

American Iris Society Board of Directors Meeting
Des Moines, Iowa
May 23, 2017

Full Minutes:

President Gary White called the meeting to order at 8:11 AM on Tuesday, May 23, 2017. Members of the board and guests were asked to introduce themselves and describe their first experience with iris.

Present were AIS Officers: President, Gary White; First Vice President, Jody Nolin; Second Vice President, Andi Rivarola; Acting Secretary, Jody Nolin; Treasurer, Dwayne Booth; Immediate Past President, Jim Morris; Jane Milliman, Editor of Bulletin.

Administrative Officers: Registrar/Recorder, John Jones; Recording Secretary, Claire Schneider; Publication Sales Director, John Ludi..

Directors: Susan Boyce, Dawn Boyer, David Cupps, Howie Dash, Al Elliot, John Jones, John Ludi, Bob Pries (via phone), Lois Rose, Claire Schneider

RVP Representative: Anita Moran;

RVPs: Dorothy Stiefel (2), Anita Moran (4), Phyllis Wilburn (14), Scarlett Ayres (23); Debbie James (15), Beverly Hoyt (18).

Committee Chairs: Jody Nolin, Affiliations Chair and Section & Cooperating Society Liaison; Paul Gossett, Convention Liaison; David Cupps, Electronic Services; Bob Pries, Encyclopedia Manager; Lois Rose, Exhibition Schedule; Susan Boyce, Exhibition Supplies; Wayne Messer, Exhibition Show Reports; Veronica Johnson, General Counsel; Jim Morris, Honorary Awards; Al Elliott, Speakers; Judy Keisling, Judges; Jill Bonino, Foundation; Betty Roberts, Judges Handbook Revision; Howie Dash, RVP Counselor; Kay Ludi, Sales; Riley Probst, Symposium; Cheryl Deaton, Youth.

Other Guests: Ann Booth (13)

President Gary White announced that a quorum is present. He encouraged all present to participate in the discussions but reminded everyone that only Board members are permitted to make motions and vote. He asked for a moment of silence for recently departed AIS members. White appointed Howie Dash as parliamentarian.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

Motion 1: to approve the March 23rd, 2017 teleconference minutes.
Motion by David Cupps and seconded by Anita Moran. Carried.

Motion 2: to approve the April 26, 2017 teleconference minutes.
Motion by Susan Boyce and seconded by Anita Moran. Carried.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS:

President - Gary White – No action items.

Motion 3: that John Jones be approved as Motions Secretary.
Motion by Jody Nolin and seconded by Dwayne Messer. Carried.

In accordance with standard practice, White asked for affirmation of interim Board actions taken since the Fall 2016 Board meeting.

1. That Eileen Hollander become RVP from Region 10.
2. That calendar guidelines be approved as discussed.
3. That Scarlett Ayres become RVP from Region 23.

Motion 4: to accept the interim email actions.

Motion by Susan Boyce and seconded by Howie Dash. Carried.

1st Vice President - Jody Nolin submitted an electronic report that contained background for and a motion to establish the Gerald Richardson Award.

Motion 5: That AIS establish a convention award, the ‘Gerald Richardson Award’ for the best integrated privately maintained planting at an AIS convention garden as designated in the convention booklet. The award to be given annually to a privately maintained host garden based on popular vote of convention attendees. An integrated garden is defined as a garden bed composed of iris and companion plants that displays the iris to their best effect as a landscape plant. The award shall be an acrylic or Lucite trophy engraved with the award name, year of award and host garden name. The AIS shall assume the cost of the award.

Motion by Jody Nolin and seconded by John Jones. Carried.

Debate ensued over the definition of private garden versus a commercial garden. Size of garden, use of hired gardeners, volume of sales were all mentioned as criteria to include or eliminate gardens from a ballot of “privately maintained host gardens.”

2nd Vice President – Andi Rivarola. No report.

Secretary – Michelle Snyder (absent) submitted an electronic report.

