

**AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
NOVEMBER 1-2, 2013**

FULL MINUTES

President Jim Morris called the Fall Meeting of The American Iris Society Board of Directors to order at 7:00 PM on Friday, November 1, 2013, and announced a quorum was present. President Morris asked Board Members, Committee Chairs, RVPs, and guests to introduce themselves.

Present during the various sessions were: **Officers:** President, Jim Morris; 1st Vice President, Gary White; 2nd Vice President, Jody Nolin; General Secretary, Michelle Snyder; and Treasurer, Dwayne Booth. **Administrative Officers:** Registrar/Recorder, John Jones; Membership Secretary, Tom Gormley; Recording Secretary, Susan Boyce; and Publication/Sales, John and Kay Ludi. **Directors:** Susan Boyce, Ron Cosner, Cheryl Deaton, Harold Griffie, Susan Grigg, Ron Killingsworth, Bob Pries, Andi Rivarola, and Debbie Strauss. **Immediate Past President:** Judy Keisling. **RVP Representative:** Winona Stevenson. **Committee Chairs:** Riley Probst and Gerry Snyder. **RVPs:** Joe Musacchia (10) and Donald Nelson (24). **Guests:** Glenn Grigg (4), Patrick O'Connor (10), Ann Booth (13), Shirley Trio Probst (14), Jean Morris (18), Linda Rader (21), Melvin Campbell and Pat Nelson (24).

President Morris welcomed all and encouraged all present to participate in discussions, with the reminder that only Board members may vote. President Morris appointed Gary White as the Parliamentarian.

*Grigg moved and Booth seconded:

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

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: George Boyce (3), Gordon Carver (17), Susan Grigg (4), and Debbie Strauss (17).

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

Dallas, Texas - April 15-16, 2013

Two corrections to the minutes were noted. Under the Membership Secretary report, it said "projected budge", it should have been "projected budget". Under Electronic Services report, it was noted that the scanned bulletins "was" to be, it should have stated that the scanned bulletins "were" to be.

*Snyder moved and Deaton seconded:

*That we accept the minutes as amended (corrected typos). **Motion carried.**

In accordance with standard practice, Morris asked for affirmation of interim

Board actions taken by email vote since the April 2013 Board meeting.

1. *Strauss moved and Pries seconded:

That we "plastic wrap" the AIS Bulletin *IRISES* for mailing. **Motion carried by a vote of 10-9.

2. *Keisling moved and Susan Boyce seconded:

That we confirm the AIS President's appointment of Jody Nolin as Chairman of the Intellectual Properties ad hoc committee. **Motion carried.

*Nolin moved and Deaton seconded:

That we accept the motions voted electronically. **Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

President - Jim Morris noted the passing of past AIS President Clarence Mahan. Morris stated that he would like to have a new section created in the Judges Training handbook addressing growing irises in containers. Morris noted that many irisarians grow irises in containers due to smaller yards and also more and more people living in apartments have only patios and porches with pots to grow their flowers in. He also asked for a separate section of all judging point scales as a quick comparison guide. A sample was submitted for review and given to Hal Griffie as chairman of the Judges' Handbook Revision Committee.

1st Vice President - Gary White had no report.

2nd Vice President - Jody Nolin had no report.

Secretary - Michelle Snyder reported on managing the AIS' lists, AISDiscuss, AISVote, and AISConfirm. She needs to be kept informed of any and all changes, so she can keep these lists updated, so all can be included in all communications.

Treasurer - Dwayne Booth reported that we were in a better financial state this last fiscal year.

Editor - President Morris will delay this report until later in the board meeting. New editor Kathleen Sonntag is in transit.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORTS:

Membership Secretary - Tom Gormley reported that the AIS membership increased by one member this year from this time last year. He noted that this is much better than losing a couple hundred of memberships each year.

