

**AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
OMAHA, NEBRASKA
NOVEMBER 6-7, 2015**

FULL MINUTES

President Jim Morris called the Fall Meeting of The American Iris Society Board of Directors to order at 7:00 PM on Friday, November 6, 2015, and announced a quorum was present. Morris asked Board Members, Committee Chairs, RVPs, and guests to introduce themselves.

Present during the various sessions were: **Officers:** President, Jim Morris; 1st Vice President, Gary White; Secretary, Michelle Snyder; and Treasurer, Dwayne Booth. **Administrative Officers:** Registrar/Recorder, John Jones; Publication/Sales, John Ludi; Recording Secretary, Susan Boyce; and Membership Secretary, Tom Gormley. **Directors:** Susan Boyce, Gordon Carver, Ron Cosner, Al Elliott, Susan Grigg, John Jones, John Ludi, Bob Pries, Andi Rivarola, Lois Rose, and Debra Strauss. **RVP Representative:** Howie Dash. **Immediate Past President:** Judy Keisling. **Committee Chairs:** Cheryl Deaton, Riley Probst, Bob Seaman, and Gerry Snyder. **RVPs:** Linda Corapi (1), Tim Moore (8), Bob Seaman (13), Phyllis Wilburn (14), Dawn Boyer (17), Bev Hoyt (18), Linda Wilkie (21) and Howie Dash (23). **Guests:** Glenn Grigg (4), Shirley Trio Probst (14), Jill Bonino (15), Happy Carver (17), Jean Morris (18), Heidi Brase, Kris Jurik, Wayne & Pam Messer, Linda Rader, and John & Phyllis Randall (21).

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

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS:

Michelle Snyder announced that she has received no additional nominations, therefore the published candidates for the AIS Board of Directors are duly elected by acclamation. They are: Bob Pries (4), Lois Rose (4), Ron Cosner (8), and Alverton Elliott (17).

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

Portland, Oregon – May 18-19, 2015

One correction to the minutes was noted. Lee Walker's name needed to be moved to the guest section.

*Snyder moved and Booth seconded:

Approve the minutes as corrected. **Motion carried.

President Morris appointed Gary White as the Parliamentarian. President Morris also appointed John Jones as the meeting Motions Secretary.

In accordance with standard practice, Morris asked for affirmation of interim Board actions taken by email vote since the May 2015 Board meeting.

- 1 . *Snyder moved and S Boyce seconded:
That Gary White be elected AIS Present-elect. **Motion carried.
2. *Snyder moved and Boyce seconded:
That we approve the appointment of Gordon Carver as the new Advertising Editor. **Motion carried.
3. *Snyder moved and Rivarola seconded:
**That we approve Bob Seaman as the new Electronic Services Chair.
Motion carried.

*Jones moved and Booth seconded:
Approve interim Board Actions. **Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

President – Jim Morris would like to thank everyone that he has worked with for the last three years. He has items listed on his report that will be discussed during the meeting.

1st Vice President – Gary White has no written report, but wanted to thank President Morris for keeping him apprised of important issues that will need attention in his presidency.

2nd Vice President – Jody Nolin was not in attendance and did not send in a report.

Secretary – Michelle Snyder wanted to thank Jody Nolin, Dwayne Booth, and John Jones for taking on her duties for the last board meeting as she was not in attendance.

Treasurer – Dwayne Booth reported that the year end budget will end up in the positive balance. He also reported on the ongoing dispute with the IRS in regards to whether the AIS did file the 2014 AIS tax forms on time.

Editor – open. President Morris stated that there will be two guest editors for the 2016 Winter and Spring edition of *IRISES*.

*White moved and Booth seconded:
That we approve the Winter and Spring Bulletin Guest editors – Jamie Cloud and Jane Milliman respectively. **Motion carried.

Advertising Editor – The Board had approved Gordon Carver in June, but due to extenuating circumstances, Gordon has not been able to assume this position yet, so Ron Killingsworth was been filling in until Gordon can assume this position at the end of this year. Ron's written report indicated that the Spring issue has the most number of advertisements in it.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORTS:

Membership Secretary – Tom Gormley reported that the AIS has about 21 members more than it did this time last year. He also presented a chart on the ten year history of AIS membership numbers.