“Everything is operating smoothly.” Snyder’s report included details about the three motions that have been submitted and approved by the Board since the Fall 2016 meeting.

Treasurer – Dwayne Booth submitted three electronic reports.

1. 990-Ns were filed for various Regions and AIS Societies. Booth recommends that each AIS Region, Section and Society as well as any local iris affiliate take advantage of his tax services. Go to the AIS website (Forms and Policies page) to download the application for status of non-profit (501-C3). Print it out, follow the instructions, then communicate with Booth. Veronica Johnson emphasized that being labeled as non-profit doesn’t make your club tax-exempt. It’s more complicated than that. For advice, consult Booth and/or Johnson.

2. The General Fund Income and Expense spread sheet. Booth reported that in general, everyone has kept within their budget.

3. A narrative overview of the AIS Treasury including paragraphs on taxes, the 990-Ns, financials, Café Press, Signature cards and forms, treasurer’s job description, Amazon Smile, Investments, and the 2020 Convention account.

Managing Editor – Jim Morris submitted an electronic report.

Thank you to all those folks who proof read the Bulletin before publication, reducing the list of errata. Thank you! The Spring 2017 issue of Irises, the Bulletin, is Morris' last issue as Managing Editor. Jane Milliman will assume full editorial responsibility for the Bulletin. Morris will continue as Obituaries editor.

Bulletin Editor – Jane Milliman.

New deadlines for submitting articles and information to the Bulletin are June 10 for the Summer Issue, September 9 for the Fall Issue, December 15 for the Winter issue and March 10 for the Spring issue. Milliman is accepting applications for proof-reader.

Advertising Editor – Ron Killingsworth submitted an electronic report.

Advertising income for 2016 Shopping Section ads was \$3080 and Display ads total income for 2016 was \$8080. Total income to date is \$9005 which is up from 2016.

Killingsworth will continue to serve as advertising editor until the Board finds a good replacement.

Motion 6: That the AIS publication, IRISES, accept display advertising from AIS sections, for the purpose of advertising sectional SPECIAL EVENTS that would be of interest to AIS members, be accepted by AIS at ½ the regular display advertising rate.

Motion by Jim Morris and seconded by Dwayne Booth. Carried.

Discussion involved comments regarding costs of notices and/or advertisements for the sections. The issue is how to advertise AIS and section conventions in the Bulletin without substantial cost. Articles printed in the Convention News are free versus the cost of quarter or half page ads.

Motion 7: That AIS establish a method for advertisers to pay their fees via Paypal.

Motion by John Jones and seconded by Andi Rivarola. Carried.

Announcement by Gary White. That he had just received an email from Ron Cosner who due to personal issues will be unable to fulfill his obligations to the AIS and the Board. Cosner wrote, "Therefore, it is with heavy heart, I tender my resignation."

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Membership Secretary – Tom Gormley submitted a very detailed electronic report with figures, graphs and history of memberships. Current AIS membership is 4191, down from 138 members last fall. E-membership is at 454, up only five since last fall. Of the 454 e-members, 240 are also regular members of AIS. Gormley reminded us that we need 441 new members each year to maintain our base. Membership income is \$7,109.

Discussion involved asking regions with membership increase how they grow their rosters. One issue is how to retain new members who sign up at an event. They enroll at an event but then drift away. Or how to keep youngsters involved after they go off to college. A suggestion is to publicize the affiliate clubs and AIS by making newsletters and bulletins available to local

nurseries and the gift shops of botanical gardens. Or periodically set up booths at local fairs and farmer's markets where information about the AIS and/or sections can be distributed.

Registrar/Recorders – John and Joanne Prass-Jones submitted an electronic report.

A handsome graph in his report showed registrations and introductions of iris from 2000 to 2016. The percentage of introductions from North America has gone from 70% in 2000 to 43.5% in 2016. In other words hybridizers in other parts of the world are contributing more of the introductions and registrations. Of the 1185 new registrations, 66.7% are tall bearded, 22.7% are other bearded types with 11% beardless and species of species hybrids.

