

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
DALLAS, TEXAS
NOVEMBER 3-4, 2017

FULL MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Gary White called the Fall Meeting to order at 7:04 PM on Friday, November 3, 2017. White welcomed everyone and asked Board members, Committee chairs, RVPs and guests to introduce themselves.

Present during the various sessions were: **Officers:** Gary White, president; Jody Nolin, 1st vice president; Andi Rivarola, 2nd vice president; Michelle Snyder, secretary; Dwayne Booth, treasurer; and Jim Morris, immediate past president. **Administrative Officers:** John Jones, registrar/recorder; John Ludi, publication/sales; and Claire Schneider, recording secretary. **Directors:** Al Elliott, Bob Pries, Lois Rose, Phyllis Wilburn, Dawn Boyer, Howie Dash, David Cupps, Claire Schneider, Jill Bonino, John Ludi, and Gerry Snyder. **Committee Chairs:** Paul Gossett, Convention Liaison; Cheryl Deaton, Youth; Gerry Snyder, Awards; Betty Roberts, Judges Handbook Revision; Riley Probst, Symposium; David Cupps, Electronic Services; Judy Keisling, Judges Training; Wayne Messer, News & Notes Editor and Exhibition. **RVPs:** Peggy Cathey (17), Nick Stewart (22), and Scarlett Ayres (23). **Guests:** Connie Ford (17), Pam Messer (21), Shirley Trio Probst (14), Rick Miller (17), Jean Morris (4), Bonnie Nichols (17), and Hooker Nichols (17).

A quorum is present.

Hooker Nichols, President of the Iris Society of Dallas, welcomed everyone to the AIS Fall Meeting.

Howie Dash is appointed as Parliamentarian.

Note: The agenda is a guide and is subject to change. These minutes reflect the sequence of reports, discussions, and motions as they happened during the meeting and do not follow the precise order of the agenda.

John Jones is appointed as Motion Secretary

Directors - Michelle Snyder

Because no additional nominations have been received, the published candidates for the AIS Board of Directors are duly elected by acclamation. They are: Jill Bonino (15), Gerry Snyder (15), John Ludi (13), and Anita Moran (4).

II. MINUTES

The minutes from the Spring 2017 Board Meeting in Des Moines have already been discussed and were approved at the July Teleconference. The minutes from the September Teleconference will be discussed later.

III. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

President – Gary White submitted an electronic report.

The Biodiversity Heritage License agreement, signed by White and the manager of the library, will be given to the secretary. The license grants permission to scan and copy all our previous Bulletins except for the past ten years. Specifically Gary chose the option, “For continuing publications, participating institutions will digitize volumes according to an embargo of ten years from the present date.”

Secretary – Michelle Snyder has submitted an electronic report.

Thank you to Jody for being substitute secretary at the Spring Board Meeting.

Michelle will donate 20 unused cellophane wrapped tapes to anyone who has space in their suitcase.

Interim Board Actions – there aren’t any because of business carried on at the teleconferences.

1st Vice President – Jody Nolin has no report.

2nd Vice President – Andi Rivarola has no report.

Treasurer – Dwayne Booth has submitted several reports: Treasurer’s Narrative Fall 2017, 2018 Convention Balance Sheet, Adopted and Proposed Budget, Balance Sheet Fall 2017, Investment Policy, and Restrictive Funds Worksheet Report.

Booth proposes two action items in his Narrative report: an audit and a new investment plan.

MOTION 1. That Jill Bonino, Andi Rivarola and Cheryl Deaton be appointed to discuss, investigate, and make recommendations for auditing the AIS financial records by the AIS Spring 2018 meeting.

Motion by Jill Bonino and seconded by Jody Nolin.

Discussion: the last audit of AIS books was more than ten years ago. The IRS doesn’t require audits of non-profit organizations. Howie Dash would be interested in participating. This motion is about making recommendations regarding the actual audit.

Motion 1 carried unanimously.

