

**AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
ONTARIO, CALIFORNIA
APRIL 16-17, 2012**

FULL MINUTES

President Judy Keisling called the Spring Meeting of The American Iris Society Board of Directors to order at 1:15 p.m. on Monday, April 16, 2012, and announced a quorum was present. President Keisling asked Board Members, Committee Chairs, RVPs, and guests to introduce themselves.

Present during the various sessions were: **Officers:** President, Judy Keisling; 1st Vice President, Jim Morris; 2nd Vice President, Gary White; Treasurer, Jill Bonino, and Editor, Kelly Norris. **Administrative Officers:** Registrar/Recorder, John Jones; Recording Secretary/Policy, Susan Boyce; Publication Sales, John and Kay Ludi. **Directors:** Susan Boyce, Cheryl Deaton, Susan Grigg, John Jones, John Ludi, Jody Nolin, Andi Rivarola, Debbie Strauss, and Lynn Williams. **RVP Representative:** Hugh Stout. **Immediate Past President:** Jeanne Clay Plank. **Committee Chairs:** Paul Gossett, Bob Keup, Bob Plank, Bob Pries, Lois Rose, Janet Smith, Dave Silverberg, Nick Stewart, and Gerry Snyder. **RVPs:** George Boyce (3), Don Rude (4), Wayne Smith (5), Chuck Bunnell (6), Dwayne Booth (13), Winona Stevenson (15), and Gordon Carver (17). **Guests:** Glenn Grigg (4), Lorena Reid (13), Rudy Ciuca, Joseph Lawrence, John Pesek, Riley Probst (14), Pat Byrne (17), Dave Niswonger (18), and Karen Bergamo (23).

President Keisling welcomed all and encouraged all present to participate in discussions, with the reminder that only Board members may vote.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

Atlanta, Georgia - November 4-5, 2011.

No additions or corrections were made to the full minutes as posted on the AIS Website.

*Jones moved and Grigg seconded:

That the minutes be accepted as presented on the AIS Website. **Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

President - Judy Keisling asked the appointment of John Jones as Motion Secretary.

*Deaton moved and Williams seconded:

That John Jones be appointed Motion Secretary. **Motion carried.

President Keisling presented the following in her report:

1. President Keisling noted the resignation of Tracy Plotner with regret and thanks to Tracy for all that she has done to keep the Library in order in a difficult location. David Silverberg has accepted the call to fill this position.

*Morris moved and Plank seconded:

- **That David Silverberg be appointed AIS Librarian. Motion carried.**
2. President Keisling noted the resignation of Bob Plank as our legal counsel. President Plank and the Board commended and applauded Bob for his years of service to the AIS.
3. A serious affiliation problem with one of the affiliates in Region 4 has come to the attention of President Keisling. An ad hoc committee will be formed to discuss this problem. President Keisling appointed Jim Morris, Bob Plank, Jody Nolin, Cheryl Deaton, and Susan Boyce to this committee. They will meet tomorrow morning to discuss this issue and report later in the meeting.

In accordance with standard practice, Keisling asked for affirmation of interim Board actions taken by email vote since the November 2011 Board meeting.

*Bonino moved and Jones seconded:

****That the AIS transfer \$10,005.49 to the AIS Foundation to close out the AIS Restricted Funds for the AIS Library and for Research & Scientific Grants.**

Motion carried.

*Snyder moved and Boyce seconded:

****That the AIS direct Paul Gossett to sign a contract with the Doubletree Hotel in New Orleans, LA for the 2013 AIS Fall Board Meeting. Motion carried.**

*Bonino moved and Snyder seconded:

***That the AIS Board of Directors accept the invitation from the Iris Society of Dallas to host the 2014 AIS Convention in Dallas, Texas. Motion carried.**

*Plank moved and Williams seconded:

****That all motions be approved. Motion carried.**

1st Vice President - Jim Morris deferred his report until later.

2nd Vice President - Gary White deferred his report until later.

General Secretary - Michelle Snyder was not present, but her report was already covered in the interim actions.

Treasurer - Jill Bonino reported on the financial six month status of the AIS.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORTS:

Membership Secretary - Tom Gormley was not present. His report showed membership at 4,731, but there is a conflict with the lower membership numbers that was sent out in the monthly report to the RVPs. This conflict of numbers was discussed by the board members.

Registrar/Recorder - John Jones reported on the number of registrations so far this year. Jones stated that he is working on the 2011 Registration & Introductions booklet and it should be available shortly.