Registrar/Recorder – John Jones reported that in the last week of the registration period, he received an additional 190 registrations in addition to the 711 registrations and 261 reserves that were reported in his written report. Jones also reported that he has established a relationship with a university in China, and they will sponsor an associate registrar in China.

Morris asked if there was anything that the AIS can do to quicken the time frame in the registration process, and a discussion was held about this. Jones noted that there is a difference in the registration process and the introduction process. When an iris is registered, it is not yet officially introduced and eligible for any awards until the Registrars have received written proof that the iris was offered for sale and that introduction is documented in an R&I. Another discussion was held about irises being offered for sale in Section or Cooperating Societies publications.

*White moved and Booth seconded:

If an iris is offered for sale in any of the Section or Cooperating Societies publications and hard copy forwarded by mail to the AIS Registrar/Recorder that it be considered as qualified for introduction. **Motion carried.

The meeting recessed for a break at 9:00 pm and came back at 9:15 pm.

Publications/Sales – John Ludi reported on the low sales of the yearly Registrations and Introductions, as most people are now using the iris wiki to gain the information that they need. Ludi reported that the 2016 calendar sales are very slow. Ludi also reported on the need to reprint the Invitation To Join brochures. Inventory is low and also the prices for the membership rates have been raised and so new ITJs are needed.

*Snyder moved and S Boyce seconded:

That we accept the proposal to print 10,000 copies of the “Invitation To Join” at a cost of \$1,028.00. **Motion carried.

Ludi reported on a proposal to sell a new Beardless Irises book by Kevin Vaughn. The board held a discussion and decided to sell this book in the AIS Storefront.

*Booth moved and Rivarola seconded:

That we order 20 copies of “Beardless Irises a Plant for Every Garden Situation” by Kevin Vaughn for sale by the AIS Storefront as a price of \$30.00 including shipping. **Motion carried.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

1. Operation Manual Review- Chair Debra Strauss reported that this will be her last report and she needs to get the last of the job descriptions, so that she can forward them to Michelle Snyder.
2. AIS Intellectual Property Committee – Chair Bob Hollingworth was not present, but he had indicated that no action has taken place since the convention in May.
3. By-laws Revision Committee – Chair Jody Nolin was not present, but her report indicated that the committee is still working on the revision and hopefully will present

its report at the board meeting in May 2016.

4. Library ad hoc committee – Chair Ron Cosner that there has been problems in getting the committee together for a meeting, so there is nothing new to report.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Affiliations – Chair Jody Nolin was not present. Her report noted some new possibilities for improving the affiliation process, but for now, the affiliations process will remain the same. RVP Representative Dash requested that the affiliations process start much earlier than it is now. Former Affiliations Chair Susan Boyce reported that in the five years that she served in this position, the earlier affiliations process was tried and was a failure, so it was changed back again to start in the first week of January.

Awards – Chair Gerry Snyder reported that ballots submitted by electronic vote is just under 50 percent. Morris noted that the Tall Bearded Iris Society will fund the cost of the Wister Medals for 2016.

Calendars – Janet Smith was not present. Ludi reported that the decision for printing calendars for 2017 will not be made until early in 2016.

Convention Liaison – Chair Paul Gossett has tendered his resignation. Morris noted that a replacement has not been found yet.

Donations Development – Chair Cheryl Deaton had no report.

Electronic Services – Chair John Jones introduced Bob Seaman as the new Electronic Services chair. Jones noted that Seaman will need to purchase new up to date software. Some of that funding will come from the Electronic Services Restricted Fund. Jones thanked all for his support during his 15 years tenure in this position.

Exhibitions – Lois Rose reported that some of the shows approved have not appeared in the Final Show report. Susan Boyce reported that she will need to order entry tags. She also reported that she only received 68 orders compared to 80 orders received in 2014. Also noted, a possible increase in postal rates for 2016 may be coming in the next few weeks, and if so, S Boyce will notify the board so a rate change may be initiated.

