

# Electronic Services Chair Report

## New Website

In developing a plan for a new website for AIS, I conducted a poll of membership to determine what the needs of our members and leaders are. (I previously reported about this in May.) I had significant discussions with John Jones, Bob Pries, Gary White, our two VPs, and many others of you. During the May in-person board meeting, the board approved in principle an expenditure of up to \$30,000 on this project.

I solicited proposals, and after review by myself, Jody Nolin and John Jones, we agreed to recommend to the board a proposal by Thirsty Concepts to create a new website and related back-end systems for \$21,500.

As noted before, this will include important items like:

- Easy updating by multiple people
- Mobile-responsive design (easy to use on phones and tablets)
- An up-to-date members-only area
- Integration of member and email databases
- Unifying the blog, wiki, conventions, and other related sites into a cohesive whole
- Ability to capture contact info from interested gardeners who aren't yet members

Thirsty Concepts expects to be able to complete the project around the end of 2017.

During our meeting, I will introduce the following motion:

“I move that AIS authorize Gary White and David Cupps to engage the services of Thirsty Concepts to update AIS websites and systems. David is authorized to spend \$21,500 on the initial project, and if additional contingencies are warranted and agreed to by Gary White, additional funds may be expended up to a total of \$30,000.

“Further, AIS authorizes David Cupps to access, use and change any and all web-related information and services in pursuit of this project. He may also access and use current and past databases and related information pertaining to members, donors and email contacts in order to provide the needed data systems.”

## Email services

The Long-Range Planning Committee has begun using the updated Google email system with no apparent problems so far. After a month of testing, other groups will be migrated similarly.

**David Cupps, Electronic Services Chair**