

**AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MADISON, WISCONSIN
MAY 31-JUNE 1, 2010**

FULL MINUTES

President Judy Keisling called the Spring Meeting of The American Iris Society Board of Directors to order at 1:06 PM on Monday May 31, 2010, and announced a quorum was present. President Keisling asked Board Members, Committee Chairs, RVPs, and guest to introduce themselves.

Present during the various sessions were: **Officers:** President, Judy Keisling; 1st Vice President and Treasurer, Jill Bonino; General Secretary, Michelle Snyder. **Administrative Officers:** Registrar/Recorder, Mike and Anne Lowe; Membership Secretary, Tom Gormley; Recording Secretary, Susan Boyce; Publication Sales, John and Kay Ludi; Editor, Kelly Norris. **Directors:** Ruth Barker, Jerry Coates, Cheryl Deaton, Rita Gormley, Paul Gossett, John Jones, Bob Keup, Jim Morris, Jody Nolin, Bob Pries, Gary White, and Lynn Williams. **RVP Representative:** Debra Strauss. **Immediate Past President:** Jeanne Clay Plank. **Committee Chairs:** Terry Aitken, Karen and Ray Jones, Bob Plank, Lois Rose, and Gerry Snyder. **RVPs:** Hal Griffie (3), Carrie Winter (4), Darnell Hester (7), John Baker (8), Alan Brooks (13), Kate Brewitt (16), Judy Eckhoff (18), and Hugh Stout (22). **Guests:** Gayle Griffie (3), Glenn & Susan Grigg, Tricia Taylor (4), Sue Kilgore (5), Steve Poole (9), Barbara Aitken, Keith Keppel, Dave Silverberg, Will Plotner (13), Mary Ann Horton, Riley Probst, Shirley Trio, Phyllis Wilburn (14), Linda Smith (15), Ted Baker, Sandy Ives, Terry Laurin, Maureen Mark (16), Gordon Carver (17), Jerry Hoke, Jean Morris, John Niswonger, O D Niswonger (18), Bill Goldsberry (22), and Karen Bergamo, Alverton Elliott (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:

Tulsa, Oklahoma-November 6-7, 2009.

Two corrections were made to the Full Meeting Minutes. On page 9 under Budget the words carried and budget were printed twice.

*Deaton moved and Plank seconded.

That we move to accept the electronic minutes as corrected. **Motion carried.

*Williams moved and Snyder seconded:

That we approve the Digest Minutes as corrected, as printed in the AIS Bulletin #356 (January 2010, page 50). **Motion carried. (Note: these corrections were not needed as the Digest Minutes did not have the errors in them.)

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

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

*Deaton moved and White seconded:

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

President Keisling presented the following in her report:

1. Kitty Loberg has resigned as the Photo Contest Chair. President Keisling has appointed Janet Smith as the new Photo Contest Chair.

*Plank moved and Williams seconded:

**That Janet Smith be approved as chair of the Photo Contest committee.

Motion carried.

President Keisling received a request from Janet Smith that the Photo Committee be allowed to receive digital photos for the contest.

*Williams moved and Gormley seconded:

That the rules for the Photo contest be defined by the Chair of the Photo contest and announced. **Motion carried.

2. President Keisling noted that the Judges Revision Handbook Chair position has been vacant and announced that she has appointed Jim Morris to fill that position.

*Plank moved and Gossett seconded:

That Jim Morris be approved as Chair of the Judges Handbook Revision committee. **Motion carried.

3. President Keisling noted that after President Epperson's passing, Ruth Barker was asked, and assisted in the sorting of AIS items that were in Roy's possession. It was discovered that neither the Judges Training Handbook, nor the Basic Iris Culture publication exist in an electronic format. Both of these publications will have to be OCR scanned into a usable electronic format before changes can be made to either.

4. President Keisling reported that Carolyn Hawkins is working with the National Garden Clubs, in preparing a book on irises and has requested permission to use images from the Judges Training Handbook to be used in their book.

*Gormley moved and Gossett seconded:

That the National Garden Clubs, Inc. be allowed to use the outline graphics found in the Judges Training Handbook as long as proper attribution is included. **Motion carried.

5. President Keisling noted that the Tall Bearded Iris Society met last November, and has declined the AIS' offer to become a Section of The American Iris Society.

6. President Keisling noted that Linda Sercus of the Presby Memorial Gardens, extended an invitation to move the AIS Library to their facility. Prior to the invitation, President Epperson had appointed an ad hoc committee to research various sites for a new library. About that same time, the Planks traveled to Silverton, Oregon and located a possible new site for the AIS Library. No decision on a possible move will be made at this meeting.

