

**AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
PORTLAND, OREGON
MAY 18-19, 2015**

FULL MINUTES:

President Jim Morris called the Spring Meeting of The American Iris Society Board of Directors to order at 1:03 PM on Monday, May 18, 2015, and announced a quorum was present. President Morris noted that the Secretary, Michelle Snyder was not in attendance and Jody Nolin will be filling this position for this board meeting. 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; and Treasurer, Dwayne Booth. **Administrative Officers:** Registrar/Recorder, John Jones; Recording Secretary, Susan Boyce; and Publication/Sales, John and Kay Ludi. **Directors:** George Boyce, Susan Boyce, Gordon Carver, Ron Cosner, Susan Grigg, John Jones, John Ludi, Bob Pries, Andi Rivarola, and Debra Strauss. **RVP Representative:** Jim Copeland. **Immediate Past President:** Judy Keisling. **Committee Chairs:** Cheryl Deaton, Bob Hollingworth, Riley Probst, Betty Roberts, Lois Rose, and Dave Silverberg. **RVPs:** Anita Moran (4), Bob Seaman, Lee Walker (13), John Pesek (14), Debbie Hughes (18), and Howie Dash (23). **Guests:** Sandy Ives, Dorothy Stiefel (2), Glenn Grigg (4), Jill Copeland (6), Jack Worel (8), John Boyce (12), Nancy Price (13), Rudy Ciuca, Joseph Lawrence, Gesine Lohr, Bob & Jeanne Clay Plank, Barbara Pesek, Shirley Trio Probst, Jean Richter, Phyllis Wilburn (14), Ramona Howard, Bonnie Nichols, Michael Reed (17), Bob & Carolyn Ash, Jim Hedgecock, Jean Morris, Faith Winzer (18), Louise Carson, Robert Treadway (22), and Debra Bilberry (23).

President Morris welcomed all and encouraged all present to participate in discussions, with the reminder that only Board members may make motions and vote. President Morris appointed Gary White to serve as the Parliamentarian. President Morris also appointed John Jones to serve as the Motions Secretary.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Salt Lake City, Utah
November 7-8, 2014

*Carver moved and Nolin seconded:

That we accept the draft minutes as modified. **Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

President – Jim Morris reported on the resignation of Kathleen Sonntag as the *IRISES* editor and thanked her for her services. Morris announced that two different guest editors will be handling this position for the Summer and the Fall 2015 edition of *IRISES*.

*Booth moved and G Boyce seconded:

****That we accept the appointment of the two guest editors as per the president's report. Motion carried.**

In accordance with standard practice, Morris asked for affirmation of interim Board actions taken by email vote since the November 2014 Board meeting.

1. *Jones moved and Ludi seconded:****That the AIS Board appoint Susan Driver the RVP for Region 20.**
*Booth moved and G Boyce seconded:
****That the board approve the appointment of Susan Driver as RVP for Region 20. Motion carried.**
2. *G Boyce moved and Carver seconded:
****That we approve the appointment of Susan Grigg as RVP Counselor. Motion carried.**

1st Vice President – Gary White had no report.

2nd Vice President – Jody Nolin had no report.

Secretary – Michelle Snyder was not present and had no other report than the interim motions report.

Treasurer – Dwayne Booth reported on the current financial status of AIS and recommended that the AIS raise the membership rates.

Editor – Kathleen Sonntag had submitted her resignation, but she still submitted a report, which indicated the cost of each issue.

Advertising Editor – Ron Killingsworth was not present. President Morris noted that Ron has asked to be replaced as the Advertising Editor.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORTS:

Membership Secretary – Tom Gormley was not present, but his report showed a gain of only seven new memberships since last fall. Grigg reported that Region 7 subsidizes the cost of new AIS members, and Grigg recommended that all Regions do likewise to gain new members.

Registrar/Recorder – John Jones presented a graph on the registration activity. Jones reported about defining the official definition of registering irises.

*Booth moved and White seconded:

****That the AIS Board of Directors defines introduction as “the offering for sale to the public”, and that:**

- A. Introduction information must include Iris name, date, price, and seller's contact information.
- B. The Registrant or Introducer must send printed copy of the catalog, list, advertisement or webpage, introduction page and the webpage URL to the AIS Registrar by first class mail. That the printed information includes the

information referenced in paragraph A above.

- C. That social media sites, because they are particularly ephemeral and of limited audience not be considered as a public offering.
- D. That offering for sale at an auction not be considered a public sale. **Motion carried.**

The meeting recessed for a break at 2:20 pm and reconvened at 2:36 pm.

Publications/Sales – John Ludi reported that old bulletins, prior to the format change are gone, and the storefront is now in a smaller storage unit, thus saving money for the AIS. Ludi noted that the 2016 calendars are now available for sale. Ludi also reported that the AIS seals are now gone and need to be reprinted.

