

**AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY
MAY 23-24, 2016**

FULL MINUTES:

President Gary White called the Spring Meeting of The American Iris Society Board of Directors to order at 1:09 PM on Monday May 23, 2016, and announced a quorum was present. President White asked Board Members, Committee Chairs, RVPs, and guests to introduce themselves.

Present during the various sessions were: **Officers:** President, Gary White; 1st Vice President, Jody Nolin; 2nd Vice President, Andi Rivarola; Secretary, Michelle Snyder; and Treasurer, Dwayne Booth. **Administrative Officers:** Registrar/Recorder, John Jones; and Recording Secretary, Susan Boyce. **Directors:** George Boyce, Susan Boyce, Gordon Carver, Al Elliott, Susan Grigg, John Jones, Bob Pries, Lois Rose, Debra Strauss, and Gerry Snyder. **RVP Representative:** Howie Dash. **Immediate Past President:** Jim Morris. **Committee Chairs:** Jill Bonino, Cheryl Deaton, Paul Gossett, and Riley Probst. **RVPs:** Linda Corapi (1), Dorothy Stiefel (2), Anita Moran (4), Tim Moore (8), Phyllis Wilburn (14), Debbie James (15), Dawn Boyer (17), Bev Hoyt (18), Linda Wilkie (21), and Howie Dash (23). **Guests:** Glenn Grigg (4), Louis DiSanto and Wil Wenkland (6), Dave & Debra Miller (9), Ann Booth and Chad Harris (13), Shirley Trio Probst (14), and Jean Morris (18).

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

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

Omaha, Nebraska
November 6-7, 2015

*M Snyder moved and Nolin seconded:

**That the minutes of the 2015 Board meeting be approved as published.

Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

President – Gary White reported on the appointment of Jim Morris as the Managing Editor of *IRISES*. Jaime Cloud will be the guest editor for the Summer issue and Jane Milliman will be the guest editor of the Fall issue of the Bulletin of the American Iris Society.

In accordance with standard practice, White asked for affirmation of interim Board actions taken by email vote since the November 2015 Board meeting.

1. *M Snyder moved and G Snyder seconded:
That we approve Andi Rivarola as the Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee. **Motion carried.
2. *Jones moved and G Boyce seconded:
At such times other than regularly scheduled meetings of the AIS Board of Directors, appointments to committees and/or committee chair positions requested by the AIS President shall be submitted by the AIS Secretary as a motion made on AISDiscuss@aisboard.org. In furtherance of the general superintendence of the affairs of the AIS, the deliberative period for said motions shall be 24 hours from the time the motion is seconded after which the motion shall be presented by the AIS Secretary on AISVote@aisboard.org for voting. Pursuant to the current standing rules on electronic voting, for all other motions the deliberative period shall remain five days. **Motion carried.
3. *M Snyder moved and G Snyder seconded:
That we approve Ron Killingsworth as Advertising Editor. **Motion carried.
4. *S Boyce moved and Rose seconded:
That we raise the Shipping and Handling fee for the Exhibition supplies from \$13.00 to \$14.00 effective Jan 15, 2016. **Motion carried.
5. *Pries moved and Rivarola seconded:
That the AIS President has the authority to approve uses of Bulletin articles being reprinted. **Motion carried by a vote of 10-3.
6. *Rivarola moved and Jones seconded:
That the AIS accept the invitation from the Iris Society of Dallas to host the 2017 AIS Fall Board Meeting in Dallas, Texas on November 3rd and 4th, 2017. **Motion carried.
7. *Jones moved and M Snyder seconded:
That the AIS Board approve a purchase of 750 copies of the 2017 calendar at a cost of \$1811.00. **Motion carried.
8. *M Snyder moved and Elliott seconded:
Jim Morris be appointed to the position of Managing Editor of *IRISES*, the Bulletin of the American Iris Society. **Motion carried.
9. *Ludi moved and Jones seconded:
That the Standard Price (including S&H) for the AIS 2017 Iris Calendar be: USA individual copy \$8.00, packet of 10 \$50.00; Canada individual copy \$10.00, packet of 10 \$55.00; International individual copy \$14.00, packet of 10 \$65.00. And the AIS offers as Early Order Special (cutoff May 1, 2016)(including S&H) USA individual copy &7.00, packet of 10 \$40.00; Canada individual copy \$9.00, packet of 10 \$50.00; International individual copy \$12.00, packet of 10 \$60.00. **Motion carried.
10. *Ludi moved and M Snyder seconded:
*That the AIS accept the offered donation of \$2000.00 to establish an AIS Revolving Funds Account for the annual purchasing/printing of the AIS Iris Calendar beginning with the Year 2017 Calendar. That income from calendar sales in any given year be returned to the AIS Revolving Funds Account until the AIS Cost is recovered. That any profits after the AIS Cost Recovery will be

available to the AIS General Fund for use. That should the AIS Board of Directors decide to not continue the annual AIS Iris Calendar Program, the \$2000.00 is to be a donation to the AIS General Fund. **Motion carried.**