Foundation Liaison – Chair Gary White reported that Jill Bonino will be taking over this position. Bonino is also now the Foundation Donations Chair. Bonino noted that the Foundation financial books will be audited shortly. Also, the Foundation has given Bonino authorization to look into a Foundation Investment Policy for investing the Foundations funds in other than Certificates of Deposits. The CD's have been paying extremely low interest rates and the need to find other areas of investing the Foundation funds that pay more is needed. Bonino also noted the need to scan the old financial AIS and Foundation records so that the many boxes of financial records that are in various

locations across the United States may be disposed of.
The submitted written Foundation report detailed the various grants now being conducted.

National Collections, Test & Display Gardens – Chair Bob Pries reported on the quotes of purchasing signs for the AIS Display Gardens. It was noted that the current price quotes are extremely high, so the search will continue. Pries noted that he wants to eventually get a large list of AIS Display Gardens, perhaps 200 to 300 gardens so that visitors can find a display garden anywhere. M Snyder worried about the cost of insurance for insuring so many AIS Display Gardens.

General Counsel – Chair Veronica Johnson was not present, but her report talked about the problems that the AIS has encountered with filing their tax return with the Internal Revenue Service this year.

Insurance – Chair Michelle Snyder reported on the first insurance claim the AIS has ever had, when a convention guest slipped and fell in one of the gardens and was hurt. The claim has been processed and is now closed. Snyder noted that if there are any injuries sustained at AIS activities, she needs to be notified immediately.

Iris Program Resources (Slides & Digital) – Chair Janet Smith was not in attendance. Her report showed that there have been no slide rentals this year. However the purchase of digital and DVD programs, especially email orders have increased.

Iris Program Resources (Speakers) – Chair Gordon Carver reported that there are currently 84 speakers on the list. For 2015, Carver has only received two request for this service.

Judges – Chair Judy Keisling reported that there are 484 fully accredited judges for 2016. There is a loss of 36 judges with most of them moving from Masters to retired status. Keisling presented the list of judges for approval for 2016.

*Keisling moved and Snyder seconded:

That the judges listed in the AIS Judges Recommendations for 2016 report be approved. **Motion carried.

Judges Handbook Revision – Chair Betty Roberts was not present, but her report stated that there is some progress, but some of the Section and Cooperating Societies have yet to name members to their committee to review their chapter of the Judges Handbook. This must be done as soon as possible in order for there to be any kind of completion of a revised Handbook.

The meeting recessed for the evening at 10:57 pm.

Saturday, November 7, 2016. The Executive session started at 8:05 am.
The meeting reconvened at 8:22 am.

Library – Chair Dave Silverberg was not in attendance. His report indicated that he has started working on inventorying the items in the AIS Library. White noted that the official name of the AIS Library is the "The American Iris Society Hager-DuBose Memorial Library". Pries would like a section of the iris wiki to be a branch of the memorial library. It was suggested that this idea be brought before the Foundation as the Foundation funds the library.

*White moved and S Boyce seconded:

**That the AIS Board recommend to the AIS Foundation that a section of the AIS Iris Encyclopedia be created as the Online AIS Hager-DuBose Memorial Library.

Motion carried.

Photo Contest – Chair Janet Smith was not in attendance, but her report asked the question, since there was only one youth entrant, whether the Youth categories should be combined with the Adult categories. Smith also wants to move the contest dates to a month later, to May 1st through June 30th. It was suggested that the contest end be delayed to July 31st as many of the colder regions in the states and also Canada still have bloom into July and members of those areas are still working in their gardens. It was also noted that the Japanese irises are still blooming into July. Jones volunteered to call Smith at the break and ask her opinion as to delaying the end of the contest. Another point brought up was that the Photo Contest winners are only listed in *IRISES*, and that won't be until either the Fall or Winter issue. It was suggested that the photo contest winners be posted earlier on the AIS Website and the iris wiki, so that all may see the winning photos earlier.

*Jones moved and Snyder seconded:

That a list of the AIS Photo Contest results be provided to the AIS Website and available to social media and the Iris Encyclopedia for publication. **Motion carried.

