

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
PORTLAND, OREGON
MAY 22-23, 2006

FULL MINUTES

President Jeanne Clay Plank called the Spring Meeting of the American Iris Society Board of Directors was called to order at 1:10 PM on Monday May 22, 2006. President Plank welcomed all attendees. Board Members, Committee Chairs, RVPs, and guests in attendance introduced 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; Editor, Bruce Filardi. **Administrative Officers:** Registrar/Recorder, Mike and Anne Lowe; Membership Secretary, Tom Gormley; Recording Secretary Pro Tem, Susan Boyce; Publication Sales, John Ludi. **Directors:** Louise Carson, Paul Gossett, Donna James, Brad Kasperek, John Ludi, Jim Morris, Joyce Poling, Bob Pries, Betty Roberts, Gerry Snyder, George Sutton, Gary White. **RVP Representative:** Carol Goldsberry. **Past President:** Terry Aitken. **Legal Advisor:** Bob Plank. **Committee Chairs:** Cheryl Deaton, John I. Jones, Maureen Mark, Roger P. Mazur, Avery Poling, Michelle Synder. **RVPs:** Dave Nitka (1), Bob Keup (2), Jerry Coates (4), Carolyn Hawkins (5), Hugh Thurman (7), Ann Violette (11), Peggy Naranjo (23). **Guests:** Ellen Gallagher, Robert Sawyer (1), Ronald James (2), Jim & Jill Copeland (6), Irv & Nancy Pocklington (9), Ken & Carol Coleman, Don Violette (11), Kathie Kasperek (12), Rita Butler (13), Jay Hudson, Kitty Loberg, Margaret Sutton (14), Darol Jurn (15), Sandy Ives (16), Jean Morris, Carolyn Needham, O.D. Niswonger (18), Carolyn Lingenfelter, Kelly Norris (21), Sergey Loctev (Russia).

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

Minneapolis, Minnesota - November 4-6, 2005.

No additions or corrections were made to the Digest Minutes as printed in the AIS Bulletin #340; therefore, Ludi moved, Epperson seconded, motion carried, that these minutes be approved. The full minutes as posted on the AIS website had one correction on the attendees: Three guest members designated as Region 14 should have been designated as Region 18. Gossett moved that the minutes be approved with the correction. Epperson seconded and motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

President - Jeanne Clay Plank requested approval of the following appointments:

1. Mike Lowe as Parliamentarian -- Aitken moved, Snyder seconded, appointment approved.
2. Susan Boyce as the Recording Secretary -- Epperson moved, Gossett seconded, appointment approved.

3. John I Jones as Motion Monitor -- Epperson moved, Snyder seconded, appointment approved.
4. The following interim e-mail actions were affirmed by Secretary Randall:
 - a. Authorized reprinting of 2,000 Basic Iris Culture booklets.
 - b. Reduced the price of the 2006 AIS calendar, when purchased at the AIS Portland convention, to \$1.00 each.

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

2nd Vice President - Judy Keisling deferred her report until later.

General Secretary - Patricia Randall

1. Verified the arrival of the Dykes Medal.
2. Confirmed that check endorsement stamps were ordered and sent to those chairmen as required.

Treasurer - Jill Bonino

1. Wendy Boyce, CPA of Fort Bragg, CA, performed an audit on the AIS treasury as of the close of the fiscal year, Sept 30, 2005, and submitted a good report. She also prepared the end-of-the-fiscal-year tax return for AIS and reported no taxes due. Bonino would like to continue to use W. Boyce to complete the forms 990 and 990T. W. Boyce's annual charge for this service is \$350. The AIS budget had estimated \$4,000 for the audit and tax preparation. W. Boyce charged significantly less, and the combined bill for both services totaled only \$1440. Copies of the tax return and copies of the review report are available for all to see.

2. Preliminary reports of the first 6 months of the year look good. Although advising a wait-and-see approach, Treasurer Bonino is cautiously optimistic that AIS will not report a loss for the total year.