Recording Secretary/Policy - Susan Boyce reported that she has taken about

two dozen phone calls since November 2011 regarding motions passed in prior years.

Publication/Sales - John Ludi reported that having two different set of prices for the Basic Iris Culture is confusing and is causing problems.

*Jones moved and Williams seconded:

That we eliminate the non-AIS price for The Basic Iris Culture. **Motion carried by a vote of 8-6.

After a discussion about what the price of the Basic Iris Culture should be:

*Deaton moved and Morris seconded:

That the single copy price of the Basic Iris Culture be increased to \$4.00 and \$75.00 for a pack of 25. **Motion carried by a vote of 8-6.

After a lengthy discussion:

*Jones moved and Deaton seconded:

**That we create an AIS member discount of 20% for items in the AIS Storefront and that we increase the price for all items in the AIS Storefront by 25%.

Further discussion ensued until a break was announced. **Motion tabled.**

The meeting recessed for a break at 2:54 pm and reconvened at 3:15 pm.

After another lengthy discussion about raising the prices across the board for the Storefront:

*Jones moved and Boyce seconded:

That we table Motion #7 for further research and treatment via AIS Discuss and AIS Vote or until the fall Board meeting. **Motion carried by a vote of 11-3.

Ludi noted that clarification is needed for motion #6 (Increasing the price of the Basic Iris Culture). It was felt that an effective date is needed to implement this motion.

*Ludi moved and Deaton seconded:

That the price change carried in Motion 6 be effective in the July IRISES bulletin. **Motion carried.

Ludi stated the need to set the price for the 2011 Registrations and Introductions book.

*Ludi moved and Williams seconded:

That we charge \$10.00 per copy for the 2011 Registrations & Introductions. **Motion carried.

Ludi also noted that the calendar sales were down this last year, as they were received in the Storefront late in the year.

New Business - Present Keisling has received a proposal from Kincaid Gardens concerning a fundraising proposal, benefitting the AIS. The proposal is based on sales of plant markers using a code entered when ordering the plant markers.

After discussion:

*Bonino moved and Williams seconded:

****That we accept the terms from Kincaid Gardens to President Keisling concerning the "Grow Your Rewards" program in the letter dated March 7, 2012.**

Motion carried.

Upon further discussion about proposals that might be received in future, it was recommended that an ad hoc committee needs to be formed to study commercial fundraisers.

*Nolin moved and Bonino seconded:

****That an Ad-Hoc Committee be formed to study commercial fund raising and make a recommendation to the Board of Directors. Motion carried.**

President Keisling appointed Susan Boyce, Cheryl Deaton, Jody Nolin, Andi Rivarola, Hugh Stout, and Gary White, with Nolin to chair this committee.

Ad Hoc Committee - Information policy report.

Jody Nolin, chair of this committee, presented a recommendation on when to release AIS information for public knowledge.

*Williams moved and Morris seconded:

****That after, approval by the AIS President, the AIS social media sites may post information for the public prior to its posting on the AIS website or IRISES (the AIS Bulletin) when such information by AIS is emergent news of which the public should be made aware. Motion carried.**

Nolin presented an Iris Hybridizing Bibliography listing, compiled by Betty Roberts. This was a several year project.

Meeting recessed for dinner break at 4:55 pm.

The meeting reconvened back at 7:00 pm.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Affiliations - Chair Susan Boyce reported the 2012 affiliation process has been completed with some glitches this year. She will start the affiliation process earlier this fall, and hopefully the problems that were encountered this last year will not be repeated.

Affiliation Liaison - Chair Jody Nolin reported a quiet season and no problems were encountered.

Awards - Chair Gerry Snyder reported on the progress of finalizing the Judges' ballot.

Symposium - Chair Gerry Snyder reported that the Symposium is almost ready and should be ready to post on the AIS Website shortly.

Calendars - Chair Terry Aitken was not present and did not send in a report.

Conventions - Chair Paul Gossett reported on the progress of obtaining a site to

host the 2016 Convention. Gossett brought up for discussion the possibility of the AIS bearing more of the financial burden of the Regions/Affiliates in hosting a convention. Gossett also presented a request to host the 2014 Fall Board meeting.

*Ludi moved and Williams seconded:

That we accept the invitation from Susan Boyce to host the Fall 2014 Board meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah. **Motion carried.

Donations - Chair Lynn Williams reported that as the result of the change of the Foundation now being the receiver of all of the AIS donations, she is now receiving fewer donations. Williams stated that by the end of her term as a Director, the changeover should be complete.