Jones recommended that an electronic system be developed to standardize and simplify the registration process. He also recommended that a system be developed for storing registration information long term. For example the CDs of registration that were made a decade ago are no longer readable. A safer, more accessible storage system is needed. Perhaps to integrate with wiki-Encyclopedia of iris.

Question from a board member, “Where are the 1939 and 1949 check lists?” Part of the problem has been that the registration information from those years is inconsistent with the registration information required for current check lists. Another problem is that classifications and definitions of types of iris have changed since 1939. The varieties of iris are evolving faster than the classification system. E.g. arils (OGB+ and OGB- and height), novelty and space agers.

Recording Secretary – Claire Schneider.

Susan Boyce asked what to do with eleven years of recording tapes of previous meetings. Because the minutes have been published and approved, the truck-load of tapes of past meetings can be discarded.

Publications Sales Director – John & Kay Ludi submitted three electronic reports: Storefront Report coverletter, Storefront Inventory and Storefront Sales. From October 1, 2016, to March 20, 2017, the top items sold were the Basic Iris Culture booklet (100 copies) and the 2016 calendars (281 copies). Interestingly, none of the Convention or RVP handbooks have been sold.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The tabled motion from the April 26 teleconference.

Motion 8: That the American Iris Society is concerned with irises as the genus *Iris* is known in the line of thought exemplified by Dykes' Monograph, AIS checklists, Mathew's *The Genus Iris*, the British Iris Society's *Guide to Species Irises*, and Goldblatt and Manning's *The Iris Family* (2008), and that the change be referred to the Bylaws Revision Committee for incorporation. Motion by Bob Pries and seconded by Jim Morris. Carried.

NEW BUSINESS – none

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Ad Hoc Committee, Library – Ron Cosner had no report.

Intellectual Property – Bob Hollingworth had no report.

Changes to By-Laws – Jody Nolin

Discussion involved Article X the manner of communication when addressing changes to by-laws. When should a communication be sent via electronic mail and when should postal mail or Bulletin be used.

Motion 9: That we accept the changes to Article X-Amendments as proposed by the By-Laws Committee in their report submitted 23 May 2017.

Motion by Jody Nolin and seconded by Jim Morris. Carried.

Motion 10: That we accept the changes to Article VI Committees-Amendments as proposed by the By-Laws Committee in their report submitted 23 May 2017.

Motion by David Cupps and seconded by Jim Morris. Carried.

Motion 11: That we accept the changes to Article V-Board of Directors Section 3 (j)

Amendments as proposed by the By-Laws Committee in their report submitted 23 May 2017.

Motion by Jim Morris and seconded by David Cupps. Carried.

Howie Dash announced that future discussions of RVP issues will be held via electronic mail. One topic will be to discuss changes to the length of term of the RVPs.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Affiliation Liaison – Jody Nolin submitted a report.

Process of renewals went smoothly this year, 156 clubs have been processed. One new club was added, one lapsed club has returned and five clubs are still undeclared. One problem with completing the affiliation process has been dealing with the lapse of AIS membership by affiliate officers.

Awards – Gerry Snyder submitted an electronic report.

“Everything is looking good...” Snyder now is using a local printer for the ballot. The online voting system is up and running with no problems being reported so far.

Calendars – Janet Smith submitted an electronic report.

The 2018 calendars have been printed and are now in the Storefront. There is an “early” order form with a deadline that seems to be working. We have established a committee to assist with choosing photos and guidelines for future calendars.

Convention Liaison – Paul Gossett submitted three electronic reports: a Convention Liaison report, schedule and preliminary details of future Fall Board Meetings (2017 in Dallas, 2018 in Portland, Oregon & 2019 in Tulsa) and a schedule and contact information for future AIS Conventions (2018 in New Orleans, 2019 in Northern California and 2020 in Newark, New Jersey).