*S Boyce moved and Booth seconded:

**That we affirm the interim Board actions since the 2015 Fall Board meeting.

Motion carried.

1st Vice President – Jody Nolin had no report.

2nd Vice President – Andi Rivarola had no report.

Secretary – Michelle Snyder reported that everyone is sending in their bills and checks to her in a timely manner.

Treasurer – Dwayne Booth reported on the current financial status of AIS. Booth reported no problems on filling the tax returns for 2015. Booth reported that several of the AIS accounts are in names of a past president and the past treasurer and they need to be updated.

*Booth moved and G Boyce seconded:

**That the American Iris Society Treasurer, currently Dwayne Booth, be designated as “owner” on behalf of the American Iris Society on the following accounts at the specified institutions:

Institution	Account Type	Last 4 Digits of Account
US Bank	Membership Checking	9886
US Bank	Storefront Checking	0875
US Bank	Storefront Petty Cash	4103
US Bank	Membership Petty Cash	9894
Wells Fargo	General Fund Checking	5925
Wells Fargo	Registrations Checking	7032
Edward Jones	Unrestricted Investments	17-1-3
Edward Jones	Restricted Investments	43-1-0
Edward Jones	Restricted Investments	17-1-3

Motion carried.

Nolin noted that the AIS Treasurer’s job description needs to be modified to be able to make these changes in signatories when changes happen.

*Nolin moved and Jones seconded:

That the AIS Treasurer job description be modified to include responsibilities for maintaining the proper signatories to the AIS bank accounts and investments. **Motion carried.

Booth reported that he feels a need for more AIS members who are involved in banking and fund raising to be members of the AIS Board of Directors. Many members of the board noted that finding board members who meet this criteria, may be impossible to find.

*Booth moved and Jones seconded:

That the Nominations Committee of the American Iris Society be directed to try to identify potential Board Members actively employed in the following professions: 1) Banking, 2) Fund Raising. **Motion carried.

Booth also reported a need for a committee to review the Membership Dues Restricted fund. A motion was made and seconded, but the motion was withdrawn in favor of having an ad hoc committee address this issue. President White appointed Jill Bonino to head this committee.

Booth also noted a need to consolidate the AIS Storefront's two storage units down to one storage unit to save money.

*Booth moved and Jones seconded:

**That the AIS Storefront be directed to reduce the inventory of 1939 through 1999 checklists to 1,000 books by the end of the fiscal year, September 30, 2016.

Motion carried.

Jones noted that in the Treasurer's report, Booth stated that he has a hard time paying some of the bills at certain times of the year due to the drop in income and not having enough money on hand in the checking account.

*Jones moved and Nolin seconded:

That the AIS Board direct the Treasurer to maintain enough ready cash on hand to be able to pay invoices and bills due throughout the year. **Motion carried by a vote of 8-4.

Rivarola asked if the AIS has a "Rainy Day" fund for paying bills, and the answer was no.

*Rivarola moved and Jones seconded:

That we create a "Rainy Day" category for operational funds. **Motion by a vote of 7-6.

The meeting recessed for a break at 2:55 pm and reconvened at 3:13 pm.

Dash reported on a discussion held during the break about adding a line for donations on the membership form.

*Dash moved and Booth seconded:

That we add a line to the online membership application form for new or renewing members that allows them to donate additional funds. **Motion carried by a vote of 13-2.

Advertising Editor – Ron Killingsworth was not in attendance. His report showed the number of advertisements that were received in 2014 and 2015. His report also noted that there are several advertisers who are consistently late, so he is now enforcing a strict cutoff date that is published in *IRISES*.

Managing Editor – Jim Morris reported that both guest editors have received poor quality photos. They need pictures that are at least 300 dpi and up. These requirements are necessary for good photo quality.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORTS:

Membership Secretary – Tom Gormley was not in attendance. His report indicated a small decrease in membership since last fall. It was noted that the Membership Secretary sends out a monthly statistics report to all of the RVPs and their region's membership secretaries. This report should also be made available to all board members. It was noted that this Statistical Monthly Report should be sent to Michelle Snyder so she can post it on AISDiscuss.