Booth presented the American Iris Society Investment Policy and Implementation Plan. AIS received a large donation from the Gerald Richardson Estate which currently is earning minimal interest. “The investment goal is to achieve moderate growth and current income over time” while at the same time having enough cash on hand for AIS expenditures. Booth recommends planning to have enough cash for expenditures for six months and invest the remainder. An upcoming big budget item will be the expense of the 2020 National Convention. An objective of the 2020 Convention will be to generate income to offset some of the expenses.

White: at one of the upcoming teleconferences, maybe January, Dwayne Booth will present an investment plan. No motion regarding investments will be made at this time.

II. MINUTES (continued)

MOTION 2. That we approve the 9/27/2017 AIS Teleconference meeting minutes as published. Motion by Dwayne Booth and seconded by Howie Dash. Motion 2 carried unanimously.

Comment: A concern was expressed that the PowerPoint presentation made by Veronica Johnson, legal advisor, at the Spring 2017 Board meeting was not available for download and not included in the May minutes. David Cupps proposed that this presentation be posted online as a pdf file making it readily accessible.

Questions regarding Google Groups: Will anyone be able to affix attachments or photographs to emails? Yes, and Google will check for viruses (David Cupps). What about abuse via email? If there's consistent abuse, then the policy can be changed (David Cupps).

III. REPORTS OF OFFICERS (continued)

Editor – Jane Milliman (not present) has submitted an electronic report. “Working on the Bulletin continues to be challenging and fun.” We are working getting systems and templates in place to make the process work more smoothly. Work continues on nomenclature, registration versus introduction year, etc. Jane asks if we need a separate page for photo credits or should the photographer be credited directly next to the photo. Gary White will convey the consensus of the group that the photographers should be credited next to the photo and if a photo credit page is used, it should have a consistent location in the Bulletin (i.e. same page in each issue).

Jane expects no over printing on photos. She requests more “Iris 101” stories as well as reports of travels and science. Deadlines for submissions are December 15, 2017 for the Winter issue, March 10 for Spring 2018 issue, June 10 for Summer 2018 issue and Sept 10 for the Fall 2018 issue. Please use irises@janemilliman.com for all AIS correspondence with Jane.

Discussion: The Bulletin should be posted online immediately after it is published. This is one of the benefits for e-membership: receiving a copy before snail mail deliveries. To post the Bulletin online, a copy should be sent to David Cupps or John Jones or Andi Rivarola.

Address and Email Corrections

Send address and email corrections to irises@janemilliman.com , to Michelle Snyder (Secretary) and to Tom Gormley (Membership).

Advertising Editor - Ron Killingsworth (absent) has submitted an electronic report. A solution has been worked out regarding payment through PayPal for advertising in the Bulletin. The suggestion that Ron made in a previous report, “that the discount for buying two advertisements in one year be publicized in the Bulletin.” In fact this discount does appear on page 53 of the Fall 2017 Bulletin.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Membership – Tom Gormley (absent) has submitted an electronic report.

There are 4,160 members down for the year by 169. Membership income ended above budget by \$3,192 after Section Dues was removed or 5.07% above budget. E-membership is at 448, down from 460 at this point last fall. Of the 449 e-members, 240 are also regular AIS members.

Comment: Region 16, Canada, no longer exists. Region 19 is now part of Region 3.

Registrar/Recorder – John Jones has submitted an electronic report.

There are three irises by Schreiner that were introduced in the 1940s but never registered. John Jones will register them because of their historic importance. Several years ago Mr. Shimizu endowed Chad Harris with about 150 Japanese iris, *I. ensata*. These are significant in Japan, some are 300 years old. Chad is growing them and in the process of verifying names and descriptions and when he is finished, Jones will register them. Jones reminded us that Japan has been hybridizing iris for over 800 years and that most have not been registered with AIS. However, there have been more registrations from China, maybe 28 or 29 this year compared to nine or ten last year. Since this report was written, Jones has received another 150 to 175 registrations from middle Europe. On the topic of irises that have been introduced but never registered, there is a spuria, Fontanelle, that is being sold and has been sold by many nurseries throughout the Midwest. It was introduced by Bluebird Nursery maybe fifteen years ago. That spuria iris could be registered in the future.

