

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA  
OCT 31-NOV 1, 2008

**FULL MINUTES**

President Dr. E. Roy Epperson called the Fall Meeting of The American Iris Society Board of Directors to order at 6:35 PM on Friday October 31, 2008, and announced a quorum was present. President Epperson asked Board Members, Committee Chairs, RVPs, and guests to introduce themselves.

Present during the various sessions were: **Officers:** President, Dr. E. Roy Epperson; 1st Vice President, Judy Keisling; 2nd Vice President and Treasurer, Jill Bonino; General Secretary, Michelle Snyder. **Administrative Officers:** Recording Secretary, Susan Boyce; Publication Sales, John and Kay Ludi. **Directors:** Cheryl Deaton, Rita Gormley, Paul Gossett, Donna James, Bob Keup, Jim Morris, Joyce Poling, Gary White. **RVP Representative:** Jody Nolin. **Immediate Past President:** Jeanne Clay Plank. **Committee Chairs:** Terry Aitken, Ruth Barker, Maureen Mark, Bob Plank, Janet Smith, and Gerry Snyder. **RVPs:** Lynn Williams (14), Kate Brewitt (16). **Guests:** Ron James (2), David & Anna Cadd, Paul & Mary Lee Fortner, Michael & Christine Meagher, Fred Parvin, Hiromi Uyeda, and Dorlene Waite (14), Avery Poling (15), Terry Lauren (16), Jean Morris (18), Linda Rader (21).

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

**ELECTION OF DIRECTORS:**

President Epperson announced that the AIS General Secretary received no additional nominations, and therefore, the published candidates for the AIS Board of Directors are duly elected by acclamation. They are: Jerry Coates (4), Cheryl Deaton (15), Rita Gormley (21), and Gary White (21).

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:**

Austin, Texas - April 14-15, 2008.

No additions or corrections were made to the Digest Minutes as printed in the AIS Bulletin #350 (July 2008). No additions or corrections were made to the Full Minutes as posted on the AIS website.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS:**

**President** - Dr. E. Roy Epperson asked that the appointment of Gary White as Motion Monitor be approved. J Plank moved and Gossett seconded. **Motion carried.**

President Epperson noted that four board members are not in attendance at this meeting.

President Epperson presented the following in his report:

1. The American Iris Society has received a bequest of \$10,000 from the estate of Richard C. Sparling for its Scientific Research Fund.
2. The Arnold Arboretum Horticultural Library of Jamaica Plain, MA has donated a set of Bulletins (Vol. 1, No. 1 through Vol 84. No. 331) to the AIS. This set currently is housed in President Epperson's home library for archival purposes and usage, and will be passed on to the next AIS President for their use.
3. George Edmonds book: *Dream Gardner: Pioneer Nurseryman Bertrand H. Farr* has been published and is now available for purchase.
4. President Epperson received a letter from Bob Van Liere, (President of The Tall Bearded Iris Society), and the TBIS Board of Directors, proposing that TBIS fund the cost of the Wister Medals for three years. After discussion:

\*Gossett moved and Snyder seconded:

\*\*That the Board of Directors of The American Iris Society accept the offer of the TBIS to fund the cost of the Wister Medals for three years. **Motion carried.**

5. President Epperson and Robert Van Liere, President of The Tall Bearded Iris Society, received a communication concerning the opportunity for mediation services in an effort to bring these two groups together. Epperson and Van Liere mutually agreed to present this proposal to their respective Board of Directors for consideration. The AIS Board discussed at length the difference of being an AIS Section versus being an AIS Cooperating Society.

\*Gossett moved and Snyder seconded:

\*\*That the Board of Directors of The American Iris Society authorize the President and chosen representatives of AIS to enter into discussions and/or mediation with the President and chosen representatives of The Tall Bearded Iris Society to explore bringing the two groups together. **Motion carried.**

6. The AIS Foundation has established a Library committee to study how to efficiently utilize the income from the DuBose trust fund. The Foundation President, Bob Hollingworth, requested that Epperson appoint two members of the AIS Board of Directors to serve on this joint Library Committee. The persons approved below will join Nancy Price, Will Plotner, and Bob Hollingworth (as ex officio member) on this joint committee.

\*Gossett moved and Deaton seconded:

\*\*President Epperson appointed Jeanne Clay Plank, Jill Bonino, and Roy Epperson, as ex-officio to the joint Library Committee of the AIS Foundation and AIS. **Motion carried.**

In accordance with standard practice, Epperson asked for affirmation of interim Board action taken by email vote since the April 2008 Board Meeting.

