

**AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
COLUMBUS, OHIO
NOVEMBER 2-3, 2012**

FULL MINUTES

President Judy Keisling called the Fall Meeting of The American Iris Society Board of Directors to order at 7:08 PM on Friday, November 2, 2012, and announced a quorum was present. President Keisling asked Board Members, Committee Chairs, RVPs, and guests to introduce themselves.

Present during the various sessions were: **Officers:** President, Judy Keisling; 1st Vice President, Jim Morris; 2nd Vice President, Gary White; Treasurer, Jill Bonino; Treasurer-elect, Dwayne Booth; and Secretary, Michelle Snyder. **Administrative Officers:** Registrar/Recorder, John Jones; Membership Secretary, Tom Gormley, Recording Secretary/Policy, Susan Boyce, and Publication/Sales, John Ludi. **Directors:** Susan Boyce, Dana Brown, Ron Cosner, Cheryl Deaton, Paul Gossett, Harold Griffie, Susan Grigg, Ron Killingsworth, John Ludi, Bob Pries, Andi Rivarola, and Debbie Strauss. **RVP Representative:** Gordon Carver. **Committee Chairs:** Veronica Johnson, Jody Nolin, and Gerry Snyder. **RVPs:** Carol Jo Shonka (8). **Guests:** Glenn Grigg (4), Ann Booth (13), and Jean Morris (18).

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

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS:

Michelle Snyder announced that she has received no additional nominations; therefore the published candidates for the AIS Board of Directors are duly elected by acclamation. They are Ron Cosner (21), Paul Gossett (22), Ron Killingsworth (10), and Bob Pries (4).

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

Ontario, California - April 16-17, 2012.

No additions or corrections were made to the full minutes as posted on the AIS Website.

*Deaton moved and Gossett seconded:

That we approve the minutes. **Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

President - Judy Keisling thanked the four outgoing AIS directors, Ruth Barker, Jody Nolin, John Jones, and Lynn Williams for their service to the AIS for the last three years.

1. President Keisling reported that after our meeting in Ontario, CA, the Society for Louisiana Irises met and their membership voted to approve a change from being an AIS Cooperating Society to become an AIS Section.

*Morris moved and Bonino seconded:

That we accept SLI as an AIS Section. **Motion carried.

2. President Keisling asked for the appointment of John Jones as Motion Secretary.

*Snyder moved and Brown seconded:

That John Jones be appointed as Motion Secretary. **Motion carried.

3. Bob Plank has resigned as our Legal Advisor and President Elect Jim Morris has found an attorney, Veronica Johnson to be our new Legal Advisor.

*Snyder moved and Deaton seconded:

That we appoint Veronica Johnson as the AIS Legal Advisor. **Motion carried.

4. President Keisling noted that an overseas Awards ballot, postmarked before the deadline date, was received after the winners were announced. This ballot resulted in a change of winners in the Siberian HM's. There was also an oversite in the number of Aril HM's awarded. These will be discussed later in the meeting.

5. President Keisling, as outgoing AIS President, thanked everyone for their service to the AIS during her tenure. She also thanked outgoing Treasurer Jill Bonino for her service to the AIS.

In accordance with standard practice, Keisling asked for affirmation of interim Board actions taken by email vote since the April 2012 Board Meeting.

*Bonino moved and Rivarola seconded:

That we elect Jim Morris as President Elect effective immediately. **Motion carried.

*Jones moved and Brown seconded:

That the Electronic Services chair be authorized to spend up to \$1,500.00 to purchase a new laptop system and software as the property of the AIS for the use by the Electronic Services Chair. Said Funds to be allocated from the Electronic Services Restricted fund. **Motion carried.

*Boyce Moved and Barker seconded:

That the AIS direct Paul Gossett to sign a contract with the Hilton Airport Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah for the 2014 Fall AIS Board meeting. **Motion carried.

