

Affiliate Liaison Report  
Fall 2010 Board Meeting

It has been a year since the Board created this position. At that time, I stated three goals for 2010:

- A discussion group
- A survey
- A toolkit.

Progress:

- The discussion group is up and running.
- A survey has been done and reported at the spring board meeting
- The toolkit is still conceptual. However, I've started a forum to see if we can generate some participation that way. Several people have posted ideas, the traffic is still low. The forum is free. And it's a closed forum, so we can control the spam potential. Yes, there are ads running down the side. If traffic picks up this winter, as I hope, we might be able to gather the tools for the kit.

Keeping abreast of changes to affiliates presidents has posed a challenge. I will be working on improving that with the help of the Affiliation Chair.

There is some confusion among the affiliates about the responsibility of this position. I've been asked to arbitrate disagreements between clubs and regions and between club boards and members. All of which I've declined.

Issues brought up by Affiliates:

By far the hottest topic has been the Symposium. I've excerpted some comments here for the Board. Lack of information, conflicting information, short deadlines and general do-they-know-what-they're-doing were the issues.

We might want to place a short article in Irises about actions we will take next year to address the problems.

The other issues ranged widely but could be summed up by fiscal responsibility. Many of the recent changes are being questioned for fiscal impact. Lots of talk of member and club belt-tightening not being reflected in Board actions. Perhaps a short article on cost-saving measure would be in order.

On the positive side, there were no complaints about last year's hot topic, the show process. Well done, Susan, Lois, Karen and Ray!

Questions to Affiliates.

In answer to questions brought up at the Spring meeting, I asked the Affiliates how active their Regional organization was in running spring tours. I got so little response that I don't think it is representative enough to present.

Also, I want to thank Jim Morris and Cheryl Deaton for their participation in the discussion group. As both Affiliate Presidents and Board members, they have brought valuable information to the discussion. Thank you both.

Lastly, I would like to ask the Board's help to set goals for 2011. What would you like to see done?

Respectfully submitted,  
Jody Nolin

A few symposium comments:

My July 2010 Bulletin arrived a few days ago. I looked through that issue as well as the January 2010 and April 2010 issues. I did not find any information about the Symposium. If AIS does not consider it important to publish information about the Symposium, why should I be expected (at the last minute) to drop what I am doing to do the job of the AIS.

Until AIS can get its information correct, I will not waste my time doing their job.  
This doesn't give us much time and it is very confusing, and what about the members who don't have e-mail?  
This is just one of the reasons why AIS is going down.

The sad truth is that in some Regions not many members vote, so the responsibility is up to each of us to see that not only do our affiliate members have the Symposium in hand, but that they be encouraged to vote. I hope to do that by making the Symposium list a part of our Newsletter, so that everyone has the chance to participate. This is one way to help us, AIS, be healthy.

All this action is supposed to be done in 3 weeks. A lot of our AIS members don't have the computer to download the Symposium list. Club Presidents may be available or not to drop everything what they are doing to accommodate The AIS request.

The Symposium list is composed by AIS votes of AIS Judges, but the general vote of AIS members may be completely different. We have no right to take this vote from them.

Don't ask us to get the word out in the last two or three weeks. We all have our jobs that we are doing and we are volunteers as well.