3. Raising income and cutting expenses will be required. Options are to manage investments to make the most money, and by keeping the money in the safest investments possible for future security. The Treasurer stated she would like to set up an Investment Policy Committee to work with her. On President Plank's recommendation, Keisling moved to:

"Establish a Financial Advisory Committee, Members appointed were: Jill Bonino, chair; Jay Hudson, Bob Plank, and Dr E. Roy Epperson, to the Financial Advisory committee".

Seconded by Gossett. Motion carried and approved.

4. Treasurer Bonino thanked those Regions and clubs who have donated to the Insurance Fund. AIS has received \$9,550 in donations toward defraying the cost of AIS insurance.

5. Epperson moved:

"That the audit as presented and the financial report as presented be entered into the records of the AIS".

Gossett seconded. Carried.

Bulletin Editor - Bruce Filardi, not in attendance at this session, will present his report later.

Advertising Editors - Margaret & George Sutton

1. M Sutton pointed out the need for advertisers to submit their ads earlier. She reported having to refund money to one advertiser whose ad came in after the deadline for the April 2006 issue.

2. Jim Morris opened a discussion on what could be done to encourage advertisers to advertise more and to get their material in early. To that end, Morris moved "That a 5% discount off listed price be offered for an individual that advertises the same color display ad in two consecutive bulletins." Gossett seconded. Following further discussion, Morris modified his motion. In the discussion following the modified motion, M. Sutton recommended a committee be formed to reformulate the motion and bring it back to the Board before the meeting's end. Epperson moved, Kasperek seconded that the Morris motion be tabled. The vote was called and the motion was tabled. Keisling moved, Randall seconded:

"That an ad hoc committee be formed to recommend changes in the advertising rates with Jim Morris, Brad Kasperek, Margaret & George Sutton, Bruce Filardi, and Terry Aitken on the committee".

Motion carried.

Reporting back by meetings end, the committee recommended the following motion made by G. Sutton, seconded by Gossett,

"That two identical color ads in the AIS Bulletin purchased and paid for in advance in a calendar year merit a 10% discount for each ad."

Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORTS:

Membership Secretary - Tom Gormley

AIS Membership from Spring 2005 to Spring 2006 was down by 202 members. Gormley added, however, that as a consequence of the April 1, 2005, dues rate increase, an additional \$24,100 was brought in to help cover the greatly increased cost of insurance as well as the normal costs of doing business.

The Membership Advisory group report precipitated a discussion about gaining new members. It was observed that magazine and newspaper articles are productive membership tools. Pries moved, Epperson seconded,

"That the AIS join the Garden Writers Association of America, and appoint a committee to generate the necessary supporting material".

Motion carried.

Following a discussion about starting AIS e-memberships, Epperson moved, White seconded,

"That the Board authorize an ad hoc Membership Advisory Committee to create a study on e-memberships and e-services and report to the AIS Board."

Motion carried.

The meeting recessed at 3:00pm. The meeting reconvened at 3:20pm.

Registrar/Recorder - Mike & Anne Lowe

One half of all registrations coming into the Registrar/Recorder's office come in the last month (November) just before the filing deadline for each year. At the time of the report, the AIS had received 250 more registrations over the comparable period last year. The 2005 Registration and Introductions (R&I) booklet is the largest ever, and required a reduction in the font size to meet binding limitations. M. Lowe warned that future R&I booklets might have to use perfect binding in order to maintain a readable font size, and with perfect binding comes increased costs. The current R&I size is 8 1/2" X 5 1/2". One solution to the problem may be to increase the size of the booklet pages. M. Lowe asked the Board to give this possibility some thought over the summer.

Recording Secretary - Susan Boyce

The recording machine purchased by the Lowes for use during A. Lowe's tenure as Recording Secretary was purchased from the Lowes by AIS at a very reduced price. AIS will provide this excellent recorder for use by those serving as AIS Recording Secretary.

