

Minutes of the AIS Board of Directors Videoconference, Wednesday, August 28, 2019

Present:

Jody Nolin (6) – President, Affiliate Liaison

Andi Rivarola (15) – 1st VP, P.R. Social Media, Strategic Planning, Finance,
Convention co-Chair 2020

Bonnie Jean Nichols (17) – 2nd VP, Judges

Michelle Snyder (15) – Secretary, Insurance

Jill Bonino (15) – Treasurer, Foundation Liaison, Finance

Gary White (21) – Past President, Honorary Awards, Finance

John Jones (14) - Registrar/Recorder

Anita Moran (4) – Director, Photo Contest

Claire Schneider (15) – Director, Recording Secretary

Gerry Snyder (15) – Director, Awards

Howie Dash (23) - Director, RVP Counselor

Janis Shackelford (15) – Director, Policy

John Ludi (13) – Director, Publication Sales

Neil Houghton (2) – Director, Image Coordinator, Iris Program Resources (digital)

Phyllis Wilburn (14) – Director, Section & Cooperating Societies Liaison

Susan Driver (7) - Director

Susan Grigg (4) – Director, P.R. & Marketing

Wayne Messer (21) – Director, News & Notes, Exhibition Reports

Bob Pries (4)– Encyclopedia Manager, Gardens, Public Relations & Marketing

Lorene Crone (7)

The meeting was called to order on Zoom at 5:04 PM PDT.

A quorum was present.

1. Announcements:

- Susan Driver has volunteered to take over the Calendar. She will work with John Ludi of the AIS Storefront, and Anita Mora of the Photo Contest.
- Anita Moran announced that the Photo Contest ended and the winners have been notified. The winning photos have been posted on the website. The photos were spectacular and it was a difficult decision choosing the winners. The award irises have been sent out. Only US residents were able win irises. The list of winners of memberships will be sent to Tom Gormley. Regarding the international winners, each second place winner will be awarded an e-membership and the first place winner will receive a Bulletin membership. If any winners are already e-members, then Tom Gormley will add one year to their membership.

- Jody Nolin reported that “due to some fancy footwork by John Jones” that the website has a dedicated server which should eliminate most of the error messages. From now on, all requests, comments and error reports should go through Bryce Williamson.
- The dates of the 2020 convention posted on the website and in other sites should be accurate and consistent. The start date of the convention for the Board members is two days before the official opening day.

Motion 1:

A motion to accept the minutes of the July 24, 2019, videoconference.

There were no corrections.

Motion by Michelle Snyder and seconded by John Ludi. Motion approved.

MID-YEAR REPORTS

2. Awards - Gerry Snyder submitted a digital report.

Regarding the ballot this year, the number of people using on-line voting continues to increase. In 2019 about 58% used on-line voting. The total number of votes continues to decline, only 406 in 2019.

A new source for Wister Medals has been found and the order for 60 should arrive before the end of this month (August). The engraver recommended moving the year to the bottom of the medal. The Board agreed, so Gerry will forward that information to the engraver. Winners of 2017 and 2018 will be given the option of having the medal mailed or presented at the 2020 Convention.

Gerry asked for information about the acrylic keeper trophies for the convention awards, where are they and who is in charge of them for future conventions? Andi Rivarola will follow up.

Gerry has submitted his resignation as Awards Chair. His last chore will be to conduct next year's ballot. For more information about this “fun” position, read the job description on the AIS website.

3. Image Coordinator and Iris Program Resources (digital) – Neil Houghton submitted digital reports.

Neil's report did not contain any action items. The new equipment has arrived and been set up. Neil has been working with the images of irises being introduced.

Anita Moran had two reasons for suggesting that photography become a judges training class: the Photo Contest and that a photo is required for all irises being registered. Bonnie Nichols will follow up.

Wayne Messer recommended that Keynote versions of programs be made available from the Iris Programs Coordinator (digital). Keynote is the Apple version of PowerPoint and would be appropriate for MAC and Apple users. Neil added that both Keynote and PowerPoint have an export option allowing the conversion of a program to the other format. However, Neil warned that the exported file will be different from the original. Pictures will need to be resized and fonts changed. Neil, who is a MAC user, prefers to use PowerPoint because it is more

universally accepted. Neil, in his spare time, is investigating converting these PowerPoint programs into self-playing movies.

4. Registrar/Recorder – John Jones submitted a digital report

John's report did not contain any action items. The workload of the registrar continues to increase. More registrations of irises are being submitted and more from international hybridizers. Registration now requires that a photograph(s) be included and they must be dealt with and sent on to others. John asked that the AIS Board increase the stipend of the registrar and membership secretary to \$1200 per month.