Registrar/Recorder – John Jones reported that several countries have changed registrars and there is now a registrar for China.

Recording Secretary – Susan Boyce reported that she has obtained a new recording machine and it is working great.

Publications/Sales – John and Kay Ludi were not present. His report listed the sales figures since Oct 1, 2015. Booth reported on the calendar sales that have been received so far for the 2017 calendar.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

1. Library ad hoc committee – Ron Cosner was not present and did not send in a report.
2. Operations Manual – Michelle Snyder reminded all to send any updates in job descriptions to her. Snyder would like the AIS job descriptions posted on the AIS Website.
3. AIS Intellectual Property Committee – Bob Hollingworth was not present and his report noted that there is no new activity.
4. Bylaws Revision Committee – Jody Nolin will report later in the meeting.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Affiliations/Affiliate Liaison – Chair Jody Nolin reported that 153 affiliates have sent in their affiliations paperwork so far. Unfortunately, one of the regions has not sent in any affiliation paperwork yet.

Awards – Chair Gerry Snyder reported the Wister Medals have arrived for the awards ceremony. Snyder noted that the 2017 ballot will be in bigger print so it will be easier to read.

Calendars – Chair Janet Smith was not present, and it was noted that the calendars were already reported on during the Publications/Sales report.

Convention Liaison – Chair Paul Gossett reported on the progress of the upcoming conventions. Gossett presented an invitation from the Greater Portland Iris Society to host the 2018 AIS Fall Board meeting.

*M Snyder moved and S Boyce seconded:

That we accept the invitation from the Greater Portland Iris Society to host the Fall 2018 AIS Board meeting. **Motion carried.

Bonino presented a line by line discussion of the finances for the 2016 convention, and also the plant sale that will be conducted by the Presby Gardens in July.

The meeting recessed for dinner at 4:56 pm and reconvened at 6:54 pm.

Donation Development – Chair Cheryl Deaton reported that she will write a series of articles for *IRISES* on different funds and what they are for.

Electronic Services – Chair Bob Seaman was not present and did not send in a report.

Exhibitions – Supply and Show report Chair Susan Boyce reported that the AIS supply income will be ahead of last year's totals. She also reported on the continuing problem with their current medal supplier and that this year's medals have still not been received. S Boyce has been looking into a local foundry to make the medals for 2017 and has found a company that will charge a lot less money. She will work on making a changeover during the rest of this year.

Lois Rose reported that she has approved 136 shows so far for this year.

National Collections, Display & Test Gardens Committee – Chair Bob Pries reported that the committee is exploring having garden display signs and convention garden signs made. George Boyce presented a proposal for the AIS to buy 9 inch by 7 inch, black aluminum garden signs at a cost of \$215 each when ordering 10 signs. For 20 signs it would be \$198 per sign or for 40 signs a cost of \$189 each. After a long discussion the board indicated that this was too expensive, and no action was taken. Pries brought up the subject of sending extra bulletins to botanical/display gardens to sell in their gift shops and create interest in The American Iris Society, and thus hopefully gain new AIS members.

*Pries moved and Nolin seconded:

That we experiment for a year with up to 5 gardens giving them 5 to 10 copies of each issue of the AIS Bulletin for them to offer for sale. **Motion carried.

Honorary Awards – Chair Jim Morris reported that the engraved Wister medals have been received for the Awards banquet.

Image Coordinator – Chair Janet Smith was not in attendance, but her report indicated that she has received very few photos of iris introductions.

Insurance – Chair Michelle Snyder reported that everything with the insurance policy is running smoothly.

Iris Programs Resources (Slides & Digital) – Chair Janet Smith was not present, and her report shows that the slide rentals have not been used at all. It was noted that Smith has been very busy scanning slides from various sections and slide collections from

individuals.

Iris Programs Resources (Speakers) – Chair Gordon Carver reported that he has only received 3 requests for information about speakers.

G Snyder asked if a new category could be made to include a list of AIS judges who are willing to travel to other regions to help judge an iris show. Carver noted that this would be a great idea.

Judges – Chair Judy Keisling was not present, but her report indicated that there has been a loss of 12 judges since the 2015 Fall Board meeting.