*Bonino moved and Boyce seconded:

That the AIS appoint Dwayne Booth, Region 13, RVP, as Treasurer Elect and until a successor Treasurer is elected at the Fall 2012 AIS Board Meeting effective immediately This will authorize his name to be put on bank and investment accounts currently open. It will allow him access to AIS accounts to learn about the operations but not authorize him to complete any transactions or transfers. And it will authorize Jill Bonino, current AIS Treasurer, to share all financial information with him during training sessions prior to the 2012 AIS Board meeting. **Motion carried.

*Boyce moved Deaton seconded:

That the motions made and passed electronically be confirmed. **Motion carried.

1st Vice President - Jim Morris introduced Dwayne Booth as the new AIS Treasurer Elect.

2nd Vice President - Gary White deferred his report until later.

Secretary - Michelle Snyder noted that she needs the information about RVP and Board member changes so she can update AIS Discuss.

Editor - Kelly Norris was not present but his report indicated that he would like board approval to enter one of the 2012 issues of IRISES Bulletin in the Garden Writers Association Awards contest. There is a \$125 entry fee.

*Deaton moved and White seconded:

That we approve reimbursement for Kelly Norris \$125 for submittal to writers contest. **Motion carried.
A board member stated that several AIS members are upset at the lateness of receiving the IRISES Bulletin. It was noted that this bulletin is going to be late as there was a lack of articles sent to the editor on time. It was recommended that Kelly put a notice on AIS Discuss at least two weeks prior to the deadline, so people will have time to get articles to Kelly by the deadline date. Morris also noted that several bulletins that have been received by AIS members have come mutilated and damaged in the mail. A long discussion was held about the cost of sending the Bulletins in poly bags or envelopes.

*Pries moved and Gossett seconded:

That we include a larger statement in the Bulletin that damaged or undelivered Bulletins may be replaced by contacting the AIS Membership Secretary. **Motion carried.

Treasurer - Jill Bonino reported on the cost effectiveness of AIS Life memberships and noted that the AIS loses money on these memberships. The possibility of discontinuing the AIS Life memberships was discussed and it was noted the by-laws would have to be changed. To accomplish this, the cost of the change and the time table to do this was discussed. At this time it was decided to dramatically raise the cost of purchasing an AIS Life membership to discourage people from purchasing a Life membership until the by-laws could be changed.

*Killingsworth moved and Boyce seconded:

That we raise the Single Life Membership rate to \$1,000.00 and the Dual Life Membership rate to \$1,500.00, effective November 2, 2012. **Motion carried.

President Keisling recommended that President Elect Jim Morris create an ad hoc committee to study discontinuing the life memberships.

Bonino noted that the costs of Ememberships will be discussed later.

The meeting recessed for an Executive session and a break at 8:57 pm. The meeting reconvened at 9:23 pm.

Bonino discussed a draft record retention policy.

*Pries moved and White seconded:

That we accept the Draft Record Retention Policy as written dated November 2, 2012. **Motion carried.

Advertising Editor - Bob Keup was not present, but his report suggested that the rates should be raised. The new Advertising Editor will be studying this further and will report back at the Spring Board meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORTS:

Membership Secretary - Tom Gormley reported a slight loss of 3 percent membership for this last year. He also noted that 92% of new Ememberships have been for the purpose of subscribing to the AIS Register and do not want or care about the pdf of the Bulletin.

Registrar/Recorder - John Jones reported that things are running more smoothly since he and his wife took over as the Registrars.

Recording Secretary - Susan Boyce had no report.

Publication/Sales - John Ludi reported a great year for sales in the Storefront. Most of this has been because

of the sales of the 2009, 10 year checklist. Ludi noted that the inventory of the Basic Iris Culture is running low.

*Rivarola moved and Deaton seconded:

That we purchase 5,000 copies of the Basic Iris Culture for \$3,936.76 plus freight. **Motion carried.

Ludi noted that there are only ten of the 75th Anniversary Silver medals. A discussion was held about saving these for later sales for the 100th AIS anniversary.

*Pries moved and Rivarola seconded:

That we remove from Storefront sales, the ten 75th Anniversary silver medals until the 100th anniversary and auction them off at that time. **Motion carried.

Unfinished Business - none.

