

## Spring 2013 Board Meeting Report

*AIS Director Debbie Strauss, AIS Silent Auction Co-Chair Nick Stewart*

*If you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a flower.  
If you want to touch the future, touch a life.*

Work for the AIS Silent Auction never ends. Nick and I have been soliciting and accumulating items constantly since the 2012 Silent Auction ended last April. We already have more items donated before we arrive in Dallas than we did at the wrap-up of the 2012 Silent Auction.

With one silent auction under our belts, Nick and I hope to have an uneventful Dallas Silent Auction!

I mailed out 55 letters to hybridizers asking for 2013 New Introductions iris donations or donations of newer iris introductions for the Silent Auction. As of April 1, 2013, I have 60 separate coupons for the silent auction. For their generosity, please help me thank, Joe Ghio, Keith Keppel, Phillip W. Ramare, Larry Lauer, Chad Harris, John & Leslie Painter, all the Schreiner's, Hugh Stout, Lowell Baumunk, Jack Worel, Ginny & Don Spoon, Kelly Norris, Gary Slagle, Terry & Barbara Aitken, Marky Smith, Linda Miller, Terry Varner, Kenneth Fisher, and Tom Burseen.

Last year we premiered a new feature--**AIS Region Raizin' Baskets** with a few regions participating. The idea was publicized more at the RVP meeting and in *Irises*. Each Region in the AIS was asked to donate a basket of items that highlight their area of the country. The idea behind these **AIS Region Raizin' Baskets** is to get all the local AIS affiliates (clubs) to donate local items to the Region Vice President. I hoped to get pictures or lists of baskets item early enough to post on Facebook and take bids. But I guess everyone is busy and I only got one picture and list-THANK YOU John & Kay Ludi, Region 13! So the Facebook bidding did not happen.

Thanks to Cheryl, for sending out an email to all the RVPS to ask them to email me, if they were bringing (or sending) a basket. I have received affirmative word from Region 7, Region 9, Region 10, Region 11, Region 13, Region 17, Region 18, Region 22 and Region 23. Regions 2 and 15 will not be sending baskets. There will probably be others that show up in Dallas in the silent auction room. I have a poster of where each region is located, and a poster that tells and shows information about that region that will be by their basket donations. **Please come check the baskets out and help AIS by bidding on them.** There are some amazing items in the baskets.

We have fixed rate boxes available, as well as packing materials, so those flying can send their winnings back home. We will help the winners get their postage and their packages to the post office.

Again, I made **AIS Region Raizin' Baskets** flyers for the RVPs to be handed out at the RVP meeting here in Dallas. I have board copies and ask that you help promote this endeavor in your regions, please. The Region 17 RVP, Gordon Carver, which is Texas where the 2014 National will be, has volunteered to receive the basket items from the different regions. This will be a big help for the regions and for the silent auction co-chairs! Thank you Gordon!

We do need help with manning the silent auction. PLEASE consider offering to work in the Silent Auction. Nick and I would like to be able to attend a few meetings and judges trainings. It is also a tremendous chore to set it all up and distribute items to the winners and collect money, and finally to tear down. I know everyone has chores, but the Silent Auction has many many things that must be done all week and we could really use a little help.

Please remind everyone you know to save those items when they are cleaning out or downsizing and donate them either for your Region Basket or mail them to AIS Silent Auction-Debbie Strauss, 2213 Hereford Blvd, Midland TX 79707-5012 or AIS Silent Auction-Nick Stewart, 2808 NW 21st Pl, Lawton OK 73505-2114. If you have any questions please contact Debbie at 432-697-6340 or dkstraus@swbell.net.