\*Kasperek moved and Bonino seconded:

\*\*Each year, upon notification to the Secretary of The American Iris Society by the British Iris Society (BIS), The American Iris Society will award an Adult Silver Medal (Exhibition) to the exhibitor at the Spring BIS show exhibiting the best-of-show collection of one-to-many bloom stalks made up only of North American Irises. The BIS will specify the conditions of the award (i.e., the

number of bloom stalks to be exhibited in the collection). The medal will be engraved by AIS with the name of the exhibitor and the year of the award.

**Motion carried.**

\* Bonino moved and Pries seconded:

\*\*Once a motion has been made and seconded electronically, email motion discussion will be allowed for a minimum of 7 days and a maximum of 14 days. In the interest of prompt action on AIS business, if after 7 days there have been no more than 3 emails discussing the motion, the General Secretary will place the motion on AISVote. The voting period will be 14 days unless otherwise specified by the AIS President. Once the voting period has been completed, the AIS General Secretary will post the official results of the voting on AISDiscuss.

**Motion carried.**

\*White moved and Snyder seconded:

\*\*I move that the American Iris Society fund Dr. Allan Meerow's grant proposal request of \$4840 for the first year of his study: "Heterogeneity, ecological specialization and introgression in a large population of Iris savannarum", and that \$4597 (or current Scientific and Scholarship fund balance) be paid from the AIS Scientific and Scholarship Fund, and the remaining amount be paid from the AIS general funds." **Motion carried by a vote of 13-1.**

\*Snyder moved and Plank seconded:

\*\*"Jayme Adams, RVP, Region 11 be appointed as Chair of the Exhibitions Committee. Robert Keup, be appointed as Advertising Editor of the Bulletin. An ad hoc committee be appointed to study and make recommendation(s) to the Fall meeting of the Board of Directors relative to offering a membership discount when someone joins both AIS and a Section or Cooperating Society concurrently. The committee members would be Jill Bonino-Chair; Jim Morris, Tom Gormley, Anita Moran, Paul Gossett, Will Plotner, and Dennis Hager." **Motion carried by a vote of 14-1.**

**1st Vice President** - Judy Keisling deferred her report until later.

**2nd Vice President** - Jill Bonino deferred her report until later.

**General Secretary** - Michelle Snyder thanked John Jones and Susan Boyce for helping with her duties while she was out of the country.

**Treasurer** - Jill Bonino reported that there was an overall net income in the general fund of \$12,576, but this did not include several expenses that were budgeted for and anticipated spending, but the invoices for these expenditures were not received before the end of the fiscal year. Bonino also reported that with the shake-ups in the banking industry, accounts with Washington Mutual are being transferred to other stable banking institutions.

\*Bonino moved and Morris seconded:

\*\*That the treasurer's report be accepted as corrected and entered into the record. **Motion carried.**

**Bulletin** - Managing Editor Terry Aitken discussed the Symposium Ballot change in the July bulletin. It was stated that the new format saved \$1,500, but some members commented that they did not like the new change. Jerry Snyder also reported about how the new changes affected the Symposium Ballot voting . After a lengthy discussion:

\*Plank moved and Deaton seconded:

\*\* That the AIS continue with the present printing of the AIS Tall Bearded Iris Symposium ballot in the pages of the bulletin for at least one more year, rather than as a separate insert. **Motion carried.**

Aitken also mentioned the possibility of adding more color pages to the bulletin, at a cost of \$2,500 per issue, but the board decided against that, as the cost was too much.

The meeting recessed at 8:18 pm and was called back to order at 8:30 pm.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORTS:**

**Membership Secretary** - Tom Gormley was not in attendance. His report indicated a slow steady decrease in membership.

**Registrar/Recorder** - Mike and Anne Lowe were not in attendance. Ludi requested that 500 copies of the 2008 R&I be published.

\*Plank moved and Deaton seconded:

\*\*That we print 500 - 2008 R&I's. **Motion carried.**

**Recording Secretary** - Susan Boyce had no report.

**Publication/Sales Directors** - John Ludi reported that as of May 2007 packages for overseas mailings must be sent by First Class mail. A discussion followed about increasing rates, but it was decided to wait until the Spring 2009 Board meeting to make a recommendation on new rates. Ludi also discussed selling past AIS bulletins that are stored in the Storefront.