Regarding the AIS 2018 Convention (April 8 to 14), Gossett distributed promotional brochures and described the garden tours and other events. He proposed that the AIS Board meet from 6 to 9 PM Sunday night, April 8, and reconvene at 8 AM the next morning. Gossett presented anticipated revenues and costs of the convention. For more details, Gossett suggests you visit the convention website. One unknown factor regarding the 2018 convention is projected attendance.

Motion 12: That we advance \$1000.00 seed money to the 2018 Convention Liaison Committee. Motion by Jim Morris and seconded by Dawn Boyer. Carried.

Other questions asked during the Convention Reports: (1) Regarding the sale of the rhizomes from the 2016 guest gardens, what is the cost? Who is in charge of the sale? You can send a check to George Hildenbrandt and he will choose which varieties to send. (2) Will the 2020 Convention be held at the same hotel? A contract has been signed, so the answer is yes.

It was with great sadness that Paul Gossett reported his resignation as Convention Liaison. Gossett took over as Liaison in 1999 and what a fine job he has done!

Adjourned until 6:30 PM.

2016 Convention Treasurer – Jill Bonino submitted three electronic reports: 2016 Convention Assets, 2016 Convention Donations and 2016 Convention Profit/Loss. The total of expenses for the 2016 Convention was \$100,379.28 while income was \$100,790.06 leaving the AIS with a net profit of \$410.78. Great news, a net profit!

Strategic Planning – Andi Rivarola submitted two electronic reports : The Strategic Planning Committee Report_Spring 2017 Vision Statement and the Strategic Planning Committee_Long Term Goals.

Motion 13: That the ten points of the Vision Statement as enumerated in the Strategic Planning Committee Report Spring 2017 be approved.

Moved by John Jones and seconded by Jim Morris. Carried.

VISION STATEMENT:

1. Members of the American Iris Society actively support the AIS' Mission and Vision Statements, and they are enthusiastic ambassadors who encourage the cultivation and the enjoyment of irises.
2. The AIS is the leader for providing reliable information on irises of all types: including comprehensive information about the variables of growing irises in different terrains and climates and that information is available to all for educational purposes.
3. The AIS supports the conservation and protection of all irises, including existing wild and cultivated species.
4. The AIS supports the development of new plants with greater garden appeal, and actively champions iris hybridization.
5. The AIS is an engaged and responsible member and leader of the international iris and horticultural communities.

6. The AIS delivers reliable services to members and AIS helps members and volunteers find and use technology to become more effective and efficient.
7. The AIS helps members develop leadership and volunteer skills, and encourages them to be proactive in improving the AIS.
8. The AIS supports and/or works closely with all affiliates, sections, cooperating societies, and other national and international societies, which share common goals to ensure a flourishing, dynamic and strong partnership.
9. The AIS high ethical standards are shared by every level of the organization, from the Board on to the local affiliates. Our standards include encouraging exemplary volunteer actions and behaviors to promote good interpersonal relationships on all levels.
10. The AIS commits to a healthful and respectful environment for all AIS members, and the public perceives the AIS as an effective and caring organization.

Motion 14: That the Board approve the seven Major Long Term Goals as enumerated in the Strategic Planning Committee Long Term Goals Spring 2017 Report.
Motion by John Jones and seconded by Andi Rivarola. Carried.

LONG TERM GOALS:

1. AIS develops and implements plans to increase its membership.
2. Financial stability: AIS has programs for financial growth and maintenance of its funds.
3. The American Iris Society is seen by the public and by horticultural enthusiasts as one of the indispensable sources for information about the genus Iris.
4. AIS promotes itself as a useful and interesting resource for general gardening enthusiasts (not just iris specialists), and promotes its membership to all gardeners.
5. AIS fosters and funds research about wild and cultivated irises and it promotes the results of that research in ways that lead to improvements in preservation and widespread cultivation of all types of irises.
6. AIS helps local clubs and regions fulfill their mission by developing a comprehensive set of effective methods and tools for their work and AIS is proactive in helping to implement them.
7. AIS supports and encourages everyone to share their iris enthusiasm!