Publications/Sales Directors - John & Kay Ludi

J. Ludi reported that the Basic Iris Culture (BIC) booklet was reprinted, and suggested that the BIC should be reprinted for another 4 years or until info in booklet is 10 years old. This year's reprint of 2,000 constitutes about one year's supply. He noted that most BICs are sent out via commercial growers along with iris orders.

Excess bulletins numbers are currently at 7,000, and each surplus shipment of 10 represents a loss of \$3.00. Ann Violette has about 3,100 of the 2002-2005 bulletins on hand. In view of this reality, J. Ludi moved, Snyder seconded.

"That the AIS Board set the fee for selling outdated bulletins at \$10.00 for 25 bulletins and \$15.00 for 50 bulletins, including postage and handling, with these prices becoming effective July 2006."

Motion carried.

J. Ludi reminded the Board that a convention special was being conducted on 2006 AIS calendars to move the surplus inventory. Acting to move the 2006 AIS Calendar inventory after the convention, Bonino moved, G. Sutton seconded:

"That the Store Front sell the 2006 AIS calendar in groups of 10 for \$13.00 including the shipping and handling."

Motion carried.

Unfinished Business - None.

New Business - None.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Operations Manual - Roy Epperson reported that the committee is continuing to work on changes to the Operations Manual, especially to job descriptions.

Non-profit Incorporation/ 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Status - Bob Plank noted that all who attend Board Meetings in an official or representative capacity may deduct expenses incurred to attend such meetings when itemizing their Federal income returns.

Race Track Design - John Jones stated that work on fine-tuning the AIS Logo image is still ongoing.

CD Creation - John Jones recommended, R. Epperson seconded that:

"That the ad hoc committee for CD creation be dissolved and removed from consideration."

Motion carried.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Affiliates - Chair Brad Kasperek reported 179 approved affiliates, one less than last year at this time. The total amount of fees collected from affiliates not qualifying for free annual affiliation was \$2,100.

Awards - Chair Roy Epperson reported that printing a second (purple) ballot was required in order to fairly correct an error which resulted in 16 qualifying cultivars being excluded from the first (red) ballot. The second ballot was mailed out to voting members, but not to apprentices. The printer who has been doing work for AIS for several years donated the second ballot work at no cost to the AIS.

Calendars - Chair Terry Aitken reported that the 2007 AIS calendar is in the works. It should be available through the AIS Storefront around September. It is believed that because the 2006 calendar was late getting to the Store Front, the number of sales for this year were down over last year. One thousand fewer copies were ordered for 2007 than were ordered for 2006.

Convention Liaison - Chair Paul Gossett reported that as yet, there is no national convention site for 2010, but two possible hosts are still considering submitting bids. In the face of continuing difficulty with finding hosts for the labor-intensive Spring Garden Tour Conventions, a discussion developed, focused around possible convention format changes. Suggestions discussed were: offering three or four larger gardens versus many smaller gardens, or 1/2 day garden tour days and 1/2 day meetings, or alternating national conventions with section conventions. No immediate action was taken.

Electronic Services - Chair John Jones announced that at this time the Iris Register has 243 subscribers, up from 213 subscribers, and has produced

revenues of \$3,665. The website page for joining AIS online or renewing an AIS membership through PayPal is on a webpage in the website, but not open for business at this time. It should be up and running within the month.

In other matters, Jones pointed out that the AIS website continues to be managed by Chris Hollinshead, and suggested that it might be appropriate for the Webmaster to be paid a stipend on an annual basis, for on-going and increasing work. Pries moved, Gossett seconded:

"That the AIS Board of Directors authorize an annual stipend for the AIS Webmaster of \$2,000. That \$1,000 of the stipend to be provided from the Iris Register revenues in the Electronic Services Restricted fund and the remaining portion of the stipend be provided from the general fund retroactive to the beginning of 2006; that a contract be executed describing the services being contracted for."

Motion carried.

The meeting recessed at 5:15pm. The meeting was called back into order at 8:05pm

Donations - Chair Donna James reported that the majority of this year's donations have been received from Affiliates, Regions, and Sections to defray the rising cost of the AIS Liability Insurance. The total from donations received from November 1, 2005 to April 30, 2006 was \$9,970. James also reported, since arriving at the convention, she has received a check for \$1,000 earmarked for AIS Insurance.