*Jones moved and Carver seconded:

That we purchase 10,000 seals for \$787. **Motion carried.

Recording Secretary/Policy – Susan Boyce reported that she continues to receive inquiries about board meetings and she researches the minutes and sends the information out to those who request it.

Unfinished Business – none.

New Business – *John Jones moved and Booth seconded:

**That we increase the print memberships starting October 1, 2015.

After a discussion:

*Jones moved and Carver seconded:

That we table the Motion until the Fall Board meeting. **Motion carried.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

1. Library ad hoc committee – Chair Ron Cosner reported on a meeting held this morning and the Committee set quarterly meeting dates. Cosner noted that another volunteer is needed for this committee. Nolin volunteered to be on this committee.
2. Operation Manual Review – Chair Debra Strauss reported that she is still working on updating the Operation Manual.
3. AIS Intellectual Property Committee – Bob Hollingworth was not in attendance at this meeting, but he did send in a report, that indicated the work done on the AIS Copyright statement for the bulletin.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Affiliations/Affiliate Liaison – Chair Jody Nolin reported that there are 159 affiliates. She noted that there is room for improvement in the affiliation process. She will be working on it and hopes to have it done before next year.

Awards – Chair Gerry Snyder was not in attendance, but his report noted that the 2015 Judge's Ballot has been sent out. President Morris noted that he has received the three engraved Wister Medals and they are ready to be presented at the awards banquet.

Calendars – Chair Janet Smith was not in attendance. Ludi reported that Smith questioned whether she should continue gathering pictures for the 2017 calendar. It was noted that the decision to print the 2017 calendar will be made at the 2015 Fall Board meeting, so Smith will be directed to continue gathering pictures.

Convention Liaison – Chair Paul Gossett was not in attendance. His report listed the sites for the 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2020 Spring Board meetings and conventions, as well as the 2015 and the 2016 Fall Board meetings. President Morris noted that Gossett has submitted his resignation and Morris will be looking for a replacement for him.

Electronic Services – Chair John Jones reported that he has not found a new digital projector yet. Jones also reported that the iris catalogs scanning project is almost complete, but that the money funded for this project has run out and Jones will be drafting a new proposal for funding and submitting the proposal to the AIS Foundation for consideration.

Exhibitions – Supply clerk Susan Boyce reported on the number of shows approved so far. She noted that the show entry tags will need to be ordered this year, but the cost of shipping them from the current printer in New York State is high, so she will be getting price quotes from around her state. S Boyce also noted that there has been a problem with Capitol Medals losing the molds for the youth medals so she will also get price quotes for the medals in her state. S Boyce noted negative feedback that has been received in regards to the possibility of switching the show awards medals to pins. She will be crafting a survey that can be taken online, for all AIS members, so that the AIS can get a true feeling on whether the members want the show awards to be medals or pins.

National Collections, Display, & Test Gardens Committee – Chair Bob Pries reported on the addition of Charlie Carver to head the National Collections part of this committee. Pries also reported on the addition of George Boyce to head the Display and Test Gardens part of this committee. G Boyce reported on the progress of getting gardens to sign up to be display gardens. He also showed the sample signs that could be considered for the display gardens.

Honorary Awards – Chair Judy Keisling reported that new Hybridizer Medals were ordered and have been received.

Iris Programs Resources (Slides & Digital) – Chair Janet Smith was not in attendance, but her report showed a need for a new, more proficient slide scanner. Library chair, Dave Silverberg, reported that a request for a new slide scanner will be presented to the AIS Foundation for funding at tomorrow's meeting.

Insurance – Chair Michelle Snyder was not in attendance, but her report indicated that everything is running smoothly.

Iris Programs Resources (Speakers) – Chair Gordon Carver reported that this program is in a developing stage. Carver noted that he has only received one request for help in locating a speaker this year. He stated that he will be doing more advertising of this service to the affiliates and regions.

Judges – Chair Judy Keisling reported a loss of 14 judges since the Fall of 2014.

The meeting recessed for a break at 3:55 pm and reconvened at 4:18 pm.

Judges Handbook Revision Committee – Chair Betty Roberts reported that she is still asking for Sections to name committee members. Roberts has now set a deadline of October 1st for some kind of accomplished work to be submitted to her. Roberts stated that work needs to get started so we can get the new Judges Handbook completed.

Legal Advisor – Chair Veronica Johnson was not in attendance, but her report indicated that she has been working with the Novelty Iris Society in gaining their tax exempt status.

