

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA
APRIL 30-MAY 1, 2007

FULL MINUTES

President Jeanne Clay Plank called the Spring Meeting of The American Iris Society Board of Directors to order at 1:05 PM on Monday April 30, 2007, and announced a quorum was present. President Plank welcomed all attendees, and asked Board Members, Committee Chairs, RVP's, and guests to introduce themselves.

Present during the various sessions were: **Officers:** President, Jeanne Clay Plank; 1st Vice President, Dr. E. Roy Epperson; 2nd Vice President, Judy Keisling; General Secretary, Patricia Randall; Treasurer, Jill Bonino.

Administrative Officers: Membership Secretary, Tom Gormley; Recording Secretary Susan Boyce; Publication Sales, John and Kay Ludi. **Directors:** Louise Carson, Paul Gossett, Donna James, John Jones, Brad Kasperek, John Ludi, Jim Morris, Bob Pries, Gerry Synder, Gary White. **RVP Representative:** Bob Keup. **Immediate Past President:** Terry Aitken. **Legal Advisor:** Bob Plank. **Committee Chairs:** Cheryl Deaton, Michelle Synder. **RVP's:** Dave Nitka (1), Carolyn Hawkins (5), Jody Nolin (6), Hugh Thurman (7), Nancy Pocklington (9), Lynn Williams (14), Kathy Chilton (15), Carolyn Ash (18), Vince Lewonski (19), Robert Treadway (22). **Guests:** Ron James (2), Glenn & Susan Grigg (4), Jim & Jill Copeland (6), John Baker, Ledra Mohrman (8), Irv Pocklington (9), Kathie Kasperek (12), Barbara Aitken, George Lankow, Judy Nunn, Lorena Reid, Doris Smith (13), David & Judith Kennedy (15), Charlie Brown (17), Bob Ash, Jean Morris, Dave Niswonger (18), Carol Goldsberry, F.W. McVicker, Lon Rombach (22).

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

Kansas City, Missouri - November 3-4, 2006.

No additions or corrections were made to the Digest Minutes as printed in the AIS Bulletin #344 (January 2007), therefore Jones moved, Randall seconded, motion carried, that these minutes be approved. No additions or corrections were made to the full minutes as posted on the AIS website. Jones moved, Bonino seconded, motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

President - Jeanne Clay Plank asked that the appointment of John Jones as Motion Secretary be approved. Epperson so moved, Randall seconded. Motion carried.

In accordance with standard practice, Plank asked for affirmation of interim Board action taken by email vote since the November 2006 Board Meeting. Secretary Patricia Randall reported the following Board email actions for affirmation:

1. Acceptance of the Madison Area Iris Society invitation to host the 2010 AIS

Convention.

2. Approval of the implementation of the Membership Expiration database at the suggested budget amount of \$700, to come from the Electronic Services Restricted Fund.

Jones moved, Epperson seconded and the board approved the affirmation of the two interim actions.

1st Vice President - Roy Epperson deferred his report until later.

2nd Vice President - Judy Keisling was not in attendance at this session.

General Secretary - Patricia Randall reported the arrival of the Dykes Medal. She concluded her report by officially announcing her resignation from the office of General Secretary, effective with the conclusion of the 2007 fall meeting.

Treasurer - Jill Bonino discussed the voucher payment system, and outlined procedures to follow when the General Secretary (in cases of emergency) is temporarily unable to handle this process.

Bonino stated in her financial report, that the AIS is in good financial shape.

Bulletin - Managing Editor Terry Aitken reported that our current printer, Bridgetown Publishing agreed to lower their prices to match the two lower bids Aitken had received from printers located in the Portland area. Due to the resignation of Bruce Filardi, guest editors have been invited to edit the next four Bulletin issues. Two guest editors have agreed to edit the July and October Bulletins, however two more guest editors are needed to edit the January and April 2008 Bulletins. Aitken will remain as the Managing Editor. Erica Bjerning will continue to produce the Bulletin Layout and Design. Aitken commended Bjerning for her continued excellence in this position. Aitken stated that the number of color ads has dropped quite a bit and recommended that AIS return to its old displays ad rates.

*Jones moved, Synder seconded:

That we roll back the bulletin display advertising rates to those in effect as of the July 2004 Bulletin, those rates to become effective as of the January 2008 Bulletin. **Motion carried.

Wages for the Managing Editor and the guest editors were discussed.

*Jones moved, Bonino seconded:

That the salary for the Managing Editor be set at \$3,000/year and that \$3,000/year be split equally between the four issues per year as payment to the guest editors for each of those issues. **Motion carried.