Registrar/Recorder - John Jones reported that he is working on developing a fillable pdf form for use by the hybridizers to register irises electronically. In President Morris' report, he suggested that the AIS put out a 5 year checklist, two

times in the 10 year period instead of one very large checklist every 10 years. The pros and cons were discussed and Jones was asked to investigate the costs and report back to the board. President Morris also reported about name trademarks and the possible problems that have started to pop up. For example "Got Milk" is a trademark of the California Milk Processor Board and it is also an iris registered in 2002. Other irises have been named with a trademark name and have been requested to be renamed or not sold or distributed. After a statement from Veronica Johnson, AIS Legal Counsel was read, and after a discussion:

*Susan Boyce moved and Deaton seconded:

That we add a "trademarked name" disclaimer on the Iris Registration form. **Motion carried.

Recording Secretary/Policy - Susan Boyce reported that she still receives a few phone calls every month in regards to the meeting minutes. She also talked about the policy regarding the affiliation agreement. In doing research, she has not been able to find the latest affiliation agreement and if one could be located, it will probably need to be updated. Boyce noted that she has been working on a new affiliations agreement and will present the new affiliation agreement it in her Affiliations report.

Publications/Sales - John Ludi reported on the inventory that is being stored. Ludi reported that the new postage rate increases have already been added into the shipping rates for 2014. Ludi also noted the poor sales numbers for the 2014 calendars. He also noted that he has received several complaints about the small size of the calendars. He requested that a larger size, but smaller order number of calendars be ordered for 2015.

*Snyder moved and Stevenson seconded:

That we print 1000, 2015 6x9 calendars. **Motion carried.

The meeting recessed for a break and Executive session at 9:00 pm. The meeting reconvened at 9:50 pm.

Editor - The hiring of Kathleen Sonntag as Editor was announced effective with the January/February 2014 *IRISES*. Kathleen was detained in the Los Angeles airport because of the shooting there. Kelly Norris was not present, but his report stated that he is working with the new editor, Kathleen Sonntag, during this transition time. Another discussion was held about the designation of *IRISES* being renamed as a "magazine" versus the current designation of "bulletin". It was decided to keep it as a "bulletin".

Advertising Editor - Ron Killingsworth requested that the advertising rates for the back cover be changed. The board requested that he report back with proposed new rates later in the meeting.

New Business - President Morris reported that the Region 4 Board of Directors

would like to add an award to the AIS Convention each year, for the Best Seedling seen at the convention, voted by the attendees attending the convention. Pries noted this would be in honor of Clarence Mahan and Lloyd Zurbrigg, both members of Region 4, who have now passed on.

*Snyder moved and Booth seconded:

That we create the Lloyd Zurbrigg-Clarence Mahan Award for the Best Seedling as seen in the convention gardens and voted on by the attendees at the AIS National Convention beginning in 2014. The cost of design and construction of the award to be funded by Region 4. **Motion carried.

Riley Probst reported that the James M Gibson Iris Society would like to honor two of their Charter members, George and Margaret Sutton, by also presenting a special award. The Board of Directors asked that Probst report back at the Spring board meeting with more specifics as to which kind of award they would like this to be.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

1. Commercial Fundraising Committee - Chair Jody Nolin reported that this report was presented at the Spring 2013 Board meeting, but the Board never acted upon this report.

*Pries moved and Deaton seconded:

That we adopt The Commercial Fundraising Recommended Guidelines as presented at the Spring 2013 Board meeting. **Motion carried.

2. Intellectual Property Committee - Chair Jody Nolin stated that Veronica Johnson, John Jones, Andi Rivarola, Janet Smith, and Gerry Snyder were members of this committee. This committee set out to define guidelines in the management and protection of the AIS' Intellectual Property. Nolin noted that this is a good starting point and this will evolve over time and she presented this report for Board approval.

*Pries moved and Snyder seconded:

That we adopt as policy the recommendations of the Intellectual Properties Committee as presented at the 2013 AIS Fall Board meeting. **Motion carried.

3. Library ad hoc committee - Chair Ron Cosner reported on some of the problems in contacting different persons in trying to obtain information needed for his report. There seems to be some confusion on what direction the library needs to go. White stated that the library committee needs to have a definite direction plan in which to proceed with. A vision statement is needed and also cooperation from the librarian. President Morris will send a letter to Dave Silverberg requesting the library inventory. Keisling reviewed the report of the old Library committee from 2010. The consensus at that time was that the library should be located somewhere in Oregon. President Morris asked Keisling to have a copy of the 2010 report sent to Ron Cosner, the Library committee chair.