Library – Chair Dave Silverberg reported that the Library committee consists of the following members: Ron Cosner (Chair), Gary White, Jill Bonino, Dave Silverberg, and the new member, Jody Nolin. Silverberg noted that many years ago, there was a traveling library, called The Farr Library. The possibility of having a modern day traveling library was discussed during the Library committee meeting held earlier in the day. Due to the high cost of shipping, a traveling library is not financially feasible. Silverberg noted that he will get some assistance to do a complete inventory of the library.

Photo Contest – Chair Janet Smith was not in attendance. Morris noted the deadline for this year's photo contest is June 30th.

Public Relations – Chair Bob Pries reported on a problem with Wiki Encyclopedia and the program itself is not designed well for foreign languages. If a search is done with the accent marks, the search will not work perfectly. Even though he has done a work around, to correct this, a few problems still remain. Pries and Grigg noted that they want to honor four wiki volunteers for their service.

*Grigg moved and Carver seconded:

AIS Board adopt a resolution recognizing and thanking the "Wiki Heros" for their dedication, willingness, and helpfulness in updating, correcting, and maintaining the Iris Encyclopedia. Our thanks to Betsy Higgins, John Black, Terry Laurin, and Alain Franco. **Motion carried.

Grigg reported on the number of vouchers sent out to new members and also members who renew and upgrade their membership to a three year membership. Rivarola reported that there is increased involvement of people on the blog and the AIS Facebook page.

The meeting recessed for dinner at 5:05 pm and reconvened at 7:14 pm.

RVP Counselor – Chair Susan Grigg announced that a new RVP for Region 8 has been elected.

*Grigg moved and S Boyce seconded:

That the Board approve Tim Moore as RVP *. **Motion carried.

Donations Development Committee – Chair Cheryl Deaton reported on the two articles that were printed in the *IRISES* bulletin. Deaton also noted that several grocery store chains have a program that a small percentage of your purchase will go to the charity that you designate. All one needs to do is to sign up with the store. This would be a great way to donate to the AIS.

Scientific Advisory Committee – Chair Bob Hollingworth was not present. White noted a request from Dr. Carol Wilson that will be discussed at the Foundation meeting tomorrow evening.

Silent Auction – Chair Debra Strauss reported that everyone at the meeting should encourage all at their regions to donate to the AIS silent auction.

Symposium – Chair Riley Probst reported that there will be 471 irises on this year's symposium and it will be posted to the AIS Website for downloading after the convention.

Youth – Chair Cheryl Deaton reported that as of May 1st, there are 331 youth members and nine Classroom in Iris Projects. Deaton also proposed that the youth membership fees be raised as they have not been raised in several years and it cost more than \$5.00 to print and mail the youth welcome packets. Deaton announced the winners of the Clarke Cosgrove Award. Faith Winzer (Region 18) is the winner. 1st runner up is Sarah Green (Region 21), and 2nd runner up is Hope Winzer (Region 18). Deaton also announced the winners of the Ackerman Essay contest. They are: Grace Raymond, Region 18 (12 and under age group) and Colin Campbell, Region 4 (13 and up age group).

John Pesek, RVP Region 14, proposed a motion to do away with requirements of name, age, and address of the youth members. During the discussion, it was noted that this discussion was previously held, at length at the 2014 Fall Board meeting, and after the fall board meeting discussion, AIS Legal was consulted and it was her opinion that the youth policy remain status quo. During the very lengthy discussion, other current speakers from the audience voiced opinions that the rules should be broken to accommodate a few youth in Region 14. Other thoughts discussed were about the possibility of changing the AIS by-laws to make some youth membership changes, but it was noted that the AIS Legal counsel will have to be consulted to make any changes. Judy Keisling volunteered to head a committee to address these issues.

The meeting recessed for a break at 8:43 pm and reconvened at 9:03 pm.

Report of the Nominating Committee – Chair Riley Probst presented the slate of nominees for consideration as candidates for the four director positions on The American Iris Society Board of Directors. They are: Bob Pries (4), Lois Rose (4), Nancy Price (13), Shirley Trio Probst (14), Cheryl Deaton (15), Gerry Snyder (15), Alverton Elliott (17), Judy Keisling (18), and Ron Cosner (21).

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm for Executive Session.

The Board of Directors went into Executive Session from 9:10 pm with the Regular Session called back to order at 9:44 pm.

President Morris announced the Director Nominees selected for the three-year terms which will expire in 2018 are: Ron Cosner, Alverton Elliott, Bob Pries, and Lois Rose.

New Business – President Morris asked John Pesek, RVP Region 14, to make his announcement. Pesek extended an invitation to the AIS for Region 14 to host the 2019 AIS convention.