\*Plank moved and Snyder seconded:

\*\* That the AIS sell past AIS Bulletins-individual copies (not to include current past year) at a quantity of 25 or more per copy for \$.50 domestic/\$1.00 international. **Motion carried with a vote of 10-1**

Ludi also stated a need to reprint the Basic Iris Culture booklet.

\*Gossett moved and Snyder seconded:

\*\*That the AIS reprint 2000 copies of the Basic Iris Culture. **Motion carried.**

**Unfinished Business** - none.

**New Business** - Snyder suggested that the time period on which discussions are

held on AIS Discuss and time period for voting on AISVote be shortened. The Board discussed this and kept the same time periods intact.

**Reports of Special Committees** - Jim Morris reported on Canadian Iris Society's request to become a Cooperating Society. Morris stated that information is still being gathered and the progress is still in the early stages.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm, and the Board went into Executive Session.

Saturday, November 1, 2008 - the meeting was called back to order at 8:03 am and the Honorary Awards were announced.

**Honorary Awards** - President Epperson announced the results of the Honorary Awards.

The Bee Warburton Medal was awarded to Richard Cayeux of France.  
Emeritus Judges are: Riley Probst and George & Margaret Sutton.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**Affiliation** - Chair Brad Kasperek was not in attendance, but his report stated that there are currently 173 approved affiliates.

**Awards** - Chair Ruth Barker reported on the possibility of posting the 2009 Awards Ballot on the AIS Website for informational purposes only.

**Calendars** - Chair Terry Aitken reported that the cost of printing the 2009 calendar has risen. The board discussed raising the price of the 2010 calendar. The Board also discussed ways to promote additional sales of the calendars.

\*Gossett moved and Snyder seconded:

\*\* Effective for the 2010 calendars, that we raise the price for a single calendar (domestic) to \$10 each or \$75 for a pack of 10. International prices to \$15 each or \$100 for a pack of 10. **Motion carried.**

\*Snyder moved and Gossett seconded:

\*\* That the AIS order 2000 copies of the 2010 calendars at a projected cost of \$6800. **Motion carried.**

**Convention Liaison** - Chair Paul Gossett reported that he is searching for a site to host the 2013 Convention and also the 2011 Fall Board meeting. Gossett also reported on the 2008 convention questionnaire survey results.

**Donations** - Chair Donna James reported that donations have been half this year compared to last years donations. It was noted that a request for donations could be made on the AIS Website and in the AIS Bulletin.

**Electronic Services** - Chair John Jones was not in attendance, and did not send

in a report.

**Exhibitions** - Chairs Jim and Janet Giles were not in attendance, and did not send in a report. Jayme Adams will now be responsible for this committee.

**Foundation Liaison** - Chair Gary White reported on the history of the Foundation, and noted that it operates off of the interest of the Certificates of Deposits.

**Honorary Awards** - Chair Jeanne Clay Plank reported on The Board of Directors Award (that has not been awarded for several years). It is an award that is given to an iris that has not won a Dykes Medal, but which shows clearly in its progeny that it is among the greats of irisdom. A discussion ensued on whether to keep this award or discontinue it.

\*Keup moved and Snyder seconded:

\*\*That the AIS discontinue the Board of Directors Award. **Motion carried with a vote of 10-1.**

**Iris Program Resources (Speakers)** - Dana Brown was not in attendance, but her report stated that she is creating databases on both the Judges Training programs and also Speakers for iris programs.

The meeting recessed at 9:52 am and was called back to order at 10:06 am.

**Iris Program Resources (Slides & Digital)** - Janet Smith reported that the iris slide sets were corrected and updated, and copies of these programs have been sent to the AIS Library. Smith stated that a new iris program "Irises in the Garden", compiled by Jill and Joe Bonino, has been added to the programs list. It was noted that an article for the AIS Bulletin is needed to inform the public of the new and updated programs.

**Insurance** - Chair Michelle Snyder reported that both insurance policies were renewed at a savings of \$66. Snyder recommended an additional insurance coverage of "Volunteer Accident Policy" with an additional premium of \$235, with a limit of \$100,000 per occurrence. This coverage is EXCESS over the injured parties own medical insurance. If their personal health plan were 80/20, then the volunteer accident policy would step in and pay the 20% co-pay, that they would otherwise be responsible for. If no personal health plan existed, then this coverage would be primary.

