

RVP Representative Report to Fall Board Meeting

Fall 2015

The RVP Board of Counselors met at the AIS National Convention May 19 and discussed the following topics: Other topics were discussed over the summer and summarized below:

- Youth membership – There was a discussion on how to get more youth involved in irises/AIS. Examples of successful youth were given. Region 23 has started a new program, “Growing Iris Growers” to get youth involved. Working with Churches and Scouts were examples of target groups. Region 23 has now gotten its first two youth members.
- There was a discussion on the affiliation process. Several suggestions included sending the affiliation package to the treasurer instead of the president and sending the package in December instead of January as some clubs don’t meet in the winter and December would allow affiliates to fill out their forms at the affiliate Christmas Party.
- The Symposium was again a big issue. RVP’s were concerned on how to get more members to participate. This topic carried over into the summer and was the topic of extensive discussion amongst RVP’s. Debbie Hughes of Region 18 created a spreadsheet that was passed onto all the RVP’s that would facilitate compiling the Symposium Votes. Riley Probst was asked if he could provide his spreadsheet to all the RVP’s in the future as Karen’s spreadsheet was good for only 2015. Riley agreed. There was also a discussion as to there was a way to allow AIS members to vote electronically for the symposium by region. It was thought that was the most likely way to get more participation. How to do this is open for discussion.
- Declining AIS membership was discussed. It was thought incentives for new members such free plants at clubs sales or affiliates paying part of the cost of new members AIS membership might help.
- Fund Raisers. How the various Regions finance themselves was brought up. While there were a number of good ideas, such as affiliates giving a percentage of their iris sales to the Regions, it was decided that no one way works for all the regions since of the different membership sizes of the regions.
- There was a discussion on a way for the RVP’s to have a vote on the board regarding any item the board discusses that has an effect on the Regions. It was mentioned that both the RVP Counsellor on the Board and RVP Representative both have a vote on the Board. It was thought more timely communication would be helpful.
- The RVP Counsellors asked that first year RVP’s be eligible to be elected as the RVP Representative to the Board. This request was forwarded to the board as it required a bylaws change.
- Howie Dash – RVP Region 23 was elected as RVP Representative to the Board, Linda Corapi – RVP Region 23 was elected Secretary and Anita Moran – RVP Region 4 and Debbie Hughes – RVP Region 18 were elected to the Nominating Committee to the Board.
- Donald Nelson – RVP Region 24 called every RVP this summer to open up communication amongst RVP’s. Howie Dash – RVP Region 23 thought that a separate RVP discussion group from AIS Discuss should be reactivated to enhance communication amongst RVP’s.

Respectfully submitted.

Howie Dash – RVP Representative to the Board