Discussion: The budget for next year is being finalized and will be presented to the Board in October. Therefore, Jody Nolin formally asked that a special meeting of the Finance Committee be held in the next few weeks to deal with the request for increased stipends for the registrar and the membership secretary. A recommendation by the Finance Committee, regarding stipend increases, will be presented to the Board some time before the October videoconference. Gary White, chair of the Finance Committee, requested that John Jones and Tom Gormley send their request for stipend increases along with supporting documentation to the Finance Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Insurance – Michelle Snyder

The package insurance policy, which includes personal property and liability, renews on August 31 for one year. Currently all that is listed on the policy is the Storefront, the AIS Library and John Jones' electronic equipment. Michelle asked for a list of all AIS electronics so it can be listed on the policy, e.g. Neil Houghton's new electronic equipment, Tom Gormley's computer. Janet Smith has a high speed scanner that was purchased by the Foundation. Question is, who insures it? Bob Pries uses his own equipment. Michelle will add the AIS equipment to the policy using home addresses of those who hold that equipment and fixing the insurance amount at \$5000. The deductible is \$2500. At some point, Michelle and Jill Bonino will create an inventory of AIS equipment which can be applied to the insurance policy when it renews next time.

OLD BUSINESS

6. Addresses & Privacy issue – Andi Rivarola

Andi did confer with Veronica Johnson, AIS counsel, regarding privacy issues. Veronica recommended that no physical address be published or posted on the website without signed consent. This would apply to postings and publishing by affiliate clubs and social media, too.

Discussion: Every street address should be removed from all publications and websites unless a signed release form has been submitted. Only phone, email, city and state may remain. Instead of sending a release form to everyone, a suggestion was to remove all street addresses and state that anyone who wants their street address posted or published should ask Michelle for a release form. Michelle will send out the release forms but she would like to see a sample that contains the appropriate legal verbage. Andi will follow up on the release form. An explanation of this new policy should be sent to all the affiliates (by Jody Nolin) and all RVPs (by Howie

Dash). It should also be posted on the website and in News & Notes and published in the Bulletin.

Motion 2: That following the recommendation of Veronica Johnson, the AIS legal counsel, the AIS will no longer publish the physical address of any individual other than city and state in any AIS print or electronic publication unless the individual signs a release.

Motion by Andi Rivarola and seconded by Bonnie Nichols. Motioned passed with two opposed.

Discussion: Regarding when this policy will take effect, an effort will be made to include the policy in the next Bulletin. Andi will write a short article for the fall issue of the Bulletin and the next News & Notes explaining this new policy and its purpose. The wording of the release form could be included. Andi will write this after conferring with Veronica. There are several individuals who will want their physical addresses in all publications: Foundation, membership, registrar. They will need to sign the new release form.

7. Banking issue – Jill Bonino

The financial institutions that handle AIS accounts need further clarification about signatories.

Motion 3: That the AIS Board rescinds Motion #3 approved at the Spring 2016 Board meeting. This motion designated Dwayne Booth as the “owner” on behalf of the American Iris Society on all AIS accounts held at U S Bank, Wells Fargo, and Edward Jones. Further that the AIS Board designates the current AIS Treasurer to have “executive authority” over all current AIS bank and investment accounts until further notice.

Motion made by Jill Bonino and seconded by Howie Dash. Motion approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

8. The fiscal year-end is September 30th. All invoices and AIS expenses need to be submitted to Michelle Snyder no later than Sept 20.

9. AIS Convention 2019 follow-up

Several hybridizers have not heard from the Convention 2019 Chair regarding their guest irises. They are annoyed that instructions regarding guest irises have been ignored. Seedlings have not been returned to the hybridizers. Subsequent emails asking about unreturned irises have not been answered. As a result, a few of the well-known hybridizers have said they might withdraw from their participation in future conventions.

The board recommended that Jody Nolin send a registered letter to the Shirley Trio-Probst, Riley Probst and to Jean Richter, RVP of Region 14, asking for an explanation of what has happened to the unreturned irises and for a plan that deals with those irises.

Andi Rivarola observed that there might be a disconnect between AIS convention hosts/chairs and the AIS Board. Regular communication and updates between convention hosts and the AIS

Board might reduce the number and severity of problems as well as fiscal short-falls. Perhaps a revision of the Convention Handbook is needed. Perhaps AIS needs to make a bigger financial investment in national conventions. This discussion should continue at a future meeting.

10. Mid-year Reports

This is a reminder to those who will be presenting their mid-year reports at the September 25th videoconference: Michelle Snyder will need a digital copy of your report by September 14th so it can be posted in AISTalk. Please head your mid-year report with the appropriate note: “Information Only” or “Action Required.”

11. Motion to adjourn made by Michelle Snyder.

Next videoconference will be Wednesday, Sept 25, 2019.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM PDT