A question arose concerning the confusion about publishing pictures of iris seedlings in the bulletin. A recommendation was proposed that the statement be clarified and printed in the Bulletin. Some discussion took place in order to refine the statement's wording to achieve greater clarity of intent:

*Epperson moved, Keup seconded:

Color pictures of irises used in AIS publications shall be registered, introduced irises, properly published species, historical cultivars, or overall garden shots. Color pictures of seedlings under number or name may be used only in support of specific article content. **Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORTS;

Membership Secretary - Tom Gormley reported that Paypal has been a continued success. There are 127 new members via Paypal. He predicted that membership income will remain flat for this next year. Gormley stated that the current computer system used in the MemSec's office is now becoming outdated and some of the new programs will not run. He proposed the purchase of a new computer system for running the database system on.

*Morris moved, James seconded:

That the AIS Membership Secretary be authorized to purchase a laptop computer at a price not to exceed \$1,500. **Motion carried.

Registrations/Recorders - Mike and Anne Lowe were not present. Their report noted that a problem with sound-alike names developed this year. The report states that a request was made that this problem be brought to attention of the AIS Board of Directors for a ruling on whether or not duplication of a person's name or a place be prohibited regardless of differences in spelling or pronunciation. The report stated that "hybridizers selecting names for their new cultivars would have to consider an additional criteria in choosing a unique name. Implementation of this policy would require translation of all existing Check List iris names not presently rendered in English and a name check of new registrations run against this list." The Lowes pointed out that this would be very difficult to execute as there are 59,000 existing iris names. They do not recommend favorable consideration for approval of this suggested policy. The board agreed that the AIS not choose to change the existing policy. With more discussion:

*Pries moved, Gossett seconded:

** That the AIS maintain it's current implementation of the policy of following the International Code of Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants in the registration of Iris names. **Motion carried.**

Recording Secretary - Susan Boyce has no report for this meeting.

Meeting recessed at 2:45 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 3:05 pm.

Publication/Sales Directors - John and Kay Ludi reported the Eric Nies Chronicles are sold out and more are needed. There are 32 copies left in the inventory of "***Classic Irises and the Men and Women who Created Them***" by Clarence Mahan. Sales have slowed.

*Ludi moved, Gossett seconded:

*** That the price of the Clarence Mahan book be sold as a 2007 convention special at \$59. **Motion carried.**

*Ludi moved, Epperson seconded:

Once the inventory of the Clarence Mahan book is sold that we not re-order the book. **Motion carried.

Ludi also reported the Basic Iris Culture booklets inventory is very low.

Discussion followed about reprinting or a making new booklet. Boyce read from the Spring 2006 Board Meeting minutes the recommendation to reprint the Basic Iris Culture without revision for four more years. Since only one year has passed, it was agreed that the BIC should be printed again without any changes.

*Kasperek moved, Keup seconded:

**That we reprint 2,000 copies of the Basic Iris Culture immediately.

Motion carried.

More discussion followed about creating a committee to review the Basic Iris Culture.

*Jones moved, Epperson seconded:

That the Publications Committee be directed to proceed revising the graphics for the Basic Iris Culture and that the graphics be finished by June 1, 2008. **Motion carried.

*Jones moved, Pries seconded:

** That the Publications Committee make best efforts to design a new iris booklet by the AIS Spring Convention 2008. **Motion carried.**

Ludi also stated that the inventory of the AIS seals is low. Before new seals are reprinted, the AIS race track logo re-design needs to be finished.

*White moved, Keup seconded:

That John Jones make best effort to complete the vector design of the AIS race track logo by the Fall 2007 Board meeting. **Motion carried.

Discussion followed about the need for the AIS seals.

*Kasperek moved, Keup seconded:

That we discontinue stocking the AIS seal at the AIS Storefront when the current inventory is exhausted. **Motion failed.

Ludi's report also indicated that the Invitation to Join pamphlets inventory is around 4,000, enough to serve the AIS needs until the next Board Meeting. Epperson brought up the need to dispose of all remaining copies of the old judges training manual and its revision. After discussion:

*Epperson moved, Jones second:

**That the AIS Storefront place all copies of the basic edition and revisions of the sixth edition of the *Handbook for Judges and Show Officials* into recycle.

Motion carried.

Unfinished Business - none.

New Business - none.

REPORTS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Operations Manual - Roy Epperson reported that effective November 2007 President Plank will assume oversight of the Operations Manual.

Non-profit Incorporation/501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Status - Bob Plank reported that one Region, one Co-operating society, and three Affiliates have become tax exempt.