Exhibitions - Chair Jim & Janet Giles reported that as of last week 163 shows have been approved. Four shows were cancelled due to weather.

Foundation Liaison - Chair Roger Mazur reported that the AIS Foundation has a new set of bylaws approved by the trustees. The new bylaws delineate necessary procedures that had been followed, but had never been written down. Currently, the Foundation has assets of \$405,000.

The Foundation has received reports this year from Dr. Rodionenko and Dr. Carol Wilson. Dr. Wilson will be appropriated her 3rd and final installment of grant money this year. Dr. Rodionenko is also scheduled to receive his last grant installment this year.

Dr. Yuval Sapir of Israel received a grant three years ago for collecting all of the irises of Israel, and planting them in a garden. He has requested a new grant for new research on genetic markers.

Historical Resources - Chair Anne Lowe reported that she receives numerous questions from the public, as she is still listed as a reference in numerous publications.

Honorary Awards - No report

Judges - Chair Judy Keisling reported that 30 judges have been dropped for non-payment of dues. There are currently 814 certified judges. This total is down from last year's tally. Keisling has been redesigning paperwork to reflect the new change in training requirements of in-garden training.

Judges Handbook - Chair Roy Epperson recommended the following motions:

1. "That, in principle, the designation of Judges' titles be: Student (not a judge), Apprentice (A), Garden/Exhibition (G/E), Senior (S), Retired (R) (cannot present a for-credit judges' training class), Master (M) (formerly Emeritus), Overseas (OS)."

Roberts seconded and motion carried.

2. "That a fully accredited AIS judge is any currently approved judge in the following categories: G/E, S, M, and OS."

Gossett seconded and motion carried.

3. "That the following statement in the Judges Handbook (p.8) be rescinded: "These judges (Retired/Master) may be used as a show judge if needed by a show committee. They are to be assigned to a panel with an accredited judge or an active Master judge."

Morris seconded and motion carried.

4. "That, in principle, "an approved judges training class" be defined as : A structured in-classroom or in-garden instruction for 2 or more participants, presented by a fully accredited AIS judge. A written test of at least 10 questions for each hour of training credit shall be administered, discussed and filed with the regional JT Chair."

Gossett seconded and motion carried.

5. "That the current requirements for in-garden training be reaffirmed."

Randall seconded and motion carried.

6. "That we keep the current scale of points in the Judges Handbook for the Artistic division."

Keisling seconded and motion carried.

Library - Chair Keith McNames was not present. President Plank announced that McNames has tendered his resignation. A new Librarian is needed. In his report McNames requested Board approval of the list of excess library items offered to the Silent Auction for the 2006 Convention. Later in the meeting Epperson moved, and James seconded:

"That the items submitted by McNames for the Silent Auction be approved.

Motion carried.

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

Tuesday May 23, 2006 - the meeting was called back to order at 8:10am.

Policy - Chair Betty Roberts reported that she would like to create a database for all motions made by the AIS Board of Directors for the last fifteen years, and plans to have it completed by the 2006 Fall Board Meeting.

Public Relations - Chair Joyce Poling reported that the missing West Coast display screen has been located and is back in circulation. A guideline for the care of and storing the of the AIS display screen will be shipped with the screens. Poling noted that she has been working with Lucas Films and has compiled a list of irises with Star Wars related names.

Closing her report, J. Poling asked to be relieved from the position of Public Relations/Marketing so that she may Co-Chair with A. Poling the of handling of AIS programs, slides, and speakers. President Plank accepted Poling's resignation and asked that the appointment of Bob Pries to Chair of Public Relations/Marketing be approved. Epperson moved, Keisling seconded:

"That Bob Pries be appointed Chair of Public Relations/Marketing."

Motion carried.