*Pries moved and Booth seconded:

That the Library Committee create an Accession Policy to be presented at the next Board meeting. **Motion carried.

Meeting recessed for the evening at 11:39 pm

Saturday November 2, 2013 - the meeting was called back to order 8:01 am.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports - continued

4. Operations Manual Review - Debbie Strauss reported that she has sent out email reminders to all to review their AIS job descriptions and update them. Several board and committee members stated that they have not received any emails from her at all. She will follow-up with them.

Unfinished business:

Advertising Editor - Ron Killingsworth presented a new price rate for the *IRISES* bulletin back cover.

*Killingsworth moved and Snyder seconded:

**That the advertising rates for display advertisements in *IRISES* be changed as follows:

The full page outside back cover be changed from \$800 to \$600.

The 1/2 page outside back cover be changed from \$400 to \$300. **Motion carried.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Affiliations Liaison - Chair Jody Nolin reported that the AIS Affiliates discuss group has been really slow for the last six months. Nolin discussed sending out a new affiliate survey.

Awards - Chair Gerry Snyder reported on the glitches that were encountered at the AIS convention in presenting the Wister awards. He will follow-up with TBIS to solve the problem for 2014. Gerry Snyder reported on the Nelson Award, which is awarded to the iris which has won the most "Best of Show" awards. There are often ties and thus there is no clear winner every year. Several individuals have stated that since there is no clear award winner every year, that the Nelson Award should be discontinued. After a discussion, it was decided to continue with this award, and promote it more on the AIS Wiki, and have an article about the award put into the *IRISES* Bulletin.

Calendar - Chair Janet Smith was not in attendance, and her request for a smaller order of 2015 calendars was already covered under the Publication/Sales report.

Convention Liaison - Chair Paul Gossett was not in attendance. Keisling reported on a request from the Iris Society of Dallas for assistance in the form of a donation in covering the cost of renting the audio visual equipment for the 2014 Spring convention. Attendance at the 2014 convention is expected to be less

than the 2013 convention and costs have been cut back as far as can be and any financial assistance would be greatly appreciated.

*Keisling moved and Deaton seconded:

That the AIS donate \$2,000.00 to the Iris Society of Dallas for the audio visual expenses of AIS functions at the 2014 AIS Spring Convention. **Motion carried.

Gary White presented an invitation from Region 21 to host the 2015 AIS Fall Board meeting and also host the 2017 AIS Spring Convention.

*Deaton moved and Stevenson seconded:

That we accept the offer of Region 21 to host the 2015 AIS Fall Board meeting in Omaha, NE. **Motion carried.

*Deaton moved and Snyder seconded:

That we accept the offer of Region 21 to host the 2017 AIS Spring Convention in Des Moines, Iowa. **Motion carried.

Gossett's report also stated that he is looking to have the 2020 convention, the AIS' 100th anniversary, somewhere in New York.

Donations - Chair Gary White reported on the donations that have been received since April 1, 2013. White noted that donations are steadily decreasing and he would like to have a new Donations Development Committee be formed to assist with increasing donations for both the AIS and the AIS Foundation.

*White moved and Nolin seconded:

That a Donations Development Committee be appointed to plan focused donation drives and to prepare reminders in *IRISES* and/or letters to Affiliates, Regions, membership about donations, various Funds, how to donate, and new methods for donating. **Motion carried.

Cheryl Deaton volunteered for this position. Andi Rivarola and Shirley Trio Probst will also join this committee. White noted that someone from the Foundation will also be joining this committee.

The meeting recessed for a break at 10:11 am and reconvened back at 10:34 am.

Affiliations - Chair Susan Boyce reported that since the old Affiliation Agreement cannot be located, she has drafted and updated a new Affiliation Agreement and has worked with Veronica Johnson, the AIS Legal Counsel in developing this new agreement for presentation to the AIS Board of Directors for approval. The Affiliation Agreement-Requirements for Affiliation are as follows:

1. Elected officers must be current AIS members for the duration of their term.
2. A renewing society must submit an application for affiliation each year. New affiliates may join at any time.
3. All Affiliate Board meetings and Elections must follow the current edition of Roberts, Rules, and Orders and cannot be in conflict with the by-laws of The American Iris Society.
4. All general meetings must be open to the public.
5. Any AIS sanctioned show sponsored by the Affiliate, must adhere to AIS show

rules.