Public Relations – Co-chair Bob Pries talked about doing more surveys to find what AIS members want from the AIS. He would like the board to authorize \$300 to do an unlimited number of surveys via Survey Monkey. After a long discussion, Booth reminded Pries that he already has \$300 available in his budget to purchase this service. Pries had others in attendance, share ideas about membership retention. Rivarola talked about the AIS presence online, and ways to reach out to more potential AIS members overseas. Pries also talked about setting up and conducting Webinars. Messer talked about News and Notes and the possibility of advertising on it.

The meeting recessed for a break at 10:00 am and came back at 10:38 am.

Honorary Awards – President Morris announced the results of the Honorary Awards.

The Hybridizer Medal was awarded to Fred Kerr (14).

The Distinguished Service Medal was awarded to Jim Morris (18).

RVP Counselor – Chair Susan Grigg reported that the RVP discussion group list will be reactivated. It has not been used and it has been offline since 2007. Grigg presented the list of RVPs for 2016.

*Grigg moved and Snyder seconded:

*That we approve the submitted list of RVPs for 2016. **Motion carried.**

First Year RVPs:

Region 2: Dorothy Stiefel
Region 6: Barbara Bunnell
Region 7: Janet Wilson
Region 8: Tim Moore
Region 12: David Burke
Region 14: Phyllis Wilburn
Region 18: Bev Hoyt
Region 20: Susan Driver
Region 22: Nick Stewart

Second Year RVPs:

Region 4: Anita Moran
Region 13: Bob Seaman
Region 15: Debbie James
Region 17: Dawn Boyer

Third Year RVPs:

Region 1: Linda Corapi
Region 3: George Hildenbrandt
Region 5: Jeanette White
Region 9: David Kelly
Region 10: Joe Musacchia
Region 11: Jim Sadler
Region 21: Linda Wilkie
Region 23: Howard Dash
Region 24: Don Nelson

RVP Representative – Howie Dash reported that the RVPs would like the symposium put back into the AIS bulletin.

Scientific Advisory Committee – Chair Bob Hollingworth was not present, but he earlier indicated that he had nothing new to report.

Section and Cooperating Society Liaison – Chair Gary White reported that this is the end of his term in this position. White noted that the Novelty Iris Society was formed this year.

Silent Auction – Chair Debra Strauss reported that they raised over \$5,000 at the silent auction this year. It is predicted that the 2016 silent auction results will be less.

Symposium – Chair Riley Probst reported that Regions 3, 4, 10, 11, 20, & 24 did not participate this year. There were only 349 ballots cast this year which is only 7.8% of participation. Probst wants all present to encourage members in and out of their region

to vote. It was noted that since the symposium was taken out of the bulletin, the percentage of votes cast has gone down substantially and it was recommended that it be put back into the bulletin. After a discussion:

*Pries moved and Snyder seconded:

That we include a supplemental insert of the Symposium ballot in the spring issue of the AIS Bulletin. **Motion carried.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:57 am and reconvened at 1:08 pm.

Unfinished Business:

RVP Representative – Howie Dash reported that the RVPs present, would like a one page sheet that has a yearly calendar and also details their responsibilities. It was noted that their responsibilities are listed in the RVP Handbook starting on page 8 and it was impossible to detail these responsibilities and timeline on just one page.

Corapi noted that members in her region would like to be able to write in names of irises on the symposium vote. It was noted that in the past, write-ins were allowed, but they never came close to make the top 100. It was also noted that the work involved tabulating write-ins for all 22 regions would be too much work.

Photo Contest – John Jones reported on his phone call with Janet Smith and she was in agreement with delaying the end of the photo contest.

*Jones moved and Booth seconded:

That the AIS Photo Contest run from May 1st to July 31st each year. **Motion carried.

Another discussion was held about keeping or downsizing the number of youth entry categories.

*Jones moved and Keisling seconded:

That we have only one youth category in the AIS Photo Contest and that for any given photograph the youth may choose to enter either the youth category or any of the adult categories. **Motion carried.

Youth – Chair Cheryl Deaton reported on the number of youth programs in schools. She praised the adults who lead these programs. The 2016 theme for the Ackerman Essay contest is: “My most interesting or exciting iris experience”.

New Business:

2016 Convention Budget report – Jill Bonino presented a line by line discussion of the draft budget for the 2016 convention.