President Plank stated that due to continuous need for assistance on the part of various division of AIS, she recommends that the Non-profit Incorporation/501(c)(3) advisory should be a Standing Committee.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Affiliates - Chair Brad Kasperek reported that there are six fewer affiliates than last year. A discussion followed about encouraging RVP's and affiliate presidents and ways to assist them in their duties.

Awards - Chair Roy Epperson stated that after this convention there would be a need to cast more Wister Memorial Medals. This need will be addressed at the fall board meeting.

Calendars - Chair Terry Aitken reported that most of the pictures for the 2008 calendar are the photos from the 2006 AIS photo contest.

Donations - Chair Donna James reported that donations have remained steady to date for this year.

Meeting recessed for dinner at 5:00 pm. It was called back to order at 8:00 pm.

Convention - Chair Paul Gossett discussed possible format changes for future conventions. One idea mentioned was, four - 1/2 day tours with classes in the afternoons.

Gossett thanked the Board for approving the 2010 convention in Madison, WI. He also reported that he has received an invitation from Portland, OR to host the fall board meeting in 2010.

*Ludi moved, Epperson seconded:

That we accept the invitation from the Greater Portland Iris Society to host the fall board meeting in 2010. **Motion carried.

Electronic Services - Chair John Jones reported that he has received more than \$7,800 in subscription revenues from www.irisregister. There are currently 192 subscribers.

He stated that the Dwarf Iris Society and Aril Society International have signed on to use the Paypal system via the AIS Membership join webpage.

He reported on the new service being implemented which will allow AIS members to check their membership status. This new member service should be ready shortly.

*Jones moved, Pries seconded:

That we administer the "subscribers only" section of the AIS Website by publishing a password in each bulletin. **Motion carried.

Jones also stated that that work is proceeding to add to the AIS Website a PDF file of every AIS Bulletin from January 2007 back to October 2002.

Exhibitions - Chairs Jim & Janet Giles were not present, but their report stated that a full detailed report will be presented at the 2007 Fall Board meeting.

Foundation Liaison - Chair Roger Mazur was not present. His report stated that Dr. Rodionenko's work is finished and he will be retiring. The foundation is awaiting reports from Dr. Carol Wilson and also Dr. Yuval Sapir. Bob Plank reported about the current ongoing circumstances surrounding the DuBose estate.

Honorary Awards - Chair Terry Aitken. Following normal procedure, the report from this committee will be presented at the 2007 Fall Board Meeting to the Board of Directors for action.

Information Resource - Chair Anne Lowe was not present, but her report stated that they continue to provide answers to inquiries.

Insurance - Chair Michelle Synder reported that the affiliates continue to use the web page to obtain needed certificates of insurance from the broker. As the current policy does not expire until August, she will report more on the insurance issues at the fall board meeting.

Judges - Chair Judy Keisling reported that there is some concern about being able to fulfill the in-garden requirements for the first 3-year cycle because of the unusual weather conditions in 2007. Even though this first, three-year cycle doesn't end until July 31, 2008, Keisling has had several requests to extend this cycle for another year.

*Keisling moved, Epperson seconded:

That we extend the deadline for the satisfaction of the first three-year cycle of the required in-garden judges training to July 31, 2009. **Motion failed.

Judges Handbook - Chair Roy Epperson reported that the new Judges Training Handbook is now available for purchase.

Library - Chair Tracy Plotner was not present. Her report listed for Board approval, items that were sent from the AIS Library to the 2007 convention Silent Auction.

*Epperson moved, Gossett seconded:

That the items listed in Librarian's report as donations to the 2007 AIS Silent Auction be accepted. **Motion carried.

Photo Contest - Chair Kitty Loberg was not present. President Plank announced that the 2006 photo contest was a huge success. Details about the 2007 contest have been published in the AIS Bulletin, and can be found on the AIS Website.

Policy - Chair Mike Lowe was not present. His report stated that because searches of the database for past policy decisions has become too cumbersome to continue, a new way to search policy is being explored.

Programs, Slides, and Speakers - Chairs Avery and Joyce Poling were not in attendance. Epperson noted that there is a problem with some of the slides being mis-identified. A discussion followed about the need for identification accuracy.

*Kasperek moved, Morris seconded:

That the AIS President appoint an adhoc committee to review and document corrections for the AIS slide sets and CD's. **Motion carried.

Publications - Chair Maureen Mark was not present. Her report stated the need to print more copies of the Eric Nies Chronicles. Her report also carried a reminder about registering AIS Publications. Epperson noted that the AIS owns 100 ISBN numbers, only eight of which have been used.

The meeting was adjourned for the day at 10:00 pm.

