

I am continuing to write the Section Happenings column in IRISES for each issue of the Bulletin. I appreciate the cooperation of the contact people in each of the societies for their information and willingness to provide news concerning their respective societies.

This spring in Dallas, I chaired the meeting of representatives from sections and cooperating societies. 18 people were in attendance at the meeting, with a discussion on a variety of topics. The primary issue confronting most of the sections and cooperating societies continues to be membership development and retention. But, not only is membership a problem, declining numbers of hybridizers is also a significant problem for several of the sections.. And, there is a lack of commercial growers for some of the sections. It's particularly troubling for the Soc for Japanese Irises, because the problem is worldwide, especially because of the tsunami repercussions in Japan.

A few of the sections are beginning to use electronic teleconferencing – SLI, SIS, SJI

I'm happy to report that the Novelty Iris Society is moving towards petitioning the AIS Board of Directors for Section status. They have been signing up charter members this year and are working on bylaws and 501(c)3 status as a nonprofit organization. Their first newsletter has been published and distributed. Current plans are to present a petition for Section status to this Board at the Spring 2015 AIS Convention in Portland. I have been consulting with Bonnie Nichols regarding the Novelty Iris Society plans for Section status.

Gary White