Discussion: Is there clarification regarding the status of an iris (registration and introduction) for its qualification for ribbons in club shows or AIS awards? The answer would be in the Judges Handbook; they set the rules. Best in Show and the bronze and silver medals are AIS awards and to win those, an iris must be listed in the R & I. By March of 2018, John Jones will send out a pdf of the 2017 introductions so clubs will have a copy for their spring 2018 shows. However, what about an iris that has been introduced but never registered? According to the handbook, until a registered iris is introduced, it is a named seedling. Why does the AIS require both registration and introduction for show awards while other plant societies require only a registration?

MOTION 3 That for 2018 shows all named irises declared by the entrant to be introduced be eligible for show awards.

Motion by Dwayne Booth. Move to table the motion by Jody Nolin. Jim Morris seconded. Motion 3 is tabled.

Recording Secretary – Claire Schneider has no report.

Publications Sales Director – John Ludi submitted three Storefront reports.

Ludi asked about updating his software. A suggestion is to do so through the assistance of David Cupps. There is a large inventory of old R&Is. Do clubs use them or do they rely on the wiki-encyclopedia? A suggestion is to sell the old R & Is at a much reduced price. Ludi reported that he is downsizing to a ten by ten storage unit. Because the World of Iris is a popular item in garden gift shops, a suggestion is to place an ad in the Bulletin for World of Iris.

MOTION 4 That we provide a set of the hard cover 10 year Check Lists and the 2010 thru 2016 R&Is to the AIS editor.

Motion by Jim Morris and seconded by Gerry Snyder. Motion 4 carried unanimously.

Comment: the decade publications are called Check Lists. The annual publications are called R&Is.

VII. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Intellectual Property – Bob Hollingworth submitted an electronic report.
Add the name Jane Milliman, AIS Bulletin Editor, as member of the Intellectual Property report.

Ad Hoc- Library has no report. Because there are issues, a new chair needs to be appointed who will direct that committee.

VIII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Affiliations – Jody Nolin has submitted an electronic report.
No changes with affiliates for the coming year. There might be a new affiliate club in Arkansas.

Awards – Gerry Snyder submitted an electronic report.
Comment: “We love the online voting for awards.”

Calendars - Janet Smith submitted an electronic report.
John Ludi has ninety-two 2018 calendars in stock.
The 2019 calendar is ready to go to print. John Ludi recommends that we have 750 calendars printed.

MOTION 5: that we authorize the purchase of 750 AIS 2019 calendars.
Motion by Michelle Snyder. Howie Dash seconded. Motion 5 carried unanimously.

Suggestions for making the 2020 calendar special for the Centennial Celebration: Use photos of the gardens planned for the 2020 tour (e.g. Presby Gardens, NY Botanic Gardens). Include a photo series to show the progression of iris hybridization. Another suggestion was to remember special dates in the calendar of significant AIS events (e.g. the first AIS Board meeting, the first registered iris). A recommendation was made to form a committee to proof the next calendar. Two volunteers are Gary White and Dwayne Booth with others to be conscripted later.

VII. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES (continued)

Bylaws – Jody Nolin has submitted multiple electronic documents.

MOTION 6: That we modify Article V Section 3 Para (b) to read: (b) One director who is a Regional Vice President in the first or second year of that office shall be elected by the AIS Board of Counselors at its annual spring meeting and shall hold office until a successor is duly

elected. The term shall be for two years, that is from the adjournment of the AIS Board of Directors meeting in the Spring to the adjournment at the next – Spring AIS Board of Directors Meeting two year hence.

Motion by Jody Nolin and seconded by Howie Dash.

Because of the extensive discussion and various opinions expressed, Jody suggests that this bylaw go back to the committee to be reworked. And that those who expressed opinions today participate in the reconstruction of this paragraph of the bylaws.

Move to table Motion 6 by Gerry Snyder and seconded by Michelle Snyder. Unanimously carried that Motion 6 be tabled.