6. The society must state its affiliation with AIS on show schedules, publications, and publicity releases, and include, when possible, an invitation to join AIS.

7. The AIS and/or the Region shall not be responsible for the debts or liabilities of any of the Affiliates, unless agreed upon in advance and in writing.

8. If an Affiliate disbands, the remaining funds (after all the bills are paid), are turned over to the Region or an associated non profit, subject to their by-laws.

*Susan Boyce moved and Killingsworth seconded:

That we approve the Application For Affiliation Agreement. **Motion carried.

Electronic Services - Chair John Jones reported that the wiki server has moved and no longer negatively impacts the function of the AIS Website.

The meeting recessed for Executive session at 11:03 am and broke for lunch at 12 noon. The Executive session resumed at 1:15 pm and the meeting reconvened back at 1:55 pm.

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

The Hybridizers Medal was awarded to Bill Maryott (14).

The Distinguished Service Medals are awarded to: John Jones (14), John Ludi (13), and Bob Pries (4).

The new Emeritis Judges are: Jim and Jill Copeland (6), Bonnie Nichols (17), and Patricia Randall (23).

Exhibitions - Susan Boyce reported that more iris shows were held in 2013 than was held in 2012. Boyce noted that the USPS package postal rate increases for 2014 have not been announced yet and when she finds out, she will ask for a rate increase via AISDiscuss. For the show reports, Karen and Ray Jones have requested that the show reports be moved from the Membership Services area of the AIS Website to another area on the website. John Jones will move them to the Awards area of the website.

Foundation Liaison - Chair Gary White reported that five of the six ongoing research projects are fully funded and paid. White also noted two new grants have been awarded for new studies. White announced that the 2014 Ackerman Youth Essay contest has now started and the deadline for submission of essays is March 1, 2014. The theme of this years contest is "Why, When, and Where did you become interested in Irises?".

Image Coordinator - Chair Janet Smith was not present. Her report indicated that she receives no iris photos and the release forms for this position. She recommends that this position be discontinued. Keisling recommended that we leave the position as is and try to figure out how to make this work like we would like it to work.

Insurance - Chair Michelle Snyder reported that the insurance premium went up \$320 this year for inflation. Snyder reported that for Aug 2012 to Aug 2013, the policy time frame, she had received copies of 73 certificates issued by the insurance company that were sent to affiliates for insurance coverage.

Iris Programs Resources (Slides & Digital) - Chair Janet Smith was not in attendance. Ludi noted that these programs are available on the AIS Storefront shopping cart for purchase.

Iris Programs Resources (Speakers) - Chair Gordon Carver was not present and did not send in a report.

Legal Advisor - Chair Veronica Johnson was not present, but her report encourages compiling AIS policies into a central location that can readily be accessed and referenced.

Library - Chair Dave Silverberg was not in attendance and his report had no action that needed attention.

National Collections, Display, & Test Gardens - Chair Bob Pries noted that the Presby Gardens are in the process of trying to become a National Collection Garden. Pries presented the report of the Garden Committee.

*Pries moved and White seconded:

That we accept the report of the Garden Committee as policy for AIS National Collections, Display, and Test Gardens. **Motion carried.

Photo Contest - Chair Janet Smith was not present, and her report stated that she will be restructuring the entry form verbage, hoping to clarify and resolve the problems experienced this year.

Judges - Chair Judy Keisling reported that there are 521 fully accredited judges. Down 27 from last year. Keisling presented the list of judges for approval for 2014.

*Keisling moved and Snyder seconded:

That the list of judges be approved as submitted. **Motion carried.

Keisling noted that she has received several requests that Master judges be allowed to receive credit for training an apprentice judge for in-garden training.

*Keisling moved and Rivarola seconded:

That we allow Master Judges to receive up to one hour credit every three year period for in-garden training tutoring of an apprentice judge. **Motion carried.

Judges Handbook Revision Committee - Chair Harold Griffie reported that he will be contacting each iris section and cooperating society to check to see if they have any suggested changes for the Judges Training Handbook. Keisling

reported that she has finished rewriting the judges section in the Judges Training Handbook.

