

RVP Rep Report
2010 Spring AIS Board Meeting, Madison WI
Debbie Strauss, AIS RVP Representative, Region 17 RVP

In accordance with the RVP Representative Job Description at the bottom of this report, I attended the RVP Counselors Meeting as well as all sessions of the AIS Board Meeting at the 2009 Spring Kansas City AIS Convention and the Fall AIS Board Meeting on November 6-8, 2009 at the Radisson Inn Airport Hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

I have been working with the RVP Counselor and a committee appointed at the Fall AIS Board meeting to update the RVP handbook. We have circulated several drafts, and are working towards a finished update.

I am working with the RVP Counselor and the e-mail group for RVPs to address communications from AIS to RVPs as well as soliciting feedback from affiliates through the RVPs. Since I am an affiliate president I am on the email group for the affiliates. I prepared a survey for the RVPs and to my surprise I discovered that they did not know there was an email group that AIS formed to improve communication with the affiliates. Our question is why are the RVPs not on that email group also? If they are also affiliate presidents they think the email group can be helpful. But if they are not presidents they have heard nothing from their region's affiliates about it. There was an overall feeling of frustration with not being included or not realizing it existed.

From my correspondence with the RVPs here are a few other suggestions that were expressed.

1. The overall consensus was that the new exhibitions committee chair format is working very efficiently.
2. The new bulletin format has been greeted with mostly positive reactions.
3. Everyone has heard and is excited about the new iris Wiki and several are contributing or would like to do so in the future.
4. There is a definite interest in the e-membership idea.
5. Many of the RVPs completed the survey about the electronic services and hope to have some impact through it.
6. Once again the RVPs suggest moving the RVP events later in the week for those regions that do not have a budget to pay expenses of the RVP to spend the whole week.
7. I have had several calls about the need for a set of guidelines or a code of conduct and possible consequences for judges. Besides communicating with RVPs, I fielded calls from local clubs wanting to know what they could do about judges that were unfair, rude, biased or too domineering.

I have truly enjoyed my time on The American Iris Society board representing the RVPs. I can see that being a part of this board requires a tremendous amount of time and thought. Thank you for allowing me to be a small part for a short time. I hope I have been a help in some small way, and hope to continue helping where I can.

RVP REPRESENTATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. To act as representative and spokesperson on the AIS Board of Directors for one year on behalf of the RVP Board of Counselors which is made up of the 24 AIS Regional Vice Presidents holding office during that one year period of the RVP Reps term. The term for an RVP Representative begins following the annual spring meeting and ends the next year following the annual spring meeting.
2. To attend the two meetings of the AIS Board of Directors which take place during his/her year of tenure and exercise his/her vote on all propositions before that body as an elected director of the AIS Board
3. To communicate during his/her time in office with the 23 other RVPs throughout the AIS in an effort to receive and reflect their input on issues under consideration by the AIS Board.
4. To gather and convey issues occurring at the regional level, that may be affecting the Society as a whole, to the National Board of Directors for consideration or clarification by that body.