MOTION 7. That we modify Article V, Section 3 Paragraph (d) to read: (d) A director who has served two consecutive full three year terms shall again become eligible for nomination or appointment as a director after being off the board as a director for one year. No director shall serve more than 4 full three year terms.

Motion by Jody Nolin and seconded by Michelle Snyder.

Discussion: Remove “excluding *ex officio* positions (e.g. editor, treasurer, registrar)” from the motion. Term limits for the *ex officio* positions should be handled in a separate motion.

Term limits would reduce institutional memory. Newer members wouldn't have the knowledge of previous AIS events and philosophy. Term limits prevent stagnation i.e. one person on the board for decades. It's difficult to find candidates for the Board of Directors. Term limits would reduce the pool of potential candidates.

Motion 7 carried with 9 voting yes and 3 opposed.

MOTION 8. That we accept the recommendation that we modify Article V, Section 3 Paragraph (h) to read: (h) Officers holding the following positions shall be members *ex officio* of the board of directors: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Immediate Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor. These officers shall have full voting powers unless filling a salaried position and accepting compensation for services rendered in that position in furtherance of the purposes of the AIS.

Any member of the AIS Board of Directors who holds a salaried position in AIS shall recuse himself/herself from any vote coming before the Board that may possibly impact his/her position. If there is doubt about the impact, the AIS President shall make the determination of whether the salaried person shall be excused from voting.

Motion by Jody Nolin and seconded by Michelle Snyder. Motion 8 carried unanimously.

MOTION 9. That we accept the recommendation that Article V, Section 5 to read: Section 5. The AIS Board of Directors shall confirm the Regional election of an AIS Regional Vice President to preside over each official AIS Region.

Motion by Jody Nolin and seconded by Jim Morris.

Discussion: Because there are several concepts in Section 5, perhaps there should be separate subsections for each of those concepts. What about RVPs who are asked to serve more than three successive terms? Is there a bylaw or standing rule that restricts the number of successive

terms the RVP might serve? What is the difference between confirmation and appointment? What about “reconfirmed annually” as opposed to appointed?

By show of hands, Motion 9 is not carried and is returned to the AIS Bylaws committee.

About the Standing Rules of the AIS: They are a compilation of the motions made by the AIS Board of Directors “excerpted from the minutes of the AIS Spring 2003 Board meeting minutes.” Back in 2003, a Standing Rules Committee was formed consisting of chairman Epperson, Robert Plank, Jill Bonino, John Jones and Mike Lowe. Susan Boyce and Veronica Johnson have been working on compiling and publishing the Standing Rules.

Jody Nolin asked for input regarding the term length of members of the Nominating Committee. Currently in Article V, Section 4, paragraph (a) the term is one year for the members of the Nominating Committee. If members served longer terms, such as three years, knowledge of the pool of potential candidates would be improved. A show of hands indicated that the bylaw should stand as is and that length of term could be handled by appointments.

MOTION 10. That Article IV, Section 2, paragraph (a) be changed to read: (a) National general meetings shall be called only by the AIS Board of Directors, which shall determine the time and place of such meetings, with appropriate advance notice to the AIS membership by at least one of the following:

- published in the AIS Bulletin
- placed on the AIS website
- mailed by letter
- sent electronically.

Motion by Jody Nolin and seconded by Michelle Snyder. Motion 10 carried.

Comment: A statement in Article IV, section 2, paragraph (a) to clarify the difference between general meetings and business meetings would be helpful.

VIII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES (continued)

Convention Liaison – Paul Gossett submitted three electronic reports.

Report on the 2018 Convention by co-chairs, Paul Gossett and Joe Musacchia (pronounced Muh-SACK- kee-yah). The Greater New Orleans Iris Society (GNOIS) is co-host with AIS. SLI will be in the background. Paul Gossett’s assistant is Andi Rivarola and Joe Musacchia’s assistant is Patrick O’Connor. Two people, Dwayne Booth and Jill Bonino, will have authority to sign checks to cover the expenses of the convention. The total block of hotel room-nights reserved is 512 and 80% of that block is required to fulfill the convention contract. Will the discount rate on hotel rooms extend beyond the convention? It should be extended, but check with Paul Gossett. The Geek Dinner is listed, but reservation information will come later.