Calendars – John Ludi reported that after consulting with Booth, the decision was made to lower the prices of the 2016 calendars.

*Booth moved and Snyder seconded:

That effective immediately we sell the 2016 calendars at \$4.00 each or 10 for \$30.00 plus postage. **Motion carried.

2020 Convention – Rivarola presented the winning picture for the 2020 convention logo contest. Pries talked about hiring an editor to do the special 100th anniversary bulletin edition. Morris stated that the board will have the final decision in choosing an editor to work on this important project.

The meeting recessed for a break at 2:26 and reconvened at 2:40 pm.

Budget for 2015-2016

Treasurer Booth opened a line-by-line discussion of the Proposed Budget for the fiscal year 2015-2016, with changes that had been added and subtracted as they came up for discussion throughout the meeting.

*Boyce moved and Snyder seconded:

That we adopt the budget as modified. **Motion carried.

The meeting recessed for dinner at 3:55 pm and reconvened at 7:00 pm.

Unfinished Business:

Youth – Judy Keisling, chair of the youth ad hoc committee reported that no recommendations have been decided upon yet, but they should have one ready for the 2016 board meeting in New Jersey.

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 – Gary White

1st Vice President – Jody Nolin

2nd Vice President – Andi Rivarola

Secretary – Michelle Snyder

Treasurer – Dwayne Booth

Editor – open

President White accepted the gavel from outgoing President Morris.

Since the AIS now has a new president, a new standard banking resolution to add the new signature needs to be approved.

*Boyce moved and Jones moved:

That we approve a standard banking resolution to add the signature of the incoming AIS President to the bank accounts effective Nov 8, 2015. **Motion carried.

President White requested approval for the following appointments:

APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS:

Registrar/Recorder – John Jones and Joanne Prass Jones

Membership Secretary – Tom Gormley

Recording Secretary/Policy – Susan Boyce

Publication/Sales – John and Kay Ludi

President White noted that since Andi Rivarola was just elected as the new AIS 2nd Vice

President, there is now a vacancy on the AIS Board of Directors. President White then appointed Gerry Snyder to complete the Director term vacated by Andi Rivarola's election to 2nd Vice President.

*Morris moved and Carver seconded:

That Gerry Snyder be appointed as Director serving until 2017 replacing Andi Rivarola. **Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Advertising Editor – Gordon Carver

Affiliations/Affiliate Liaison – Jody Nolin

Awards – Gerry Snyder

Calendars – Janet Smith

Convention Liaison – open

Donations Development – Cheryl Deaton

Electronic Services – Bob Seaman

Exhibitions – Lois Rose and Susan Boyce

Foundation Liaison – Jill Bonino

General Counsel – Veronica Johnson

Honorary Awards – Jim Morris

Insurance – Michelle Snyder

Iris Program Resources (Slides & Digital) – Janet Smith

Iris Program Resources (Speakers) – Gordon Carver

Judges – Judy Keisling

Judges Handbook Revision Committee – Betty Roberts

Librarian – Dave Silverberg

National Collections, Display & Test Gardens – Bob Pries

Photo Contest – Janet Smith

Public Relations & Marketing – Bob Pries and Susan Grigg

RVP Counselor – Susan Grigg

RVP Representative – Howard Dash

Scientific Advisory Committee – Bob Hollingworth

Section and Cooperating Society Liaison – Jody Nolin

Silent Auction – Debra Strauss and Nick Stewart

Social Media – Andi Rivarola

Symposium – Riley Probst

Youth – Cheryl Deaton

*Jones moved and Grigg seconded:

That the Administrative Officer's appointments and Committee Chair's appointments as enumerated by President White be approved. **Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The 2016 Spring meeting and convention will be held in Newark, New Jersey, Monday May 23rd thru Saturday May 28th, at the Newark Liberty International Airport Marriott Hotel, 1 Hotel Rd, Newark, NJ 07114. (973) 623-0006. The convention chair is

Paul Gossett, (918) 853-6204 and email pwgossett@juno.com.

President White thanked everyone for attending this meeting. A special thanks to the members of the Greater Omaha Iris Society and also the Lincoln Iris Society for their support.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Boyce