Ad hoc committee - Commercial Fundraising

Chair Jody Nolin reported that the Commercial Fundraising discussions are still ongoing.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Affiliations - Chair Susan Boyce reported that the affiliation process is currently underway and she has started to receive some of the affiliation reports.

Affiliations Liaison - Jody Nolin reported that she has fielded a few phone calls from the affiliate presidents, but there has not been much happening with this group.

Convention Liaison - Paul Gossett reported that the hotel contract for the Fall 2014 board meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah has been signed. Gossett stated that he has expanded his committee to assist him. He also reported that Dallas is ready for the 2013 convention and the convention information is now listed on the AIS Website.

Donations - Chair Lynn Williams was not present. It was noted that the AIS Foundation is now in charge of donations. Gary White is the contact person and he reported on the donations that have been received and then forwarded on to the AIS. He also noted the money raised so far for the AIS' 100th anniversary fund.

Exhibitions - Susan Boyce, the Exhibitions Supply Clerk reported on the slight price increases in some of the supplies.

*Boyce moved and Deaton seconded:

That we raise the price of the ribbons from \$10.00 to \$11.00 per bundle of 25. **Motion carried.

*Boyce moved and Brown seconded:

That we raise the price of the small rosettes from \$5.00 to \$6.00 each. **Motion carried.

Boyce also noted that since the shipping and handling fee was started three years ago, the United States Postal Service has raised the rates two times and in January the rates will be going up again, and this time the rate increase for packages will be much more substantial than in past years.

*Boyce moved and Brown seconded:

That we raise the Shipping and Handling fee for Exhibition supplies from \$10.00 to \$12.00 effective 1 Jan 2013. **Motion carried.

It was also noted that the medals cost the AIS \$30 for each show and the cost keeps going up.

Insurance - Chair Michelle Snyder reported that everything is running smoothly.

Iris Programs Resources (Speakers) - Chair Dana Brown reported that she usually receives only 3 or 4 requests per year for information on people for speakers and/or judges training.

Judges - Chair Judy Keisling presented the list of judges for approval for 2013.

*Brown moved and Bonino seconded:

That we approve the judges on the recommendation list for 2013. **Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned for the evening at 11:12 pm.

Saturday November 3, 2012 - the meeting was called back to order at 8:06 am.

Judges Handbook Revision Committee - Chair Jim Morris noted the members on this committee and asked that any recommended changes be sent to the new committee chair Harold Griffie.

Library - Dave Silverberg was not present but his report discussed the relocation of the library.

Foundation Liaison - Chair Gary White reported on the AIS Library move which the foundation is funding. The current location may or may not be relocated at the end of the two year lease. White noted that the joint AIS/AIS

Foundation working group that was formed in the Spring of 2011 has never held a meeting and it was recommended that the committee be reformulated as a few outgoing board and committee members will no longer be on this committee.

Awards - Chair Gerry Snyder reported on the late, but correctly postmarked ballot that came from an overseas judge. This resulted in a change in the Siberian HM winners after the initial winners list had been announced.

*Michelle Snyder moved and Bonino seconded:

That we approve the AIS 2012 Awards Revision B reinstating DIRIGO INDIGO and JANE M. SADLER to the Siberian HM winners list. **Motion carried.

It was also noted that only one HM was awarded in 2012 for Arilbreds. The Handbook of Judges listed that only one HM would be awarded. Prior to the Board meeting a research of past minutes found that at the November 1992 meeting, a motion was passed: That a minimum of two HM awards should be awarded to each category of irises. This motion, passed in Nov. 1992 has not been changed since then.

*Deaton moved and Carver seconded:

That because of an error in the Handbook of Judges, any Arilbred iris that would be dropping off the HM Awards list in 2013 be included on that list for the 2013 Awards. **Motion carried.

*Brown moved and Deaton seconded:

That because of an error in the Handbook of Judges, the number of HM allowed votes and awards for Arilbred irises be increased by one for the 2013 Awards ballot. **Motion carried.