Report on the 2019 Convention. April 23 through 27th. Shirley Trio is chair. There will be five gardens for the tour with an optional tour on Monday, to one of Joe Ghio’s gardens. The committee is working on a hotel contract (guest room rates, banquets and meeting rooms),

busses, lunches and budget. The registration form will not be completed until the budget has been finalized.

Report on the 2021 Convention.

MOTION 11: That we accept the invitation from the Mesilla Valley Iris Society to host the 2021 AIS Spring Convention in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Motion made by Andi Rivarola. Seconded by Dawn Boyer.

Discussion: Dates would be April 12 – 17 with co-chairs Howie Dash and Scarlett Ayres. There are three potential gardens for guest iris and possibly one commercial garden, Blue J, which is relocating from Nebraska. The city of Las Cruces is enthusiastic about hosting the AIS convention and might arrange for and partially sponsor transportation. Convention attendees would fly into El Paso and take the shuttle to Las Cruces which is 45 miles away. The new hotel has over 200 rooms and could be dedicated to the convention. Additional side trips would be planned (e.g. White Sands National Park).

Motion 11 carried unanimously.

VII. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES (continued)

Bylaws Changes – Jody Nolin submitted multiple electronic reports.

Summary: A sub-committee of Howie Dash, Gary White, Scarlett Ayres, Cheryl Deaton and Paul Gossett will look at the RVP issue. The confirmation/appointment of RVPs and making the language consistent (Section 5 on page 6) will be sent back to Bylaws committee for a do-over.

MOTION 12: that Article VII Section 7 be changed to read: The Treasurer shall receive and keep records of all AIS monetary assets, and shall maintain these assets in special accounts in the name of the AIS. The Treasurer shall pay authorized AIS expenses upon written, signed order of the Secretary, countersigned by the President and/or First Vice President. The Treasurer shall make an annual report of all receipts and disbursements to the AIS Board of Directors. Every three years the Treasurer shall submit all books and records to auditors approved by the AIS Board of Directors.

Motion by Jill Bonino. Seconded by Jody Nolin. Motion 12 carried.

VIII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES (continued)

Electronic Services – David Cupps submitted an electronic report.

David asks that suggestions, input and review regarding the new website be sent to him via email. The new website should be ready in January. A new AISDiscuss will be turned on after this meeting. Anyone on Michelle's list can view it such as RVPs, committee chairs, board members and past presidents. The general membership will be able to read the archives but not post to them. For future web conferences David proposes the Board meet using Zoom. The service would cost \$150 per year. People would attend via laptop, I-phone, android phone, and tablet. During the teleconference we would be able to see and hear everyone provided their electronic device has a web-cam and microphone. Or people can attend via their phone. However doing so could incur long distance charges. If your old laptop lacks a camera, you can

purchase a web-cam with microphone for about \$30 and plug into the teleconference. Zoom can accommodate up to 100 participants. Gary will announce the date and time of future teleconferences and David will provide the link. The first time to try the Zoom conference will be Wednesday, November 29. The next teleconference will be January 24 (no meeting in December).

VII. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES (continued)

AD HOC committee 2020 Centennial International Competition - Jill Bonino submitted two electronic reports: Schedule for the International Competition and Proposed Budget.

2020 International Competition Schedule

Discussion ensued regarding where the competition iris will be planted, how they will be planted and identified, what will happen to the rhizomes after the convention, and how the five judges will be selected. The committee will continue to work on the details and present the guidelines for the International Competition in a timely manner. An over-riding concern is that garden space is limited. Jill and Kathy Chilton will be the special hosts of the international judges.

2020 International Iris Competition Proposed Budget

Because the details of iris and judges are not finalized, Jill doesn't have exact figures for the budget. A significant part of the budget will be devoted to the judges including hotel, entertainment, registration, etc. The international judges will cover their own transportation to and from the convention.

The 2020 Centennial Convention has accepted and will continue to accept financial donations from AIS regions, affiliate clubs and individuals.