There are many projects mentioned in the report of Long Term Goals. Question was asked how those projects will be carried out? President White will need to appoint committees and/or members to work on the projects. This committee spent more than a year working on the Vision Statement and Long Term Goals. They remind us that these projects will take a lot longer to complete and some might be on-going.

Donation Development – Cheryl Deaton submitted an electronic report.

Deaton made a correction to her report: the program is Amazon Smiles not Amazon Prime. Deaton has attempted to register the AIS with Amazon Smiles which is a way for approved charitable organizations to collect a small percentage of each sale made by participating Amazon shoppers. However it seems that Amazon is particularly fussy about who and who is not a charitable organization. The AIS application is still being processed.

Electronic Services – David Cupps submitted an electronic report.

Cupps acknowledged and thanked John Jones for his support. Cupps described the characteristics of an updated AIS website and a new system for AIS email communication. He suggested that the revised website be able to track visits and visitors. At a future meeting, we will hear a more detailed proposal of how the revised website will be constructed.

Motion 15: That the AIS Board allocate \$30,000 toward the development of a new website and related services under the direction of the Electronic Services Committee (ESC). Funds will not be expended until the Board approves a specific proposal as recommended by the ESC in June 2017.

Motion by David Cupps and seconded by John Jones. Carried.

Discussion and questions: When do you anticipate the new/revised website will be ready? Cupps' goal is by end of the year to have the website up and running. What will be the cost of maintaining the website? Cupps thinks the cost of maintenance will be about the same as it is now. What services do you plan to include in the new/revised website and what will each cost? Cupps will be better able to answer this when he makes a formal proposal at a future meeting. At that time, the Board will be asked to approve the formal proposal and at that time the costs can be discussed. Is it appropriate that AIS capture visitor data for potential spam activity? Each visitor will have the option of refusing future contact by the AIS website.

Exhibitions – Susan Boyce, Lois Rose & Wayne Messer submitted an electronic report. As of May 9, 2017, 128 shows have been approved. Two fall shows are anticipated which brings the total number of shows to slightly fewer than last year's total of 135. As of May 10th, twenty-five show reports have been received. A reminder that show reports should be submitted using the 2017 forms and should include a correct return address.

Motion 16: That we increase the price of ribbons to \$12 for a pack of 25, that we increase the price of the large rosettes to \$8 each and that we increase the price of the small rosettes to \$7 each, effective Jan 1, 2018.

Motion by Susan Boyce and seconded by Dwayne Booth. Carried.

Encyclopedia Manager – Bob Pries submitted an electronic report, "PR and Marketing." Worldwide searches of irises on Google have increased by about 25% over the last five years while searches made within the USA have remained constant. The Iris Encyclopedia is the most complete iris information resource on the web. As of this May, Pries anticipates over 40,000 visits with over 3 million hits on the wiki.

Foundation Liaison – Jill Bonino submitted an electronic report.

An investment program into six different funds has already seen a 6.8% increase as of the end of April. The DuBose Fund investments have also increased. More will be discussed at the Foundation meeting tomorrow (May 24).

AIS Donations sent to the Foundation are transferred in payments to the AIS. There was a loss in the AIS Foundation operating accounts but the loss is less than it was in 2015. "Hopefully, by the end of 2017, donations and increased interest and dividends from the Investments and the Trust funds will get closer to break even."

Garden Committee – Bob Pries - no report was submitted.
Nothing new to report.

Honorary Awards – Jim Morris - no report was submitted.
Nothing new to report.

Image Coordinator – open.

Motion 17: that we accept the appointment of Neil Houghton, Region 2, as Image Coordinator. Motion by Susan Boyce and seconded by Jody Nolin. Carried.

Insurance – Michelle Snyder submitted an electronic report.
“Everything continues to work smoothly.” Certificates of insurance continue to be processed rapidly and everyone seems to be satisfied.