In further discussion about receiving ballots after the deadline:

*Pries moved and Boyce seconded:

That if a timely postmarked Awards ballot is received more than ten days after the postmark deadline date the votes will not be counted, however the judge will be credited with voting for that year. **Motion carried.

Tax Exemption Advisor - With the resignation of Bob Plank this position has been vacant for the past few months. Bonino reported that the IRS is checking more tax exempt organizations about procedure and policies, that help to prevent fraud and mismanagement. One of the points is that we need to have a conflict of interest statement. This will be worked on in the upcoming months. Another item that we need to have is a Non-Discrimination Policy, which has been drafted. This draft is now being presented to the Board for approval.

*Morris moved and Deaton seconded:

AIS Non-Discrimination Policy. - The American Iris Society (AIS) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, sex, gender identity, age, marital status, national origin, mental or physical disability, political belief, affiliation, veteran status, sexual orientation, or any other class of individuals in any aspect of the access to its programs, membership, or treatment of individuals in its programs and activities, or in employment. **Motion carried.

Calendars - Chair Terry Aitken was not present and did not send in a report. Morris announced that Janet Smith will take over this responsibility. The 2014 calendar is currently being worked on and should be ready for sale in time for the 2013 AIS convention. Ludi reported that the calendar size will change slightly. A lengthy discussion followed about how many copies of the 2014 calendar should be ordered and what price should be charged for it.

*Bonino moved and Brown seconded:

That we order 2000 copies of the 2014 calendar and that we sell individual copies for \$5.00 plus shipping and ten calendars for \$40.00 plus shipping. **Motion carried.

It was discussed that we further offer a bigger discount for calendars ordered in larger sized quantities.

*Carver moved and Brown seconded:

That we sell 100-199 copies of the 2014 calendar for \$3.50 each plus shipping and 200 or more copies for \$3.00 each plus shipping. **Motion carried.

The meeting recessed for a break at 10:00 am and reconvened at 10:18 am.

Electronic Services - Chair John Jones questioned if the Board wanted the AIS Bulletin archives sent to other libraries and what terms of disclosures do they need to agree to. President Keisling referred to the wording in the terms of the grant from the AIS Foundation and as the library requests come in, each request will be evaluated. It was suggested that an ad hoc committee be formed. This committee will be called the Intellectual Property Policy Committee.

Jones reviewed the costs associated with operating the Electronic Services programs.

Jones also reported on the slowness problem with the wiki that is affecting the performance of the AIS Website. It was stated that the wiki needs to be put on a new software program that will cost approximately \$2,400 a year. Further research is needed to start this process.

Iris Programs Resources (Slides & Digital) - Chair Janet Smith was not present, but her report requested a price increase in the e-program (powerpoint) programs.

*Snyder moved and White seconded:

**That we increase the "e-program" (powerpoint) price from \$8 to \$10 per program that is emailed.

Motion tabled.

Image Coordinator - Chair Janet Smith was not present, but John Jones reported on a concern of requiring photos with the registration. It was noted that at this time we only request but do not require photos. If a photo is sent, the photo should be sent to Janet Smith after the iris is introduced.

Photo Contest - Chair Janet Smith was not present, but her report stated that overseas winners will not receive iris rhizomes in the future, but will be given memberships or extended memberships.

Policy - Chair Susan Boyce reported that she has received several phone calls and has researched the information for all. It was noted that there is a book and a compendium of board meeting minutes somewhere out there. Boyce stated that she would like to have a copy of whatever is available.

Publications - Chair Jody Nolin had no report. Morris noted that this job will now be combined with the Public Relations committee.

RVP Representative - Gordon Carver reported on a second time request from the RVP from Region 3 on having the Assistant RVP title changed to Deputy RVP. This request was again denied on the basis that the bylaws in every region and affiliate would have to be changed and the process would create a lot of work and confusion. Dwayne Booth, RVP Region 13, reported on a request from a hybridizer in his Region about having the symposium made available earlier in the year for voting and also the results being announced earlier. It was noted that the Symposium chair does not always receive the results from the Regions in a timely manner, thus delaying the announcement of the results.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:00 noon and reconvened at 1:00 pm for an Executive Session. The regular meeting reconvened at 1:33 pm and the Emeritus Judges were announced.