Tuesday, May 1, 2007 - the meeting reconvened at 8:05 am.

Publicity - Chair Bob Pries reported on the different projects that the Publicity Committee has been working on.

Scientific Advisory Committee - Chair Gary White's report summarized the committee's activities since the 2006 Fall Board Meeting. The AIS financial obligation has been completed for the grant to Dr. Alan Meerow funding his research on 'Population Genetics of *Iris hexagona* using microsatellite DNA.' Dr. Meerow requested and received approval from the AIS Board, for a no-cost extension for the grant through April 2007. The final report from Dr. Meerow will be expected following completion of his study.

Since the last Board of Directors meeting, the Scientific Advisory Committee received one article for review prior to AIS Bulletin publication. The committee recommended the article not be published. The Scientific Advisory Committee has reviewed six articles since its formation in 2005. All but one were recommended

Section Liaison - Chair Jim Morris reported that four of the sections are seaching for new editors. He announced that each organization has been

offered the opportunity to provide 2-4 pages of copy on their favorite flower classification in either the July or October issues of the AIS Bulletin.

Silent Auction - Chair Rita Gormley reported that last year's very successful Silent Auction in Portland was due in part to the large number of convention attendees.

Symposium - Chair Gerry Snyder stated that the tally sheets and software are ready for the RVP's to begin the symposium ballot this summer.

Youth - Chair Cheryl Deaton urged AIS members to encourage and support the involvement of youth in AIS. Separate from her report, Deaton announced the results of Ackerman Essay contest: Cameron Flowers, Region 7 (13 and up age group) and Sarah Green, Region 21, (12 and under age group).

Meeting recessed at 9:23 am.

Meeting reconvened at 9:37 am.

Report of the Nominating Committee - President Plank reported that the members of the 2007 nominating committee were: Debby Cole, Carolyn Hawkins, Brad Kasperek, Ann Violette, and Gary White.

The slate of nominees for consideration as candidates for the four director positions on the American Iris Society Board of Directors are: Carol Goldsberry (22), Rita Gormley (18), Paul Gossett (22), Susan Grigg (4), Kitty Loberg (14), Jim Morris (18), Bob Pries (18), and Michelle Synder (15). One additional nomination was added from the floor. Bob Keup (2).

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 am.

The Board of Directors went into executive session from 9:45 am until 11:00 am, with the regular session called back to order at 8:04 pm. Director nominees selected for the three year terms which will expire in 2010 are: Paul Gossett, Bob Keup, Jim Morris, and Bob Pries.

Nominating Committee Appointments - President Plank announced the appointment of Louise Carson and John Ludi as Board representatives to the 2008 AIS Nominating Committee. Carson and Ludi will join Jody Nolin (RVP), Nancy Pocklington (RVP), and Barbara Aitken (Sections) as members of this Committee.

The 2007 nominating committee recommended the first notice requesting suggestions for candidates for nomination to the AIS Board of Directors be published in the October AIS Bulletin. They also recommended a follow up request, along with the deadline date for submitting nominations be published in the January AIS Bulletin.

Designation of President-elect - Jones moved that Roy Epperson be designated as President-elect. Gossett seconded the motion and it carried.

Designation of Secretary-elect - Epperson noted that Patricia Randall's resignation would become effective at close of the Fall 2007 AIS Board meeting. To aid in making a smooth transition of the office to the new General Secretary, Epperson recommended that Michelle Snyder be appointed as General Secretary-elect. Jones motioned, Randall seconded, and carried.

RVP Representative - Representative Bob Keup recommended that this position, the RVP Representative, be discontinued. The board feels however, the RVP Representative position is very important. The position will stay with more focus directed towards defining the position's responsibilities.

RVP Counselor - Chair Louise Carson announced that Jerry Coates, Region 4, has been elected RVP Representative to the Board for 2007-2008. The need to have a RVP communication network was discussed at the RVP meeting. Jones stated that there will be an email list set up for the RVP's. Carson stated that Region 24 finally has a RVP. It was pointed out that all new RVP's need to be approved by the board.

*Kasperek moved, Synder seconded:

That Jim Chappell be approved as the RVP for Region 24. **Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS -

The Fall Board Meeting will be held November 2-4, 2007 at the Wyndham Hotel (Research Triangle Park) in Durham, NC. 2007 Fall Meeting Chair, Susan Grigg may be reached at irismom@nc.rr.com

On behalf of herself and the Board, President Plank thanked Bill McVicker, Convention Chairman, and expressed appreciation to him and to all the Region 22 convention committee members for hosting this 2007 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma National Convention.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.
Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Boyce