Judges Handbook Revision Committee – Chair Betty Roberts was not present. Her report noted that there are two large important sections that have yet to name their committee members to review their sections in the Judges Handbook. In her report, Roberts wondered if she should submit completed chapters, one at a time for approval, or should she wait until the whole book is done before submitting for approval? After a discussion, President White announced that she should submit the whole book at once for approval.

Morris stated that he would like to see the Judges Handbook be placed online.

*Pries moved and Morris seconded:

That the current “Handbook for Judges and Show Officials” be put on the Iris Encyclopedia. **Motion carried.

The meeting recessed for a break at 8:29 pm and reconvened at 8:46 pm.

Legal Advisor – Chair Veronica Johnson was not present. Her report noted that the problem with the Internal Revenue Service penalty for 2014 tax filing year has been resolved and the AIS did not have to pay the penalty.

Library – Chair Dave Silverberg was not present. White noted, that the official name of the library is “The American Iris Society Hager-DuBose Memorial Library”. This name should be used always when referring to it.

Photo Contest – Chair Janet Smith was not present. It was noted that the 2015 photo contest results are still not posted on the AIS Website. The 2016 photo contest started on May 1st.

Public Relations – Chair Bob Pries reported that work on the encyclopedia is continuing.

Rivarola reported that more and more international members are on the social website. He also stated that work is continuing on the 2020 Centennial convention, including a special iris competition.

Pries stated that he has found an editor for the 2020 Centennial publication. There was a discussion about the process of hiring an editor for the centennial publication.

*Pries moved and Nolin seconded:

That Nancy McDonald be named editor for the centennial publication. **Motion

carried.

G Boyce proposed that work on the international iris competition needs to be started.

*G Boyce moved and Nolin seconded:

That the AIS sponsor an international iris competition during the 2020 Spring Convention. **Motion carried.

More discussion about the iris competition ensued.

*Nolin moved and M Snyder seconded:

**That the AIS President appoint a committee to develop the rules for the 2020 Centennial International Iris Competition and that the committee include members from the 2020 convention committee and judges with experience in international competitions and that the committee report to the AIS Board at the Fall 2016 AIS Board meeting.

Motion carried.

G Boyce wanted to amend his earlier motion to clarify it.

*G Boyce moved and Pries seconded:

That motion 15 be amended to read: That the AIS sponsor an international iris competition during the 2020 Centennial Convention. **Motion carried.

Rivarola noted that a motion is needed for the President to appoint an ad hoc committee.

*Rivarola moved and G Snyder seconded:

That the AIS President appoint a committee to work on the 2020 Centennial publication. **Motion carried.

Scientific Advisory Committee – Chair Bob Hollingworth was not present. His report indicated the ongoing scientific research projects. Morris noted that as the Managing Editor, he reserves the right to refuse to print some of the scientific articles that are sent to him.

Silent Auction – Chair Debra Strauss reported that the silent auction is ready for business. Strauss submitted the list of items that the library has donated for the silent auction. Pries noticed that several of the items listed are catalogs and Pries wondered if the catalogs have been scanned. After a discussion, the board decided that several items will not be put out for the silent auction.

*Strauss moved and M Snyder seconded:

That the list of items from the library for the silent auction except items 16 through 45 be approved. **Motion carried.

Strategic Planning Committee – Chair Andi Rivarola reported on the work done in establishing a mission statement for The American Iris Society. The members of this committee are: Andi Rivarola (Chair), Judy Keisling, Jody Nolin, Cathy Egerer, Linda Wilkie, Bob Pries, Gary White, Gerry Snyder, Wayne Messer, and Paul Black.

*Rivarola moved and S Boyce seconded:

**That the mission statement “The Mission of The American Iris Society is to

organize and disseminate knowledge of the Genus Iris, while fostering its preservation, enjoyment and continued development.” be approved. **Motion carried.**

Symposium – Chair Riley Probst reported that only the top 30 irises were printed in the Winter issue of *IRISES*. The whole list of the top 100 irises were printed in the Spring issue. Probst noted that the 2016 symposium ballot was included with the Spring issue. Hopefully, by including this in the bulletin, the participation will substantially increase.

Youth – Chair Cheryl Deaton announced the winners of the Clarke Cosgrove Award. Sarah Green (Region 21) is the winner. 1st runner up is Glory Winzer (Region 18) and the 2nd runner up is Hope Winzer (Region 18). Deaton also announced the Ackerman Essay contest winners. Amberlee Peck (Region 14) is the winner for the 13 and up age group. There was a three way tie for the 12 and under age group. The winners are Samantha Anderson (Region 14), Ava Stanley (Region 14), and Katharina Brase (Region 21).