President Keisling announced the results of the voting for Emeritus Judges.

New Emeritus Judges are Gordon Green (17), John Ludi (13), and Bob Pries (4).

RVP Counselor - Chair Cheryl Deaton reported on the complaints that she and others have received about the Ememberships receiving more services versus the regular memberships. There was a very long discussion about this.

Deaton presented the 2013 RVP list for approval.

*Boyce moved and White seconded:

That we approve the list of RVPs for 2013. **Motion carried.

First Year RVPs:

Region 6: James Copeland
Region 8: Carol Jo Shonka
Region 9: David Kelly
Region 11: Angelique Violette
Region 12: Helen West
Region 14: John Pesek
Region 18: Ginni Hill
Region 22: James Bledsoe
Region 24: Donnie Douthit

Second Year RVPs:

Region 4: Don Rude
Region 13: Dwayne Booth
Region 15: Winona Stevenson
Region 20: Lowell Baumunk

Third Year RVPs:

Region 1: Norine Veal
Region 2: Donna Lowry
Region 3: George Boyce
Region 5: Wayne Smith
Region 7: Sue Ann Barnes
Region 10: Ron Killingsworth

Region 17: Gordon Carver
Region 21: Ron Cosner
Region 23: Frances Day

Youth - Chair Cheryl Deaton reported that Carol Warner of the AIS Foundation, is now in charge of the Ackerman Essay contest. Deaton noted that she is already receiving entries for the annual youth coloring contest.

Section and Cooperating Society Liaison - Chair Jim Morris reported that Gary White will now be assuming this position. Morris thanked everyone who has helped him keep this column current.

Silent Auction - Co-chair Debra Strauss reported on several glitches that were encountered at the 2012 convention. Strauss also stated that she wants more hybridizer donations for the 2013 convention silent auction.

Scientific Advisory Committee - Chair Kelly Norris was not present and did not send in a report.

The meeting recessed for a break at 2:58 pm and reconvened back at 3:22 pm.

Public Relations - Co-chair Susan Grigg stated that the Voucher program is ready to start. The Social Media chair, Andi Rivarola reported on the number of people that have been visiting the AIS Blog. Pries explained how to find information on the AIS Wiki. Pries praised Betsy Higgins for the huge amount of work she has done for the wiki. He also noted that when the work is done, Betsy will be double checking the wiki to make sure that each and every iris is listed.

*Pries moved and Morris seconded:

That we provide Betsy Higgins a complete set of Check Lists and latest R&Is. **Motion carried.

Pries stated that he wants to promote the AIS Awards in a new way. A lengthy discussion was held on whether the Dykes medal winner or the #1 iris of the Symposium ballot should be considered as the "Iris of the Year".

*Pries moved and Killingsworth seconded:

That we announce the Dykes Medal winner as "Iris of the Year" for the following year for marketing purposes. **Motion carried.

Pries stated that he wanted to send AIS "Breaking News" out to AIS Emembers via email sooner than what appears in the IRISES Bulletin. After another lengthy discussion.

*Pries moved and Gossett seconded:

That the AIS authorize News and Notes through Constant Contact for one year at a cost of \$336 per year. **Motion carried.

Pries also wanted the AIS to try another new membership drive to obtain new AIS members.

*Pries moved and Gossett seconded:

That the Public Relations and Marketing Committee begin making a plan for a membership drive to be presented at the Spring 2013 meeting. **Motion carried.

The meeting recessed for Executive Session and then a dinner break at 4:45 pm and reconvened back at 7:01 pm.

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

The Distinguished Service Medal was awarded to Jill Bonino (15) and Judy Keisling (18).

The Gold Medal was awarded to Jean Witt (13).

the Bee Warburton Medal was awarded to Akira Horinoka of Japan.

No Hybridizers Medals were awarded this year.