\*Morris moved and Poling seconded:

\*\*That the AIS purchase additional accidental insurance "Volunteer Policy" with a limit of \$100,000 per occurrence. **Motion carried.**

Snyder also recommended the AIS purchase "Hired and Non-owned Auto Liability" coverage with an additional premium of \$211. It has a \$1,000,000 limit and will provide coverage for anyone using their own vehicle while performing duties on behalf of the AIS. All expenses, including attorney fees, if needed,

would be the responsibility of the driver of the vehicle. Hopefully, the individual's own automobile insurance policy would step in on their behalf, but it would not protect AIS if it was named in a lawsuit. This additional coverage would protect the AIS in such an event.

\*Snyder moved and Morris seconded:

\*\*That the AIS purchase additional insurance coverage "Hired and Non-owned Auto Liability" coverage with a \$1,000,000 limit. **Motion carried.**

**Judges** - Chair Judy Keisling reported that there are currently 634 judges and apprentices, 30 of which are new apprentices, an encouraging amount. Keisling presented the corrected, recommended Judges list for 2009.

\*Keisling moved and James seconded:

\*\* That the AIS approve the recommendations of the judges report as corrected. **Motion carried.**

Keisling presented a proposal for Distance Education (e-learning). President Epperson appointed an ad hoc committee consisting of Judy Keisling-chair, John Jones, Ruth Barker, and Jim Morris, to research the resources required to make courses available on the internet, the cost, and development of the criteria on the number of hours the judge could earn via e-learning. Keisling also stated that she has developed a one hour, self study course for judges to obtain one hour credit on Ethics, that comes with a test.

\*Keisling moved and Plank seconded:

\*\*That the one-hour CD program on Ethics be pilot tested for Judges Training for G/E and Master judges. **Motion carried.**

**Library** - Chair Tracy Plotner was not in attendance, but her report stated that the library has received several large donations of books and old catalogs from several sources this year.

**Photo Contest** - Chair Kitty Loberg was not in attendance. President Epperson noted the results of the 2008 Photo Contest will appear in the January 2009 Bulletin,

**Policy** - Chair Jeanne Clay Plank reported that she is working diligently on archiving early board meeting motions.

**Publications** - Chair Maureen Mark reported on the Bertrand Farr book. Mark proposes that the AIS purchase some of his books to be sold in the AIS Storefront.

\*White moved and Gossett seconded:

\*\*That the AIS purchase three boxes of *Dream Gardener* books for sale through the storefront at the price of \$25 domestic, and \$35 international.

**Motion carried.**

**Public Relations** - Chair Bob Pries was not in attendance, but his report stated that he has terminated the adwords campaign

**RVP Counselor** - Chair Louise Carson was not in attendance, but her report included the list of 2009 RVPs.

\*Plank moved and Snyder seconded:

\*\*That the list of proposed RVP's for 2009 be accepted. **Motion carried with a vote of 10-1.**

**First Year RVPs:**

Region 4: Carrie Winter  
Region 13: Alan Brooks  
Region 15: Cheryl Deaton  
Region 18: Judy Eckhoff  
Region 20: Steve Blecher

**Second Year RVPs:**

Region 1: Michael J Zuraw  
Region 2: Vaughn Sayles  
Region 3: Hal Griffie  
Region 5: Earnest Yearwood  
Region 7: Darnell Hester  
Region 10: Ron Betzer  
Region 16: Kate Brewitt  
Region 17: Debbie Strauss  
Region 19: Gary Slagle  
Region 21: LeRoy Meininger  
Region 23: James Reilly  
Region 24: Jim Chappell

**Third Year RVPS:**

Region 6: Judy Nolin  
Region 8: William C. Dougherty  
Region 9: Nancy Pocklington  
Region 11: Jayme Adams  
Region 12: Thomas Miller  
Region 14: Lynn Williams  
Region 22: Robert Treadway

**RVP Representative** - Representative Jody Nolin had no report.

**Scientific Advisory Committee** - Chair Gary White reported on Dr Alan Meerows grant request for the first year.

\*White moved and Gormley seconded:

\*\*That the AIS fund the second year of Dr. Alan Meerow's proposed study

of Iris Savannarum in the amount of \$4125. **Motion carried.**

**Silent Auction** - Chairs Barbara and John Sautner were not present. Their report stated the income from the 2008 AIS Silent Auction.

**Symposium** - Chair Gerry Snyder had nothing more to add to his report, which was given in conjunction with the Bulletin report.

**Tax Exemption Advisor** - Chair Bob Plank's report noted the number of AIS supporting organizations that have been recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as qualifying organizations exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code.