Iris Program Resources (slides & Digital) – Janet Smith submitted an electronic report. There are 70 digital programs. Putting the order form for digital programs back into the Bulletin has pushed sales well past last year’s totals. Smith will continue to work this position until someone else volunteers.

Iris Program Resources (speaker) – Al Elliott submitted an electronic report, one electronic questionnaire and one electronic generic letter. Elliott has updated the Excel data base, verifying the information and making it easier to manage. There are 63 combined program and judges training speakers and eight program speakers making a total of 71 speakers. Elliott has written a change/update in his job description and is asking that it be approved by the Board. The Iris Program Resources (Speakers) form is a questionnaire whose purpose is to identify additional speakers with new programs and/or judges training. “Completion of this form indicates that you are willing to present iris related programs” to clubs or other iris events. The Speaker’s Request Letter is a sample letter that can be used to clarify the type and topic of speaker being requested plus details about accommodations that would be provided. Elliott will play the role of match-maker, finding a speaker to fill each request.

Judges – Judy Keisling submitted an electronic report. Since Fall of 2016 Board meeting, there are 17 fewer judges due to retirement, death and non-renewal of AIS memberships.

Judges Handbook Revision – Betty Roberts submitted an electronic report. Roberts and committee has been waiting for two years to finish up the revision of the Judges Handbook. But they cannot proceed without input from three important groups: the Tall Bearded, the Aril/Arilbred and the Novelty iris.

Legal Counsel – Veronica Johnson submitted an electronic report. This will be Johnson’s last year as legal counsel. She has agreed to stay through July 1, 2018. Johnson described two types of tax-exempt status: group and stand-alone. AIS has a group tax-exempt status because it is the parent organization for the affiliates. Some affiliates have a stand-alone tax-exempt status and file their own tax reports with the IRS. Other affiliates belong

to the group and as such, file their tax reports through the AIS treasurer, Dwayne Messer. Any affiliate or subordinate group who would like to, for the first time, join the AIS tax-exempt group, must do some preliminary paperwork. Johnson recommends that at any time one works with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), one needs patience and a lot of luck. Check with Johnson and/or Messer for more information about EINs, tax-exempt status and other club financial issues.

Library – Dave Silverberg submitted a paper report.

Donations to the library have been recorded and filed. The latest library adventure concerns locating historic iris breeding records for a lady from England. One on-going, monumental project has been to make editorial and grammatical corrections to the Bulletin indices. For example in Bulletins 99 through 375 every hybridizer's name was listed as F.W. Cassius which means a few thousand hybridizer's names to correct. Pages and pages of corrections have been submitted to Janet Smith. The library holds hybridizing records, but some collections are incomplete (e.g. records by Mitch Randolph). Other breeding records can be incomprehensible because the symbols and note system used by the hybridizer are unknown. Another project has been to take inventory of two cartons of historic magazine articles meticulously collected from international gardening magazines by Ethel Peckham. Silverberg mentioned that the auto-fill feature in his Excel program suggested "overworked" might be an appropriate label.

Photo Contest – Janet Smith submitted an electronic report.

The 2017 Photo Contest will begin May 1st and end June 15th. There will be three judges.

Policy – Susan Boyce had no report.

Public Relations & Marketing – Bob Pries & Susan Grigg submitted an electronic report.

Part of this report was discussed previously during the Encyclopedia Report.

The AIS monthly electronic newsletter News & Notes continues to be published on a monthly basis.

RVP Counselor – Howie Dash submitted an electronic report.

The biggest concern for the RVPs is getting updated judges information in order to cover their flower shows. The RVP handbook is being worked on. Another issue is that not every region has an assistant RVP. A positive piece of news is that with the newly established electronic RVPdiscuss, there should be better communication and discussion of issues. New RVP officers will be Beverly Hoyt (18) as RVP Representative, Gary Slagel (3) as secretary, and Scarlett Ayres (23) and Margaret Kelly (9) will be serving on the nominating committee.