Deaton would like the Classroom Iris Project name changed to the Classroom Iris Program. The board agreed with the name change. Deaton also noted that the Clarke Cosgrove fund is almost depleted. She noted that the Cosgrove Winner Travel fund has almost never been used and also the Classroom Iris Program fund has rarely been used. Booth suggested combining these accounts and be rolled into a General Youth Restricted Fund.

*S Boyce moved and Carver seconded:

That the Classroom Iris Program, Cosgrove Winner Travel, and the Clarke Cosgrove Youth Award Fund restricted funds be consolidated into the General Youth Restricted Fund. **Motion carried.

Deaton reported on the final decision of the committee chaired by Judy Keisling on changing the youth policy regarding membership. “It would be unfair for non-members to be able to enjoy the perks created for dues paying AIS Youth members, such as the contest, prizes, and awards. Information on curriculum and other projects is available to all on the AIS Youth website.” So there will be no change in the youth membership policy.

The meeting recessed for the evening at 11:13 pm.

Tuesday May 24, 2016 – the meeting was called back to order at 9:18 pm.

Foundation Liaison – Chair Jill Bonino reported that they did not have a quorum present during the Foundation meeting so they only held discussions. An official meeting will need to be held later. Bonino reported on a draft investment policy being developed to allow foundation capital to be invested in securities other than just FDIC insured savings and certificates of deposit. The goals of the foundation are to create enough interest income for the year to fund all of the expenses for the library and for research grants.

RVP Counselor – Chair Susan Grigg reported on RVP Counselor meeting held earlier

in the day. Grigg requested board approval of two new RVPs. It was noted that the RVP for Region 11 has not been approved by the members of the Region and a regional meeting needs to be held before November to approve of this appointment.

*Grigg moved and Booth seconded:

That the Board approve Margaret Kelly and Jeannette Graham as RVPs for AIS Regions 9 and 11 respectively. **Motion carried by a vote of 12-1.

RVP Representative – Howie Dash announced that the RVP Representative for this next year is Anita Moran of Region 4. The Nominating Committee representatives are Phyllis Wilburn (14) and Nick Stewart (22).

Section and Cooperating Society Liaison – Chair Jody Nolin reported on the Section and Cooperating Society meeting. Several different discussions were held. Nolin announced that Joe Musacchia (Society for Louisiana Irises) will be the Section Representative to the AIS Nominating Committee.

Report of the Nominating Committee – Andi Rivarola presented the slate of nominees, for consideration as candidates for the four director positions on The American Iris Society Board of Directors. They are: George Boyce (4), Cheryl Deaton (15), Claire Schneider (15), Dawn Boyer (17), and Gordon Carver (17). There were two additional nominations from the floor. David Cupps (7) and Howie Dash (23).

The meeting adjourned at 9:59 pm for Executive Session.

The Board of Directors went into Executive Session from 10:05 pm with the regular Session called back to order at 10:40 pm.

President White announced the Director Nominees selected for the three-year terms which will expire in 2019 are: Dawn Boyer, David Cupps, Howie Dash, and Claire Schneider.

Nominating Committee Appointments – President White announced the appointment of Lois Rose and Al Elliott as Board representatives to the 2017 AIS Nominating Committee. Rose and Elliott will join Nick Stewart (RVP), Phyllis Wilburn (RVP), and Joe Musacchia (Sections) as members of this committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Fall Board Meeting will be held November 4-5, 2017 at the Hampton Inn Sedona Hotel. 2016 Fall Meeting Chair, Michelle Snyder may be reached at aissecretary@irises.org or (928) 282-5867.

The 2017 Spring AIS Board Meeting and Convention will be held May 23-27, in Des Moines, Iowa.

Unfinished Business:

By-laws Revision Committee – Chair Jody Nolin reported that the members of the

by-laws committee are: Jody Nolin (Chair), Judy Keisling, Susan Boyce, Susan Grigg, Anita Moran, and Andi Rivarola. Nolin stated that during the past year this committee has been reviewing, modernizing, clarifying, and redoing old policies. Parts of some Articles and Sections have been reworded and agreed upon by the members of this committee, but other Articles and Sections are still being worked on and are still in discussion and it will take time before it is presented to the AIS Board of Directors. President White noted that since Article 4 has minor changes it could be looked at first. After a discussion, a consensus was agreed upon about the minor word changes for Article 4.

President White thanked all in attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 11:22 pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Susan Boyce