Other Business - John Jones reported on the possibility of video conferencing. During the discussion many possible problems were discussed and more research will need to be done.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

*Snyder moved and Boyce seconded:

Jim Morris be elected as President of The American Iris Society. **Motion carried.

Nominations were opened from the floor, nominations were closed and the following slate of officers were elected by acclamation.

1st VP - Gary White

2nd VP - Jody Nolin

Secretary - Michelle Snyder

Treasurer - Dwayne Booth

Editor - Kelly Norris

President Morris accepted the gavel from outgoing President Keisling.

Since the AIS now has a new president and a new treasurer, a new standard banking resolution to add the new signatures needs to be approved.

*Boyce moved and Ludi seconded:

That we approve a standard banking resolution to add signatures of the incoming AIS President and incoming Treasurer to the bank accounts effective Nov. 3, 2012. **Motion carried.

President Morris requested approval for the following appointments:

APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS:

Registrar/Recorder - John Jones and Joanne Prass Jones
Membership Secretary - Tom Gormley
Recording Secretary & Policy - Susan Boyce
Publication/Sales - John and Kay Ludi

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Advertising Editor - Ron Killingsworth
Affiliates Liaison - Jody Nolin
Affiliations - Susan Boyce
Awards - Gerry Snyder
Calendars - Janet Smith
Convention Liaison - Paul Gossett
Electronic Services - John Jones
Exhibitions - Lois Rose, Susan Boyce, Karen & Ray Jones
Foundation Liaison - Gary White
Honorary Awards - Judy Keisling
Insurance - Michelle Snyder
Iris Program Resources (Slides & Digital) - Janet Smith
Iris Program Resources (Speakers) - Gordon Carver
Judges - Judy Keisling
Judges Handbook Revision Committee - Harold Griffie
Legal Advisor - Veronica Johnson
Librarian - Dave Silverberg
Operations Manual - open
Photo Contest - Janet Smith
Public Relations & Marketing - Susan Grigg and Bob Pries
RVP Counselor - Cheryl Deaton
RVP Representative - Gordon Carver
Scientific Advisory Committee - Kelly Norris
Section and Cooperating Society Liaison - Gary White
Silent Auction - Debra Strauss and Nick Stewart
Symposium - Riley Probst
Youth - Cheryl Deaton

*Deaton moved and Snyder seconded:

**That we approve the nominations of the Administrative Officers and Standing committee chairs.

Motion carried.

Unfinished Business - President Morris announced the members for the following committees:

Ad hoc Commercial Fund Raising Committee- Jody Nolin (this committee is currently working on this project).

Ad hoc Library Committee - Ron Cosner (chair), Jill Bonino, Dave Silverberg, and Gary White will work with members of the AIS Foundation on this committee.

Ad hoc Intellectual Property Committee - Bob Pries (chair) with John Jones.

*Snyder moved and Deaton seconded:

That we approve the Intellectual Property, Commercial Fundraising, and Library ad hoc committees as listed. **Motion carried.

The meeting recessed for a break at 7:51 pm and reconvened at 8:03 pm.

Budget for 2012-2013

Past Treasurer Bonino and newly elected Treasurer Dwayne Booth opened a line-by-line discussion of the Proposed Budget for the fiscal year 2012-2013, with changes that had been added and subtracted as they came up for discussion throughout the meeting.

*Deaton moved and Brown seconded:

That we adopt the budget as modified. **Motion carried.

Gossett requested that the AIS reimburse the Columbus Iris Society \$500.00 as there were unknown costs that came up as a result of the sudden change of the hotel sites.

*Gossett moved and Deaton seconded:

That we reimburse the Columbia Iris Society \$500.00 for the 2012 Fall Board meeting. **Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Spring 2013 meeting and convention will be held in Dallas, Texas, Monday April 15th thru Saturday April 20, 2013 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel & Resort-North Dallas-Addison, 14315 Midway Rd, Addison, Texas 77001. 1-972-980-8877. The convention chair is Bonnie Nichols, 1-214-352-2191 and email bjnhtrn@aol.com.

President Morris expressed a big hearty thank you to Jody Nolin and her committee for hosting this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Boyce