**Youth** - Chair Cheryl Deaton reported that there are currently 250 youth members. Two new Classroom Iris Projects have just started. Morris stated that the Clark Cosgrove judges should have access to the ages of the nominees. A discussion followed on the pros on cons about how the knowledge of the nominees ages might affect the judges decision in choosing the winner. It was decided by concensus that the date of birth for the Clark Cosgrove Award nominations would be reinstated for one year.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:08 pm and called back to order at 1:30 pm.

**Section Liaison** - Chair Jim Morris reported on the discussions that have been held on the Canadian Iris Society's proposal. After a very lengthy discussion it was decided to further study the Canadian Iris Society's proposal to becoming a Cooperating Iris Society. Morris also reported on the Society for Louisiana Iris for Section consideration review status. Bonino reported that the Section study to reduce membership dues when joining the AIS and a Section is still ongoing.

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Upon receiving no additional nominations from the floor, nominations were closed and the following slate of officers was elected by acclamation:

**President** - Dr E. Roy Epperson

**1st VP** - Judy Keisling

**2nd VP** - Jill Bonino

**Secretary** - Michelle Snyder

**Treasurer** - Jill Bonino

#### **APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS:**

President Epperson requested the appointment of the following officers:

**Registrar/Recorder** - Mike and Anne Lowe

**Membership Secretary** - Tom Gormley

**Recording Secretary** - Susan Boyce

**Publications/Sales Directors** - John and Kay Ludi

\*Gossett moved and Plank seconded:

**Motion carried.**

**APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**

President Epperson requested approval for the following Standing Committee appointments:

**Affiliation** - Brad Kasperek

**Awards** - Ruth Barker

**Calendars** - Terry Aitken

**Convention Liaison** - Paul Gossett

**Donations Secretary** - Donna James

**Electronic Services** - John Jones

**Exhibitions** - Jayme Adams

**Foundation Liaison** - Gary White

**Honorary Awards** - Jeanne Clay Plank

**Insurance** - Michelle Snyder

**Iris Program Resources (Speakers)** - Dana Brown

**Iris Program Resources (Slides & Digital)** - Janet Smith

**Judges** - Judy Keisling

**Judges Handbook Revision Committee** - vacant

**Librarian** - Tracey Plotner

**Photo Contest** - Kitty Loberg

**Policy & Operations Manual** - Jeanne Clay Plank

**Public Relations & Marketing** - Bob Pries

**Publications** - Maureen Mark

**RVP Counselor** - Rita Gormley

**Scientific Advisory Group** - Gary White

**Section Liaison** - Jim Morris

**Silent Auction** - Barbara and John Sautner

**Symposium** - Gerry Snyder

**Tax Exemption Advisor** - Bob Plank

**Youth** - Cheryl Deaton

\*Gossett moved and Plank seconded:

**Motion carried.**

**Budget for 2008-2009**

Treasurer Bonino opened a line-by-line discussion of the Proposed Budget for the fiscal year 2008-2009, with changes that had been added and subtracted as they came up for discussion throughout the meeting. A balance budget could not be reached.

\*Snyder moved and Gossett seconded:

\*\*That we accept the estimated general fund budget and operate at an estimated deficit of \$20,658.50 for fiscal year 2008-2009, leaving a positive general fund balance of \$89,694.49. **Motion carried.**

**Additional New Business:** President Epperson stated a need for a committee to study the possible realignment of the AIS Regions.

\*Snyder Moved and Gossett seconded:

\*\*Approved an ad hoc committee for realignment of AIS Regions. The committee will consist of Jerry Coates-chair, Jody Nolin, Rita Gormley, Bob & Jeanne Clay Plank, Terry Aitken, and the possibility of 1-2 RVPs to be selected later. **Motion carried.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The Spring 2009 meeting and convention will be held in Kansas City, Kansas, May 11-16, 2009 at the Doubletree Hotel-Overland Park, 10100 College Blvd, Overland Park, Kansas 66219. 1-913-451-6100. The convention chair is Debora Hughes, 1-785-883-4737. Her email is: [dhughes936@earthlink.net](mailto:dhughes936@earthlink.net).

President Epperson expressed his sincere appreciation to Mary Lee Fortner and members of the Las Vegas Iris Society for the arrangements that have been made to make this Fall 2008 Board meeting possible.

**ADJOURNED:**

Meeting adjourned at 4:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted  
Susan Boyce