Electronic Services - Chair John Jones reported on the progress of the old Bulletins scanning project. Jones noted the possibility of AIS E-members being the only ones able to view the scanned Bulletins.

*Stout moved and Plank seconded:

That the AIS archived Bulletin PDFs be made viewable and optionally downloadable by E-members as an additional benefit to those members. **Motion carried.

Exhibitions - Co-chairs Lois Rose and Susan Boyce were present. Rose reported that 129 show schedules have been approved currently for the 2012 year. Boyce reported on receiving a couple of very large orders and wondered if the large orders should be insured. The board discussed and agreed that if the affiliate wants insurance, they will have the option of sending additional money for the package to be insured. Boyce also reported that she has received advance notice that some of the prices of the ribbons and rosettes will be increasing this year. She will be receiving more information later this summer.

Honorary Awards - Chair Jeanne Clay Plank reported that the awards have arrived and are ready for the Awards Banquet.

Insurance - Chair Michelle Snyder was not present and no further information needs to be presented at this time.

Judges - Chair Judy Keisling reported that 19 judges were dropped as a result of non-renewal of their AIS membership.

Judges Handbook Revision Committee - Chair Jim Morris noted that if there are any requested changes for the handbook, that they need to be submitted to him in writing.

Library - Chair David Silverberg noted that the AIS Library had a small flooding problem and only a few filing cabinets were affected. Most of the affected files have now been replaced or will be replaced shortly. Silverberg thanked Will

Plotner for assisting him in cleaning up the mess. Silverberg also stated that some iris registrations paperwork is more than 50 years old. He questioned if all of this paperwork is still needing to be kept and stored. Jones suggested that this paperwork and photos might be scanned before being discarded. More research will be done before any decision is made concerning these documents.

Operations Manual - Chair Jeanne Clay Plank stated that she will supply a copy of the manual to those who request it.

Publications - Chair Jody Nolin noted besides the report she gave earlier in the meeting about the Iris Hybridizing Bibliography by Betty Roberts, she has nothing else to report.

Youth - Chair Cheryl Deaton announced that Claire Harding, winner of the Clarke Cosgrove Award is present at the convention and will be accepting her award. Deaton also noted that there are eight youth present at this convention. White announced the winners of the Ackerman Essay contest. They are: Glory Winzer, Region 18, (12 and under age group) and Colin Campbell, Region 4 (13 and up age group).

The meeting recessed for a break at 8:48 pm and reconvened at 9:22 pm.

Foundation Liaison - Chair Gary White reported on the various projects that the Foundation has been funding this last year. Dr. John Kaufmann's work on weed sprays that can be used on irises is finished and a report has been sent, and Dr. Kaufmann will be writing an article for the AIS Bulletin. A new request received by Dr. Nina Alexeeva in St. Petersburg, Russia on upgrading the Iris section of the Komarov Botanical Institute website and translation into English was approved by the Foundation Board. White also reported on the donations now being received by the foundation and has now forwarded monies back to the AIS.

Unfinished Business - President Keisling reported that during the break she received the list of items that are being donated by the AIS Library to the AIS Silent Auction. Gossett mentioned that a signed copy of the 1939 Check List by Ethel Pickham is among the items being donated. A discussion was held about whether the book should remain in the AIS Library or should still be auctioned.

*Jones moved and Williams seconded:

That the Pickham signed copy of the 1939 Check List remain in the AIS Library. **Motion carried.

Photo Contest - Chair Janet Smith reported that this year she will be using three AIS members to judge the contest photos.

Iris Programs Resources (Slides & Digital) - Chair Janet Smith reported on the progress of this position since she became the chair.

Iris Programs Resources (Speakers) - Chair Dana Brown was not present and did not send in a report.

Public Relations - Co-Chair Bob Pries reported that the grant from Google for advertising has been approved, but there are a lot of restrictions and problems with how this is to be done. Co-Chair Grigg stated that the voucher program for new members is not up and running yet.

Meeting adjourned for the day at 9:39 pm.

Tuesday, April 17, 2012 - The meeting reconvened at 8:47 pm.

Ad Hoc Committee - President Keisling reported that this ad hoc committee met this morning to discuss the problem of an affiliate in Region 4, and the complaints about their operating practices. More action will be taken in forthcoming weeks.

Editor - Kelly Norris reported that he wanted to change the Bulletin designations from a monthly standard to a seasonal standard. (January to Winter, April to Spring, July to Summer, and October to Fall). After a lengthy discussion:

*White moved and Morris seconded:

That AIS change from monthly designations for IRISES to bi-monthly designations (January-February, April-May, July-August, and October-November). **Motion carried by a vote of 8-6.