Public Relations - Co-chair Bob Pries reported that the digital *News and Notes* is now being sent out the start of every month. It was noted that the voucher program will continue through 2014 and they have three new nurseries participating this next year.

RVP Counselor - Chair Cheryl Deaton reported that the biggest problem she has encountered, is RVPs communicating with her. Most contact her regularly, but some do not contact her at all. Deaton presented the list of RVPs for 2014 for approval. Deaton noted that the election for the RVP for Region 3 will be held next weekend, and after she is notified of the new RVP, she will have it posted on AIS Vote for confirmation.

*Strauss moved and Rivarola seconded:

That we accept the RVP list (except Region 3 - awaiting the results of their Fall meeting) as presented at the 2013 Fall Board meeting. **Motion carried.

First Year RVPs:

Region 1: Linda Corapi
Region 2: Judith Tucholski-Zon
Region 5: Jeanette White
Region 10: Joe Musacchia
Region 17: Dawn Boyer
Region 20: Bob VanLiere
Region 21: Linda Wilkie
Region 23: Howard Dash
Region 24: Don Nelson

Second 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: Debbie Hughes
Region 22: James Bledsoe

Third Year RVPs:

Region 4: Don Rude
Region 7: Sue Ann Barnes

Region 13: Dwayne Booth
Region 15: Winona Stevenson

RVP Representative - Winona Stevenson had no report.

Scientific Advisory Committee - Chair Bob Hollingworth was not present, but his report stated that because of the interest rates on the CDs are very low, the Foundation now has a limited capacity to fund new projects. However, they still welcome new research proposals of modest scope.

Section and Cooperating Society Liaison - Chair Gary White reported that at the Spring convention Section and Cooperating Society meeting, two issues of importance came forward. The first one was of member retention and growth and the second issue of problems with filing with the Internal Revenue Service. These were discussed.

Silent Auction - Co-chair Debbie Strauss encouraged all to donate to the silent auction.

Symposium - Chair Riley Probst reported that he did not receive symposium votes from four of the regions. Probst stated that he has several requests to put the symposium ballot back in the *IR/SES* bulletin. It was decided to have the new editor investigate the cost of adding an insert with the bulletin into the plastic wrap.

Youth - Chair Cheryl Deaton reported on the number of youth in the Regions. She also noted that there are four active classroom iris projects. Deaton also noted that the youth website is back up and running again.

Meeting recessed for a break at 4:11 pm and back at 4:23 pm.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

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

President - Jim Morris

1st Vice President - Gary White

2nd Vice President - Jody Nolin

Secretary - Michelle Snyder

Treasurer - Dwayne Booth

Editor - Kathleen Sonntag

APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS:

Registrar/Recorder - John Jones and Joanne Prass Jones

Membership Secretary - Tom Gormley

Recording Secretary - 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
Donations Development - Cheryl Deaton
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
National Collections, Display & Test Gardens - Bob Pries
Photo Contest - Janet Smith
Public Relations & Marketing - Susan Grigg and Bob Pries
RVP Counselor - Cheryl Deaton
RVP Representative - Winona Stevenson
Scientific Advisory Committee - Bob Hollingworth
Section and Cooperating Society Liaison - Gary White
Silent Auction - Debra Strauss and Nick Stewart
Symposium - Riley Probst
Youth - Cheryl Deaton

*Deaton moved and Stevenson seconded. **Motion carried.**

The meeting recessed for dinner break at 5:10 pm and reconvened back at 6:20 pm.

Budget for 2013-2014

Treasurer Booth opened a line-by-line discussion of the Proposed Budget for the fiscal year 2013-2014, with changes that had been added and subtracted as they came up for discussion throughout the meeting. After going over the proposed budget, it shows a projected deficit of \$7,262.40

*Rivarola moved and Griffie seconded:

That we accept the budget as adjusted. **Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Spring 2014 meeting and convention will be held in Dallas, Texas, Saturday, April 5th thru Thursday April 10th (Note the change in days of the week) 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 bjnhtn@aol.com.

President Morris thanked Ron Killingsworth and the Region 10 members for hosting this board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Susan Boyce