Programs, Slides, and Speakers - Chairs Joyce & Avery Poling reported that there is a list of 18 people who are willing to give programs on irises. A separate list of speakers who are willing to give judges training instruction is also available. A discussion followed on the merits of producing a judges training CD for those clubs and affiliates that cannot afford to bring in a speaker for judges training instruction.

Slide programs are going great. The iris program has 5 sets that are out all of the time. Digital programs have just started and are slowly building up.

Publications - Chair Maureen Mark reported that the Nies Chronicles booklet is ready for sale. Epperson moved, James seconded:

"That the Eric Nies Chronicles be sold for \$25.00 per copy including shipping and handling." and made available through the Storefront.

Motion carried.

Mark reported that another publication, a guide for hybridizers, is in the works, but that publication is still about 2-3 years out.

Another publication in the works is a book on artistic design, which is being co-authored by Carolyn Hawkins. Mark stated she hopes it will be ready for sale at the convention next year.

There is a need for a small booklet setting forth guidelines on how to start an affiliate. This would provide the kind of information that is greatly needed by those wanting to organize a society in their area. Anyone with experience in this venture is urged to contact Mark. It was suggested that this subject should become a chapter in the new Mentor handbook, providing tips and guidelines for coordinators. More on this project will be discussed with the RVP Representative.

Section Liaison - Chair Jim Morris reported that good reports have come back to him about his section liaison column in the AIS bulletin. Most leaders are pretty good about updating him with information on their sections.

Chair Morris reported back to the Board following the Section Leader's meeting that Debby Cole from SPCNI was elected to be a member of the AIS Nominating

Committee.

A suggestion was made that since each of the sections has a Webmaster, a Webmaster meeting each year at the national convention might be a valuable way to discuss situations they all face in common in handling their webpages. All of the sections want to be included in the future AIS e-membership site.

Robins - Chair Susan Boyce reported that the e-robins have been extremely slow, as most people are using iris-hort, iris-photos, and other iris websites. The paper round robins are in a rebuilding mode. Invitations to join the robins have been included in new member packets, and a few new members have sent in their information and have indicated that they want to join a paper robin.

RVP Representative - Representative Carol Goldsberry returned to the discussion about how to create a booklet on how to start an AIS affiliated club. It is a RVPs responsibility to have the information ready for handing out when the need arises. A committee is needed to prepare this booklet. As part of the booklet, Bob Plank will prepare form bylaws that are based on best practices. These form bylaws would have the necessary tax exemption provisions built into them to help the new affiliate deal with the legal complexities. Appointed to the Affiliate Booklet committee were Carol Goldsberry, Bob Plank, Bob Keup, Louise Carson, and Brad Kasperek. It was recommended that the final product be included in the RVP Handbook.

Silent Auction - Rita Gormley. The 2006 Silent Auction report will be presented to the 2006 AIS Fall Meeting.

AIS Membership Survey - Bob Pries reported that the survey was a success with a large number of people responding. The survey indicates that members were happy to be able to have their input known. A new survey is being handed out at this convention with a resource questionnaire on the second page.

Photo Contest - Kitty Loberg reported that the contest is well under way. She needs the e-mail addresses of all affiliate heads so as to forward the information to them. She also needs 3 judges for the contest, so volunteers would be welcomed. The deadline for photo submissions is August 31, 2006.

Youth - Chair Cheryl Deaton announced the Ackerman Essay winners: Rachel Thormann, Region 2, (12 and under age group), and Grace Farley, Region 21, (13 and up age group). Cheryl state that she receives many requests for money to initiate local youth programs that she cannot always grant. These requests must be denied due to the fact that all presently authorized youth funds are restricted to other purposes. Pries moved, Jim Morris seconded:

"That we create an additional restricted Youth Fund for the benefit of the AIS Youth committee to spend on youth activites."

Motion carried.

Scientific Advisory Committee - Chair Gary White reported that proposals for funding iris related research have not been considered since 2004. One of these research projects is now completed and the committee is waiting for a final report. The other research project is still ongoing. An interim report was received this year in late spring.

