

Spring 2016 Board Meeting Report

AIS Director Debbie Strauss

Silent Auction

"An effort made for the happiness of others lifts us above ourselves." Lydia Maria Child

The Silent Auction may be quite a bit smaller this year. I mailed out 200 postcards to hybridizers to request donations. As of May 1, I have heard from only 6. In every edition of "Iris" I have included articles directly written to the hybridizers across the country asking for donations. I really appreciate those who have emailed or written me.

My husband and I are driving to New Jersey so my car will be loaded with supplies for the Silent Auction's administration. Nick and I have written articles for all the editions of "Iris" asking for donations for the silent auction and they have been beautifully added to the bulletin! I have received only a few notifications about items being donated. However, we have been advertising for everyone to send their donations to Presby via UPS or FedEx, so I hope to find many items stored for us.

The printer I purchased last spring in Portland was very inexpensive, but wonderful, as it was the same one I have used in my home for the past 5 years. After the convention in Portland, there was still no good way to get it to NJ for this year except mailing and that would have cost ½ the price of the printer...so I gave it to Nick. This year, I plan to bring mine again. So AIS was not out that expense.

With the publicity in all the "Iris" and my flyers for the RVPs, **AIS Region Raizin' Baskets** are still going strong. I volunteered to take the items for Region 23 to NJ as Howie Dash was doing a program for us and I could easily get them. Turns out their basket...was the Texas basket from the past three years and it is humongous! I will once again have handouts for the RVPs meeting and the Affiliates meeting to begin the advertising for next year. I did have a suggestion that maybe we should raffle the baskets off. But to raise the approximately \$1000 that we get, we would have to price the tickets at \$5. We may try that with one basket this year. Please come bid on these baskets and show the regions they are appreciated. Also, maybe you will spot a gift or a door prize to bid on.

I will include a list of the hybridizers that donate this year in the next edition of "Iris".

Dave Silverberg will not be here so I have the list of items being donated to the Silent Auction from the Library. We thank the AIS Library and Dave.

Again this year 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 on and their packages to the post office.

As always, 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 judge's trainings. It is also a tremendous chore to set it all up and then 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 there are only two of us, we could really use a little help. We do have a couple faithful helpers every year, but that give up too much of their convention time also. We appreciate them so much.

Nick and I would like to thank Presby Memorial Iris Gardens and Nancy Skjei-Lawes for collected the shipped donations!!! We very much appreciate the help of people locally every year for keeping and accepting our shipped donations.

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 debbie@loveirises.com.