the judging is finished and when the winners are announced and posted.

*Gormley moved and Morris seconded:

That placement of the AIS photo contest winning photos and honorable mention photos be allowed on websites as soon as the winners and honorable mentions are announced. **Motion carried.

Policy - Chair Jeanne Clay Plank had nothing additional to report.

Publications - Chair Maureen Mark reported that George Edmonds is ready to ship another box of the book, *The Dream Gardener*. Ludi reports an adequate supply of the book already in the storefront, and that sales of the book have been non-existent for awhile.

*Jones moved and Plank seconded:

That the board not order a third box of *The Dream Gardener*. **Motion carried.

Mark reported on the ongoing books in progress. Mark also tendered her resignation as Publications Chair, but noted that she will still continue to work for this committee. President Epperson noted that Jody Nolin will be the new Publications Chair.

RVP Counselor - Chair Rita Gormley reported that a RVP newsletter will be mailed in December. Gormley stated a need to review and revise the RVP Handbook. President Epperson appointed R Gormley (RVP Counselor) as the chair, T Gormley (AIS Membership Secretary), Judy Keisling (JT Chair), Paul Gossett (Convention Liaison), Brad Kasperek (Affiliations Chair), Jody Nolin (Affiliates Liaison), Jeanne Clay Plank (Policy), and Debbie Strauss (RVP Representative) to review and revise the RVP Handbook.

*Williams moved and Deaton seconded:

The appointment of a Chair and committee members for a revised RVP Handbook committee. **Motion carried.

Gormley presented the to be approved list, of RVPs for 2010 for approval.

*Gormley moved and Williams seconded:

Approval of new RVPs per RVP Counselor's list. **Motion carried.

First Year RVPs:

Region 6: Chuck Bunnell
Region 8: John Baker
Region 9: Margaret Kelly
Region 11: Alverta Symes
Region 12: Lynn Hess
Region 14: Jeanne Clay Plank
Region 18: Judy Eckhoff
Region 22: Hugh Stout

Second Year RVPs:

Region 4: Carrie Winter
Region 13: Alan Brooks
Region 15: Cheryl Deaton
Region 20: Betty Roberts

Third Year RVPs:

Region 1: Michael J Zuraw
Region 2: Vaughn Sayles
Region 3: Hal Griffie
Region 5: Earnest Yearwood
Region 7: Darnell Hester
Region 10: Ron Betzer
Region 16: Kate Brewitt
Region 17: Debbie Strauss
Region 19: Gary Slagle
Region 21: LeRoy Meininger
Region 23: James Reilly
Region 24: Jim Chappell

RVP Representative - Debbie Strauss reported that she is working closely with the past RVP Representative, RVP Counselor and the email group for RVPs to address communications from the AIS to the RVPs.

Scientific Advisory Committee - Chair Gary White reported on the two ongoing studies. Dr. Alan Meerow was paid the last installment and also requested a one year, no cost extension, which was granted. White noted no report or response on the study status has been received. White stated his relinquishment of the Chair position of the Scientific Advisory Committee. President Epperson announced that he will appoint Kelly Norris to be White's replacement.

Section Liaison - Chair Jim Morris requested his Chair title be renamed to Section and Cooperating Society Liaison.

Silent Auction - Chairs Barbara and John Sautner were not present, but their report stated that the final result of the 2009 Silent Auction netted \$4,025. The report also noted that solicitations for the 2010 Silent Auction will be done via the Jan 2010 AIS Bulletin, letters, and emails.

Symposium - Chair Gerry Snyder reported on the results of the 2009 AIS Symposium. A discussion followed on whether to keep the symposium in the bulletin or post it on the AIS Website or both.

*Williams moved and Snyder seconded:

That we continue printing the TB Iris Symposium ballot in the July bulletin. **Motion failed by a vote of 11-3.

After more discussion the value of the symposium was questioned.

*Nolin moved and Bonino seconded:

That we make the TB iris symposium ballot available on the AIS Website for voting. **Motion carried.

After further discussion, it was decided that a clarification was needed for this last motion (#27).

*Bonino moved and Jones seconded:

That we rescind Motion #27 (That we make the TB iris symposium ballot available on the AIS Website for voting.) **Motion carried.

After further discussion, it was decided that all persons, not just AIS members can vote the symposium.

*Jones moved and Williams seconded:

**That we make the TB iris symposium ballot available on the AIS Website for downloading and printing.

Motion carried.

Tax Exemption Advisor - Chair Bob Plank had no report.

Youth - Cheryl Deaton reported that like the general AIS membership, the AIS Youth memberships are also declining. Deaton also noted that the new youth packets are going out on a timely basis.

The meeting recessed for dinner at 5:20 pm and called back to order at 6:45 pm.