7. Since the passing of President Epperson, new paperwork needs to be completed for the authorization of Judy Keisling to be a signer on all AIS banking and investment accounts.

*Bonino moved and Deaton seconded:

That Judy Keisling be an authorized signator on all AIS banking and investment accounts as AIS President. **Motion carried.

In accordance with standard practice, Keisling asked for affirmation of interim Board action taken by email vote since the November 2009 Board Meeting.

*Pries moved and Plank seconded:

I move that an ad hoc committee be established to evaluate the possibility of traveling exhibits, with a report to be made to the AIS board by the end of February 2010. **Motion carried.

*Pries moved and Plank seconded:

That AIS print no more than 10,000 copies of the "Invitation to Join" brochures. Should the initial supply be exhausted prior to the next update, AIS (storefront) would go to a "Print on Demand" basis. The Ludi's would provide this service. **Motion carried.

*Pries moved and Gormley seconded:

That the AIS create the Iris Encyclopedia; an information resource in a wiki format which allows registered users to upload comments and photos. These pages are verified by knowledgeable docents who create and or monitor pages for accuracy. The rock on which this data is built is the registrations created by the International Registrar. And that the Wiki always be viewable freely and universally. **Motion carried.

*Jones moved and Barker seconded:

I move that any business that by virtue of their advertising in the AIS Bulletin, qualifies for listing on the Commercial Directory on the AIS website be allowed to submit one (1) iris picture to be included in the rotating library on the AIS Home page. Said pictures to be included in the library, from February through May for Bearded irises and June through September for beardless irises, and that said time frames be at the discretion of the Electronic Services Committee Chair. **Motion carried.

*Pries moved and Gormley seconded:

That AIS accept the bid for Rogers Looseleaf for 200 binders including boxes and dye cast for \$1410 plus \$150 shipping to Oregon, and that these be offered through the storefront at \$20 each plus shipping. But that AIS members receive a 30% discount, in other words they would pay \$14 plus shipping. Also that AIS have a special pre-printing price of \$12 each plus shipping for those orders received before April 30. **Motion failed.

*Jones moved and Barker seconded:

That the AIS immediately stop offering multiple year Irisregister subscriptions. **Motion carried.

1st Vice President - Jill Bonino deferred her report until later.

2nd Vice President - vacant

General Secretary - Michelle Snyder reported that she needs to be notified of

any changes that need to be forwarded to John Jones and the bulletin editor.

Treasurer - Jill Bonino reported on the financial, six month status of the AIS. Even though donations are up for this year, the AIS will either barely break even, or still be at a slight loss. She also reported on the raffle fundraiser. The tickets for sale, will be 1 ticket for \$5, 3 tickets for \$10, and 7 tickets for \$20. The tickets will need to be postmarked by January 25, 2011. The drawing will take place on February 1, 2011.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORTS:

Membership Secretary - Tom Gormley reported on the continued drop in membership.

Registrar/Recorder - Mike and Anne Lowe reported on the status of the 2010, ten year checklist, and the proofing involved. M Lowe reported on the status of foreign iris registrations in their own countries, and the fees that the foreign iris hybridizers have to pay to their own countries. M Lowe requested that a clarification on the wording of the motion passed at the 2009 fall Board meeting, on the registration fee rate hike.

*Williams moved and Snyder seconded:

That we amend Motion #34 from the Fall Board meeting to read "raise the registration fees to \$15.00 effective July 1, 2010. **Motion carried. Keisling noted that the AIS is in need of a new Registrar/Registration, and encouraged all board members of AIS to search for a new Registrar/Registration team.

Meeting recessed at 3:20 pm

The meeting reconvened at 3:42 pm.

Editor - Managing Editor, Terry Aitken reported on the bulletin since the changeover in size. A discussion ensued about how the wording of the title should appear on the cover of the American Iris Society bulletin.

Editor - Kelly Norris stated that a name change is needed to attract new members.

*Williams moved and Gormley seconded:

That the cover of the AIS Bulletin have the word "IRISES" in large letters with the phrase "The Bulletin of the American Iris Society" in smaller letters underneath. **Motion carried.

Meeting recessed for dinner break at 4:55 pm.

The meeting reconvened back at 6:27 pm.

President Keisling stated that she received a letter from an AIS board member, who pondered whether a managing editor is still needed. After discussion:

*Jones moved and Williams second:

That we terminate the position of Managing Editor and create the Bulletin Committee that is responsible for producing the Bulletin and chaired by the Bulletin Editor who is responsible to the Board. **Motion carried by a vote of 15-1.