RVP Representative – Anita Moran.

In order to provide more opportunities for judges training, perhaps guest speakers could extend their podium time to one hour and add a ten question quiz thus turning their presentation into a judges training session.

Scientific Advisory – Bob Hollingworth had no report.

Section and Cooperating Society Liaison – Jody Nolin.

Nolin reports that there was a short meeting with a nice cross section of iris groups in attendance. One point of discussion was how to increase membership. Perhaps to have more display gardens.

Nolin clarified that, according to the by-laws, the Section representative to the Board need not be a Section President. The Section representative will be Steve Sprecht.

Silent Auction – Debbie Strauss & Nick Stewart submitted two electronic reports: Silent Auction Report and Silent Auction List. This will be the final year that Strauss and Stewart will manage the Silent Auction. Only five regions have contributed gift baskets for the Silent Auction. About 100 other items have been donated by AIS members. Eighty-four coupons for new or newer iris cultivars were donated by hybridizers. Thank you to all for making the Silent Auction so successful, especially to the hybridizers!

Motion 18: That we approve the list of items from the AIS Library for the Silent Auction as enumerated in the Silent Auction Report_Spring 2017 minus the two Anniversary Bulletins. Motion by Susan Boyce and seconded by Anita Moran. Carried.

Symposium – Riley Probst.

The Symposium ballot was inserted in the Bulletin and is on the website for 2017. There is hope for more participation in the voting now that the ballot has wider distribution (i.e. paper format and available for e-members). The 2016 results are posted on the website.

Anyone can vote the Symposium.

Youth – Cheryl Deaton submitted an electronic report.

Currently there are 456 youth members which is an increase of 91 from the previous report. There were 56 submissions to the Ackerman Essay Contest. The senior essay winner is Jake Solmes (22) and the junior essay winner is Sabrina Anderson (14). The winner of the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement is Amberlee Pick, 1st runner up is Hope Winzer and 2nd runner up is Glory Winzer.

2020 Centennial – Andi Rivarola.

The Centennial Convention is a work in progress. Because of a signed contract, the same hotel as from the 2016 convention will be used. The gardens are still being planned. There has been a submission for an artistic rendition for the 2020 medal. A final decision will be forthcoming. A search for a publisher for the Centennial book is in progress. Details of the celebration are being worked on, such as what kind of music.

International Competition 2020 – Jill Bonino.

Last Fall the Board approved the procedures and rules for the International Competition. The International Competition will need space for approximately 100 varieties of iris. A request for submissions to the International Garden will be in the Spring Bulletin.

Tele-conferences – Gary White.

White announced that future tele-conferences will be held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 8 PM Eastern, 7 PM Central, 6 PM Mountain and 5 PM Pacific time. There was discussion about using a tele-conference service that will eliminate long-distance fees.

Nomination of Directors whose terms will expire in 2020 – Nick Stewart, Nominating Committee Chair, gave a list of possible nominees for the AIS Board to consider.

After Executive Session, the four people nominated for AIS Board of Director positions are: John Ludi, Gerry Snyder, Jill Bonino and Anita Moran.

There was discussion about whether or not a Board member can vote by phone. The decision is yes, but the vote should be non-public (e.g. a text sent to the secretary).

Motion 19: That we approve replacing Ron Cosner with Phylliss Wilburn on the AIS Board of Directors whose term will expire in 2018.

Motion by John Jones and seconded by Jim Morris. Carried.

Announcements

Nominating Committee will be Dawn Boyer (AIS Board), David Cupps (AIS Board), Mary Kelly (RVP-9), Scarlett Ayers (RVP-23) and Steve Sprecht (Section Rep).

The Fall Board Meeting 2017 will be held in Dallas, TX, November 3-4. Chair is Bonnie Nichols.

The Spring Convention 2018 will be held in New Orleans, April 8-14. Co-chairs are Paul Gossett and Joe Musacchia.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:59 PM, Central time.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Schneider