

## **Section and Cooperating Society Liaison October 26, 2015**

I have written the Section Happenings column in IRISES for each issue of the Bulletin for the past year. 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 Portland, I chaired the meeting of representatives from sections and cooperating societies. 11 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.

We discussed reducing the conventions by one day, starting with 2017, and I asked how many of them would require board meetings at the convention. Some societies already are holding electronic meetings or holding their meetings in other venues – SLI, SJI, HIPS, DIS, SPCI, ASI, TBIS. Other Societies prefer to continue holding their board meetings at the national convention, if possible – SIS, MIS, RIS. Other groups had no specific comment, or were not represented during the discussion at the meeting. With fewer societies requiring board meeting time, it will be possible to reduce the convention by 1 full day. Those sections holding board meetings would have them scheduled on other convention days, possibly just prior to their general meetings. Section and Cooperating Society general meetings/Programs will continue as in the past.

Jim Hedgecock (SIS) was chosen as the Section Representative on the AIS Nominating Committee for 2016.

The Novelty Iris Society has been working towards full section status for the past year. They have been signing up charter members this year, and have bylaws in place and completed 501(c)3 status as a nonprofit organization. A newsletter has been published and distributed. They have petitioned the AIS BOD for Section status. At the AIS Convention in Portland, the AIS Board of Directors voted to approve Section status to the Novelty Iris Society. Subsequently, officers were elected and dues set. A newsletter was published as well. Bonnie Nichols is the first President of the Novelty Iris Society.

Gary White