Norris also wanted the board to reconsider putting the Exhibition report in the Bulletin. After discussion:

*Morris moved and Boyce seconded:

**That there be no change in printing Exhibition Reports in IRISES.

Motion carried by a vote of 11-2.

Norris also stated that he has received increasing reports of the Bulletin arriving in damaged condition, so he noted the possibility of having the Bulletin sent out in poly bags. During the discussion, it was noted that by having the Bulletin in a poly bag wrapper, the AIS might also be able to have extra advertising inserts added into the same poly bag.

*Bonino moved and Nolin seconded:

That we add the poly bag wrapper to the quarterly bulletin. **Motion tabled.

After further discussion:

*Jones moved and Williams seconded:

That we table motion #19 until the Fall 2012 meeting. **Motion carried.

Advertising Editor - Bob Keup stated that some of the motions concerning advertising in the Bulletin that were presented and passed at previous board meetings, were presented without the knowledge of the Advertising Editor. Keup stated that this has caused several problems. After a lengthy discussion:

*Rivarola moved and Morris seconded:

**That we keep Motion 12 from the Fall 2011 Board Meeting as is. (That

the Bulletin advertising be in color effective with the April 2012 issue of IRISES).
Motion failed by a vote of 11-3.

After another discussion:

*Stout moved and Deaton seconded:

That Motion 12 from the Fall 2011 Board Meeting be amended to apply only to the shopping section. **Motion carried.

Unfinished business - Library

President Keisling presented the list for Board approval, of items sent from the AIS Library for the 2012 convention Silent Auction.

*Morris moved and Strauss seconded:

That the donations from the AIS Library to the Silent Auction be approved. **Motion carried.

RVP Counselor - Chair Cheryl Deaton reported on the RVP Counselor meeting. At the meeting a discussion was held about the possibility of the RVP Representative's one-year term becoming a two-year term. The Board noted for that change to occur, the AIS By-laws would have to be changed and that is not currently possible.

The meeting recessed for a break at 10:22 pm and reconvened at 10:35 pm.

RVP Representative - Hugh Stout announced the results from the Board of Counselors meeting. For 2013: Chair, Sue Ann Barnes (Region 7) and Secretary, Frances Day (Region 23). The new RVP Board Representative is Gordon Carver (Region 17). The Nominating Committee Representatives are Winona Stevenson (Region 15) and Don Rude (Region 4).

Section and Cooperating Society Liaison - Chair Jim Morris reported on the meeting and announced that Will Plotner, President of SIGNA, will be the Section Representative to the AIS Nominating Committee. Morris and Bob Plank reported on the meetings previously held by the Society of Louisiana Irises in the possible change from an AIS Cooperating Society to becoming an AIS Section.

Tax Exemption Advisor - Chair Bob Plank had nothing additional to report.

Report of the Nominating Committee - Chair Gordon Carver presented the slate of nominees for consideration as candidates for the four director positions on The American Iris Society Board of Directors: George Boyce (3), Bob Pries (4), Steve Poole (9), Ron Killingsworth (10), Riley Probst (14), Pat Byrne (17), Alverton Elliott (17), Ron Cosner (21), Barbara J Jackson (21), Paul Gossett (22), and Robert Treadway (22).

Meeting adjourned at 10:56 pm for Executive Session.

The Board of Directors went into Executive Session from 10:56 pm until 11:25

pm, with the Regular Session called back to order at 11:29 pm. Director Nominees selected for the three-year terms which will expire in 2015 are: Ron Cosner, Paul Gossett, Ron Killingsworth, and Bob Pries.

Nominating Committee Appointments - President Keisling announced the appointment of Andi Rivarola and Debbie Strauss as Board representatives to the 2013 AIS Nominating Committee. Rivarola and Strauss will join Winona Stevenson (RVP), Don Rude (RVP), and Will Plotner (Sections) as members of this committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Fall Board Meeting will be held November 2-3 at the Crowne Plaza Columbus-North Hotel in Columbus, Ohio. 2012 Fall Meeting Chair, Jody Nolin may be reached at jody.nolin@gmail.com or (614) 507-0332.

The Spring 2013 AIS Board Meeting and Convention will be held April 15-20, 2013 in Dallas, Texas.

President Keisling expressed appreciation and thanks to Region 15 and to convention co-chairs Jill Bonino and Kathy Chilton for hosting this great convention.

Meeting adjourned at 11:32 pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Susan Boyce