*Pries moved and Ludi seconded:

That we hold the 2019 AIS Spring Convention in Region 14. **Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Fall Board Meeting will be held November 6-7, 2015 at Hyatt Place Hotel in Omaha, Nebraska. 2015 Fall Meeting Chair, Linda Wilkie may be reached at lrwilkie@gmail.com or (402) 559-7649.

The Spring 2016 AIS Board Meeting and Convention will be held May 23-28, in Newark, New Jersey.

The meeting Recessed for the evening at 9:57 pm.

Tuesday, May 19, 2015 – the meeting was called back to order at 9:20 pm.

Foundation Liaison – Chair Gary White reported on the results of the Foundation Board meeting. White noted that the Foundation approved the funding for the purchase of a slide scanner for use by Janet Smith. After her project is completed, the scanner will then go to the AIS Library. The Foundation also approved the funding of the 3 year study by Dr. Carol Wilson. Also approved, was the funding of the continuation of scanning of the rest of the various iris catalogs that were donated by Anne Lowe. White noted that under the terms of the Hager-DuBose trust, the AIS Library needs to be named as a memorial to Ben Hager and Sid DuBose.

*Cosner moved and Jones seconded:

That the AIS Library be named “The American Iris Society Hager-DuBose Memorial Library. **Motion carried.

RVP Counselor – Chair Susan Grigg reported on the RVP Counselor meeting held earlier in the day. Grigg announced that the RVP Representative for this next year is Howie Dash of Region 23. The Nominating Committee representatives are Anita Moran (Region 4) and Debbie Hughes (18).

RVP Representative – Jim Copeland reported that apparently there is an AIS rule that the RVP Representative must be a RVP in their 2nd year to fill this position. There was a consensus of the RVPs present, that this should be changed to allow a 1st year RVP to fill this position if a 2nd year RVP is not available or will not accept this responsibility. This again would be a change in the by-laws, and the long process that it takes. President Morris appointed Jody Nolin to head a committee to look at several by-laws changes that have been mentioned during this meeting and also during the last couple of years.

Section and Cooperating Society Liaison – Chair Gary White reported on the Section and Cooperating Society. A lot of the discussion was about future conventions and starting in 2017, the convention will be one day shorter to help reduce costs for all involved, but in doing that something has to be removed from the convention. Most of the section board meetings will be combined with their general meetings, or the section board meetings will need to be held elsewhere. White announced that Jim Hedgecock (Spuria Iris Society) will be the Section Representative to the AIS Nominating Committee.

President Morris noted that the Herb Society will host the CAPS convention and Gary White will represent the AIS at this meeting.

Nominating Committee Appointments – President Morris announced the appointment of Ron Cosner and Andi Rivarola as Board representatives to the 2016 AIS Nominating Committee. Cosner and Rivarola will join Anita Moran (RVP), Debbie Hughes (RVP), and Jim Hedgecock (Sections) as members of this committee.

Unfinished Business – Booth again presented his request to raise the membership rates motion that was tabled at yesterday's meeting. The Board voted to take the motion made in yesterday's meeting off the table. After a discussion, the motion was amended:

*Jones moved and Booth seconded:

**That we increase the print memberships starting October 1, 2015 as follows:

Annual Single - \$30

Annual Dual - \$35

Triennial Single - \$70

Triennial Dual - \$85

Overseas Annual Single - \$35

Overseas Annual Dual - \$40

Overseas Triennial Single - \$75

Overseas Triennial Dual - \$90

Youth w/o Bulletin - \$8

Youth with Bulletin - \$12 **Motion carried by a vote of 11-2.**

Silent Auction – Debra Strauss presented the list of items donated by the library to the Silent Auction for approval.

*Strauss moved and Nolin seconded:

That we accept the list of items from the Library for the Silent Auction. **Motion carried.

New Business – Bonnie Nichols reported on the organizational meetings that have been held to organize the new Novelty Iris Society. Two electronic newsletters have been sent out since last spring. The by-laws have been drawn up, and AIS Legal has been consulted in obtaining the tax exemption status. The first general meeting will be held on Friday evening and officers will be elected at that time. Nichols also requested that the AIS recognize the Novelty Iris Society as a full section of AIS.

*White moved and S Boyce seconded:

That the AIS accept the Novelty Iris Society as a Section of the AIS. **Motion carried.

Judy Keisling reported on the meeting held earlier in the day, about the youth membership revision. Judy Keisling, Cheryl Deaton, Bob Plank, Bob Pries, Rudy Ciuca, and Joseph Lawrence attended the meeting. Ideas were discussed, which included a new youth program, a partnership program, and also whether non-member youth can participate in all youth contests. Keisling noted that more meetings with more board members need to be held, as this will be an ongoing discussion. Keisling noted that the current youth membership requirements must stay the same as per AIS by-laws.

President Morris thanked all who made this convention possible.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Boyce