Public Relations - Chair Bob Pries reported on a way for AIS to raise some funds. Brent and Becky's Bulbs has a fundraiser that will donate 25% of their earnings of an order, when it is placed. A box will pop up and will direct you to choose which of the non-profits you want to support, and you will indicate which non-profit to support. After a discussion,

*Gormley moved and White seconded:

That AIS register with Brent and Becky's Bulbs Bloomin' Bucks fund raising project. **Motion carried.

Pries stated that he wants to start negotiations with the Royal Dutch Bulb Growers to allow us to include the Bulbous Iris registrations in the AIS checklist. The board gave its consensus for him to do so.

Pries stated a need to have quarterly board meetings to facilitate faster motion passages. After a very lengthy discussion,

*Pries moved and Bonino seconded:

That starting January 2010 we have electronic meetings quarterly via internet meeting facilities if we do not have a face to face meeting in that quarter. **Motion failed by a vote of 9-6.

Another lengthy discussion was held on the length of time needed to discuss and vote on motions via email.

*White moved and Morris seconded:

That we make the Standing Rule relative to electronic discussion period of a motion on AISDiscuss be 7 days, and the voting period on AISVote be a maximum of 5 days or until a majority is obtained, whichever is shorter. **Motion carried.

Another very lengthy discussion was held on various ideas for Public Relations, but no other motions were voted on.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Upon receiving no additional nominations from the floor, nominations were closed and the following slate of officers was elected by acclamation:

President - Dr. E. Roy Epperson

1st VP - Judy Keisling

2nd VP - Jill Bonino

Secretary - Michelle Snyder

Treasurer - Jill Bonino

APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS:

President Epperson requested the appointment of the following officers:

Registrar/Recorder - Mike and Anne Lowe

Membership Secretary - Tom Gormley

Recording Secretary - Susan Boyce

Publications/Sales Directors - John and Kay Ludi

*Deaton moved and Morris seconded.

Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

President Epperson requested approval for the following Standing Committee appointments:

Affiliates Liaison - Jody Nolin

Affiliations - Brad Kasperek

Awards - Ruth Barker

Calendars - Terry Aitken

Convention Liaison - Paul Gossett

Donations Secretary - Lynn Williams

Electronic Services - John Jones

Exhibitions - Lois Rose, Susan Boyce, Karen & Ray Jones

Foundation Liaison - Gary White

Honorary Awards - Jeanne Clay Plank

Insurance - Michelle Snyder

Iris Program Resources (Speakers) - Dana Brown

Iris Program Resources (Slides & Digital) - Janet Smith

Judges - Judy Keisling

Judges Handbook Revision Committee - vacant

Librarian - Tracy Plotner

Photo Contest - Kitty Loberg

Policy & Operations Manual - Jeanne Clay Plank

Public Relations & Marketing - Bob Pries

Publications - Jody Nolin

RVP Counselor - Rita Gormley

Scientific Advisory Group - Kelly Norris

Section and Cooperating Society Liaison - Jim Morris

Silent Auction - Barbara and John Sautner

Symposium - Gerry Snyder

Tax Exemption Advisor - Bob Plank

Youth - Cheryl Deaton

*Plank moved and Deaton seconded:

That we approve the list of committee chairs for 2010. **Motion carried.

The meeting recessed for a break at 8:15 pm and was called back at 8:23 pm.

Budget for 2009-2010

Treasurer Bonino opened a line-by-line discussion of the Proposed Budget for the fiscal year 2009-2010, with changes that had been added and subtracted as they came up for discussion throughout the meeting. During the discussion the fees for iris registration was discussed.

*Williams moved and Jones seconded:

That we raise the registration fee to \$15.00 effective June 30, 2010. **Motion carried carried with a vote of 12-2.

A balanced budget budget could not be reached.

*Keisling moved and Plank seconded:

That we adopt the revised proposed deficit (\$14,824) budget leaving an unrestricted operating reserves of \$78,502. **Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Spring 2010 meeting and convention will be held in Madison, Wisconsin, May 31-June 5, 2010 at the Marriott Madison West Hotel, 1313 John Q Hammons Dr., Middleton, Wisconsin 53562. 1-608-831-2000 or toll free 1-866-745-2032. The convention chair is John Baker. His email is johnwbaker1@verizon.net.

President Epperson expressed his sincere appreciation to Paul Gossett and members of the Tulsa Iris Society for providing the excellent meeting arrangements and food.

ADJOURNED:

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 pm.

ADDENDUM:

A Strategic Planning Meeting was held on Sunday, November 8th. During the discussion an idea was formulated. President Epperson noted that a quorum was present and by his authority he is entitled to call to order a business meeting. At 10:38 am President Epperson called to order a short business meeting. A motion was presented:

*Williams moved and Morris seconded:

**That we have a fundraiser raffle for registration and lodging at the convention hotel for two people for

the 2011 convention for five nights during the convention. **Motion carried.**
President Epperson declared the business meeting adjourned at 10:54 am.

Respectfully Submitted
Susan Boyce