Morris stated that there is no consistency in the formats that are submitted for the obituaries for the bulletin. Morris also recommended that we eliminate the obituaries that are paid for.

*Morris moved and Gormley seconded:

That the May 2006 motion as amended Fall of 2006 be amended to read "Move that: Obituaries may be published in the Bulletin of The American Iris Society for persons whose leadership and dedication to the ideals of the Society are of genuine and obvious distinction. Among such persons are: Hybridizers who have received at least three Awards of Merit (AM) or one higher award; Directors and Officers of AIS. The Editor of the Bulletin or Obituary Editor 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. **Motion carried.

Advertising Editor- Bob Keup reported on the change over of ads from the smaller size bulletin to the larger size bulletin had resulted in a lot of confusion. Due to the sudden changeover, Keup reported that all advertisers had to be contacted and informed of the size change.

*Keup moved and Bonino seconded:

That we eliminate the one inch \$44.00 per year Shopping Section advertisement from the Bulletin. **Motion carried.

Bonino reported on the cost per issue for the new bulletin size, and that the new size redesign was intended to drop the cost and that was the understanding between AIS and Bridgetown. Upon reviewing the cost after the two new larger issues were printed, it was noted that the cost per issue went from \$2.90 for the Oct 2009 issue to \$3.41 for the April 2010 issue. An increase of 51 cents per issue. It was suggested that Terry Aitken revisit the costs of producing the new bulletin format thru Bridgetown for a possible refund.

*Bonino moved and Williams seconded:

That Terry Aitken revisit the costs of producing the new format Bulletin thru Bridgetown for possible refunds. **Motion carried.

It was suggested that we obtain several bids for comparisons.

*Bonino moved and Gossett seconded:

That the editor evaluate the bid from Sundance Press, and solicit additional bids comparable to the existing color format and for full color publication, such bids to include printing, binding, mailing preparation and postage, and if appropriate change printers. **Motion carried.

Recording Secretary - Susan Boyce had no report.

Publication/Sales Directors - John and Kay Ludi reported that the Basic Iris Culture pamphlets and the Invitation To Join's are in short supply and will be need to be printed shortly. It was decided to wait until the 2010 Fall Board meeting to reprint. The 10 year checklist and the number of how many to print was

discussed. Ludi noted, that as of last fall there was 2 RVP pins available, and a motion was made and approved to obtain more. Upon receiving the bid, the cost was extremely high, and the decision was made to not to reorder the RVP pins at this current time. Ludi also reported that the 1999 and older annual Registration and Introductions are not selling.

*Keup moved and Snyder seconded:

That the AIS Storefront dispose of the 1999 and older R & I's. **Motion carried.

Ludi wants to offer iris note cards for sale from the storefront.

*Snyder moved and Morris seconded:

**That a packet of 8 note cards be sold for \$5.00 (including shipping).

Motion carried.

RVP Representative - Debra Strauss reported on working with R Gormley on updating of the RVP Handbook. Strauss questioned why the RVP meeting is on the second day of the convention and not scheduled later in the convention. Gossett noted that business done and information gathered from the RVP meeting needs to be presented to the AIS board before the end of the AIS Board meeting, at the end of the second day.

New Business - Snyder presented the possibility of calling a question on an existing motion via email. Jones stated that it would conflict with the existing protocol of the rules. Snyder also talked about allowing more than one motion at a time to be presented via email. After a discussion.

*Snyder moved and Jones seconded:

That once a motion goes to AISVote, another motion can be presented to AISDiscuss. **Motion carried.

Another discussion followed about changing the standing rules about voting on motions on AISVote.

*White moved and Williams seconded:

That we amend the standing rule on electronic voting to require only a simple majority of eligible voters to pass the motion. **Motion carried.

Reports of Special Committees - Regional Realignment committee Chair Jerry Coates reported on the problems in Region 16. It was suggested that Region 16 be split up into three different sections and merged into other regions. Action was postponed until further in the meeting.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Affiliations - Chair Brad Kasperek was not present, but his report stated that there are currently 170 affiliates.

Meeting recessed for a break at 8:35 pm.

The meeting reconvened back at 8:51 pm.

Affiliates Liaison - Jody Nolin reported on the creation of this new position. A new affiliates email group was started and a survey was sent out and she shared the information from this survey.

Calendars - Chair Terry Aitken reported that the 2011 calendars are ready and available for sale at this convention.

Donations - Chair Lynn Williams reported on the income from the donations received so far this year.