White noted that more scientific articles will be appearing in the AIS bulletin in the next year. In addition, White stated that after reviewing the Iris Conservation Policy (passed at the last fall board meeting), the Scientific Advisory Committee is preparing for the next step.

Report of the Nominating Committee - Paul Gossett reported that the members of the 2006 nominating committee were: Chair Rita Gormley, Bob Keup, Paul Gossett, Joyce Poling and Jill Copeland. The slate of nominees to be considered as candidates for the four director positions on the American Iris Society Board of Directors are: Carol Goldsberry (22), Donna James (2), John Jones (14), Brad Kasperek (12), Kitty Loberg (14), Joyce Poling (15), Lorena Reid (13), and Betty Roberts (20). There were no additional nominations from the floor.

Meeting adjourned at 10:27am.

The Board of Directors went into executive session from 8:00pm until 9:05pm with the regular session called back to order at 9:10pm. Director nominees selected for three year terms which will expire in 2009 are : Donna James, John Jones, Brad Kasperek, and Joyce Poling.

Bulletin Editor - Bruce Filardi asked to have the obituary notice policy re-addressed and verified. The current obituary notice policy was passed on November 7, 2003, and printed in the minutes (p. 100, AIS Bulletin, January 2004). Board discussion followed and a new obituary notice was crafted, with J Morris moving that we adopt this new version:

"That obituaries may be published in the Bulletin of The American Iris Society at no charge for persons whose leadership and dedication to the ideals of the Society are of genuine and obvious distinction. Among such persons are: RVP's; hybridizers who have received at least three Awards of Merit (AM) or one higher award; and Directors and Officers of AIS. The Editor of the Bulletin has discretion to edit all obituaries for length and may publish an obituary for a prominent irisarian who does not meet the criteria stated above. If desired, space may be purchased at the then current rates of publication of an obituary for person(s) not meeting these criteria. The paid obituary will carry the printed statement "Paid for by friends of"

Bonino seconded and motion carried.

Insurance - Chair Michelle Snyder reported that she spoke at the meetings with the Affiliates, Sections, and RVP counselors, stating that whether or not we use the AIS Insurance, the liability insurance is there to protect all of us whether we

are AIS members, or non AIS members, for an event that might happen if someone came in and was injured and makes a claim against you. A suggestion was made at one of the meetings, that a fact sheet be published in the bulletin, as well as on the web page, on the how's and why's we need the AIS insurance coverage. Specific questions can be addressed to M. Snyder by e-mail. The current yearly premium for the insurance is \$17,845. Requests, but not demands, can be made to ask local clubs for donations to help defray this cost. Bonino stated that donations made this year have helped greatly in covering this cost, and are greatly appreciated. Suggestions have been made to start assessing fees to every club, but there are no current plans to do so.

RVP Counselor - Chair Louise Carson announced the following election results from the RVP Counsel meeting. For 2007 - Chair, Pegi Naranjo (Region 23), Secretary, David Nitka (Region 1). RVP Board Representative, Bob Keup (Region 2). Nominating Committee Representatives, Carolyn Hawkins (Region 5) and Ann Violette (Region 11).

Symposium - Chair Gerry Snyder checked with the RVP's, and they still want to do the tabulating of the symposium votes, so the current counting system will be retained. The RVPs felt this served as useful information to pass along to new members on what irises grow well in their local area. Discussion held during the RVP meeting indicated that there was consensus to retain the current format for the ballot.

Nominating Committee Appointments - President J Plank announced the appointment of Gary White and Brad Kasperek as Board representative to the 2007 AIS Nominating Committee. White and Kasperek will join Carolyn Hawkins (RVP), Ann Violette (RVP), and Debby Cole (Sections) as members of this Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS-

The Fall Board Meeting will be held November 3-5, 2006, at the Clarion Kansas City Airport Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri. Judy Keisling, Fall Meeting Chair may be reached at keisling@swbell.net

President Plank extended many thanks and appreciation to John Ludi, Convention Chairman, and all the Region 13 convention committee members for hosting this remarkable 2006 Portland, Oregon National Convention.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10pm.