Exhibitions - Supply clerk Susan Boyce reported on two motions that were passed at the Fall 2005 Board meeting that were never implemented. The first motion was "that the price of the Exhibition entry tags be raised from \$11 to \$12." The second motion passed was "That a shipping and handling fee of \$5 be uniformly required of all exhibition supply orders regardless of \$\$ amount of the order." Boyce noted that since that meeting in Nov 2005, the postal rates have increased four different times. It was noted that the \$5 rate is very low, and should be raised up.

*Jones moved and Keup seconded:

That we raise the shipping and handling fee per shipment for Exhibition supplies to \$10.00 effective October 1, 2010. **Motion carried.

Boyce also stated that she has received information that the price for the large rosettes are going up.

*Jones moved and Gossett seconded:

**That we raise the price for the large rosettes from \$6.00 to \$7.00.

Motion carried.

Boyce stated that all three of these price increases will be updated on the supply order form for implementation.

Insurance - Chair Michelle Snyder reported on easier ways for affiliates to receive proof of insurance certificates for their iris shows.

Iris Program Resources (Speakers) - Chair Dana Brown was not attendance, and did not send in a report.

Iris Program Resources (Slides & Digital) - Chair Janet Smith was not in attendance, but her report stated that she is working on several new ideas.

Judges - Chair Judy Keisling reported a loss of 17 judges due to non payment of membership dues.

Awards - Chair Ruth Barker, with Gerry Snyder's assistance did an online, judges ballot voting presentation.

*Gormley moved and Gossett seconded:

That the AIS online awards voting go on line June 7, 2010. **Motion carried.

Electronic Services - Chair John Jones reported that there are currently 285 subscribers on the AIS Irisregister electronic database. Work is still continuing on the new AIS Website, and is getting closer to being done. The Wiki is continuing to grow. A judges lookup was discussed, which will be added to the AIS Website. Jones also discussed a motion that was passed last year about rotating pictures on the AIS Website. Jones stated that the amount of funding to be used for the creation of the new AIS Website needs to be increased.

*Jones moved and Keup seconded:

That the amount of money available to the webmaster and the Electronic Services Chair be increased by \$2000.00. Said funds to come from the Electronic Services Restricted fund. **Motion carried.

Convention Liaison - Chair Paul Gossett reported that he is still in search of a site to host the 2013 convention.

Foundation Liaison - Chair Gary White reported a lack of activity for the foundation since the fall board meeting. White reported that work is continuing on the three studies that are currently being done. White also noted that donations to the foundation are substantially down. It was also noted that the foundation had purchased a new scanner for the AIS Library.

Photo Contest - Chair Janet Smith was not in attendance. Keisling noted that the discussion about the photo contest was held earlier in this meeting.

Publications - Chair Jody Nolin reported that the publications committee needs more volunteers to assist with projects currently under way. Nolin also feels that a new Basic Iris Culture booklet can be redone by the fall board meeting.

Scientific Committee - Chair Kelly Norris had no report.

Symposium - Chair Gerry Snyder had no report.

Youth - Chair Cheryl Deaton reported that the winner of the Cosgrove award will not be in attendance. Deaton also announced the winners of the Ackerman Essay contest. They are: Claire Harding, Region 17 (12 and under age group) and Devon Foster, Region 1 (13 and up age group).

Tax Exemption Advisor - Chair Bob Plank had no report.

Silent Auction - Chairs John and Barbara Sautner are not in attendance and did not send in a report.

Meeting adjourned for the day at 10:57 pm.

Tuesday, June 1, 2010 - The meeting reconvened at 8:30 pm.

Honorary Awards - Chair Jeanne Clay Plank noted that the Gold Medal is basically the Distinguished Service Medal (DSM), just gilded with a different color. Plank also stated the need for more DMS medals to be cast.

*Keup moved and Snyder seconded:

That we order 15 Distinguished Service Medals. **Motion carried.

RVP Counselor - Chair Rita Gormley reported on the duties of the RVP Counselor. Strauss announced the following election results from the Board of Counselors meeting. The new RVP Board Representative for 2010-2011 is Alan Brooks (Region 13). The Nominating Committee Representatives are Margaret Kelly (Region 9) and Hugh Stout (Region 22).

Library - Tracy Plotner was not in attendance. Keisling reported that the Planks have located a new site in Silverton, Oregon for the AIS Library to be possibly moved to. The Planks gave a slide presentation of the current site and also the possible new location. A formal request for a move, will be presented at the fall board meeting.

Section Liaison - Chair Jim Morris reported on the Section and Cooperating Society meeting. Ways were discussed on how to increase memberships. Morris reported that TBIS has asked to bring forward their request to be a Cooperating Society of the AIS. Morris announced that Hal Griffie will be the section representative to the AIS Nominating Committee.

Public Relations - Chair Bob Pries reported on the AIS Facebook and the progress of the AIS Wiki. Pries stated that he would like to be involved with The American Public Gardens Association. Pries also wants us to include Iris display and test gardens into this committee, so the AIS will have input on what the display gardens are and are not doing.

*Pries moved and Gossett seconded:

That the AIS create a committee of National Collections, Display and Test Gardens. **Motion carried by a vote of 9-6.

Foundation addendum - Chair White reported that the foundation approved a final payment for Carol Wilson's grant. White reported that the foundation received a grant proposal from Bob Pries to do a test project on digitizing about 1,000 slides from various hybridizers to be stored in the AIS Library. The \$500 grant was approved. A long discussion about the tax status of the foundation was held. The foundation no longer qualifies as a public foundation, and is now considered a private foundation and must pay taxes on interest income. The foundation also held a long discussion on the possibilities of the AIS Library move.

Unfinished Business:

President Keisling brought up the need to reprint the ITJ's, but before that is

done, the possibility of a dues increase needs to be discussed and decided as any new dues increase information will need to be updated on the ITJ's before printing. After a very lengthy discussion.

*Bonino moved and Keup seconded:

That we raise the membership rates effective October 1, 2010 as follows: Single Annual \$30, Single Triennial \$75, Dual Annual \$35, Dual Triennial \$90, Overseas Annual \$35, Overseas Triennial \$80, Overseas Dual Annual \$40, and Overseas Dual Triennial \$ 95. **Motion failed by a vote of 5-9. Another discussion followed about an electronic information service.

*White moved and Jones seconded:

That we offer an electronic information service at an annual fee of \$15.00 effective October 1, 2010. **Motion carried by a vote of 14-1.

President Keisling came back to the unfinished business of the Regional Realignment Committee. Chair Jerry Coates' report stated that because of the size and vast areas of Region 16, that Region 16 was not a functioning Region. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that it would be in the best interest of the AIS members in Region 16 to divide it up and dissolve Region 16.

*Plank moved and Snyder seconded:

That Region 16 be dissolved and we divide the Canadian territory to join the AIS Region as specified below: Yukon and BC to Region 13. NWT, Nunavut Territories, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba to Region 21. Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island to Region 1. **Motion carried.

After further discussion it was decided to amend the previous motion.

*Plank moved and Williams seconded:

That we amend Motion 27 above to read that Region 16 be dissolved effective November 6, 2010 and AIS members and Affiliates in Canada be assigned as members of AIS Regions as specified below: Yukon and BC to Region 13. NWT, Nunavut Territories, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba to Region 21. Ontario and Quebec to Region 2. Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island to Region 1. **Motion carried.

President Keisling appointed Jody Nolin and Rita Gormley to a committee to assist with the changeover.

Jones commented about Gerry Snyder's hard work in assisting Ruth Barker in setting up the electronic voting ballot.

*Jones moved and Barker seconded:

That in recognition of his work on electronic voting, the AIS make a one time payment of \$500.00 to Gerry Snyder. Said funds to come from the Electronic Services Restricted fund. **Motion carried.

Report of the Nominating Committee - Chair Hal Griffie presented the slate of nominees for consideration as candidates for the four director positions on The American Iris Society Board of Directors: Susan Grigg (4), Anita Moran (4), Susan Boyce (12), John Ludi (13), Jan Lauritzen (15), Joyce Poling (15), Dana

Brown (17), and Debra Strauss (17).

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 pm for Executive session.

The Board of Directors went into executive session from 10:35 pm until 10:55 pm, with the regular session called back to order at 11:00 pm. Director nominees selected for the three year terms which will expire in 2013 are: Dana Brown, Susan Grigg, John Ludi, and Debra Strauss.

Nominating Committee Appointments - President Keisling announced the appointment of Jody Nolin and Lynn Williams as Board representatives to the 2011 AIS Nominating Committee. Nolin and Williams will join Margaret Kelly (RVP), Hugh Stout (RVP), and Hal Griffie (Sections) as members of this committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Fall Board Meeting will be held November 5-7, 2010 at the Ramada Inn & Suites in Portland, Oregon. 2010 Fall Meeting Chair, Terry Aitken may be reached at aitken@flowerfantasy.net or (360) 573-4472.

The Spring 2011 AIS Board Meeting and Convention will be held Sunday May 29th through Friday June 3rd, 2011 in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. (Note the change in days of the week).

President Keisling expressed sincere appreciation on behalf of the Board to John Baker and his committees for hosting this 2010 AIS Convention.

Meeting adjourned at 11:17 pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Susan Boyce