VIII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES (continued)

Encyclopedia Manager - Bob Pries submitted an electronic report.

MOTION 13 that AIS require digital images with iris registration. The Board authorizes the AIS Image Consultation Group, chaired by the Image Coordinator, to establish criteria and procedures for the images and those criteria to be approved by the AIS Board of Directors. Motion by Bob Pries. Seconded by Howie Dash. Motion 13 carried unanimously.

MOTION 14: that we purchase twenty 75th Anniversary Medals from Jim Hedgecock for \$45 each.

Motion by Jill Bonino. Michelle Snyder seconded.

Discussion: The medals, made of silver, could be sold as collector's items at the 2020 Convention, in sets of three: Anniversary Medals from 50, 75 and 100 years.

By show of hands, Motion 14 failed.

Donation Development Committee - Cheryl Deaton

AIS qualifies as a charitable organization with Amazon Smiles. However, there have been some roadblocks in registering AIS. A board member with a valid email address is required to register us with Amazon Smiles. One problem is that regions and affiliate clubs have registered under

the umbrella of AIS creating confusion about who receives the benefits. Does the affiliate club or AIS receive the credit after a purchase through Amazon Smiles? Nothing else to report.

Exhibitions - Lois Rose submitted an electronic report.

There were 133 shows in 2017 including four fall rebloom shows.

Exhibitions Supplies – Susan Boyce (absent) submitted an electronic report.

For 2017 there were 74 orders for a total income of \$7,226.

Exhibitions Show Report – Wayne Messer submitted an electronic report.

The order of 150 silver and 150 bronze medals has been received. The Nelson Award is given to the iris that has won the most “Best in Shows” awards in an exhibition period. Suggestions from show chairs that have been adopted by Wayne include using CD paper mailers to send out medals and using painters tape to hold the medals in place. Consideration is being given to making the show registration process easier.

One affiliate club includes a Single Blossom section in their Spring Show. It’s like the English Box section, but with only one blossom. They use a People’s Choice ballot to find the winning single blossom. Keep in mind that the single blossom can receive a ribbon but the ribbon does not count for an AIS award (e.g. best specimen or silver or bronze medal).

Foundation Report – Jill Bonino submitted an electronic report.

There has been a bountiful return from Global Wealth Management. The investment manager works with a lot of non-profits and has recommended investments that potentially could earn thirty to forty thousand dollars income a year for the Foundation. The AIS Foundation is invested in Black Rock large cap growth, Fidelity Select Cyclical Industries, Hartford Core Equity Fund, the Janis Henderson Equity Global Fund and others. The Trust funds are invested in the same group. There is a nice balance of bonds and stocks and there are limits on growth and risk.

Gardens Committee – no report

Honorary Awards – Jim Morris explained that winners will be discussed during the executive session.

The four awards handled by this committee are Gold Medal, Hybridizer’s Medal, Bee Warburton Medal (the foreign equivalent of Gold medal), and Distinguished Service Medal. The committee consists of past AIS presidents.

- The Distinguished Service Medal was started in 1941 and 231 have been awarded to date. It is awarded in recognition of outstanding service to the American Iris Society at the national level. Service is judged on the amount and quality of the work done in such capacity as AIS Board performance, national officer performance, judges training activities that are national in scope, significant writing for the AIS Bulletin, and other less tangible but vital acts of national service to AIS.

- Hybridizers Medal was started in 1941 and 126 have been awarded. This medal is awarded to honor living hybridizers who have made significant advances in iris, producing new iris varieties of exceptional merit and deserving of special recognition.

- The Bee Warburton Medal is the highest honor the AIS can bestow on a living, overseas member for extraordinary iris accomplishment. Nineteen have been awarded to date.
- AIS Gold medal is the highest honor the AIS can bestow on a living American member for prominent and extraordinary performance and accomplishment above and beyond. Eighteen have been awarded to date.

Image Coordinator - Neil Houghton (absent) has submitted an electronic report. Their first recommendation has been discussed and voted on (see MOTION 13). This committee will continue to work on their second recommendation, “We support the establishment of a curated central repository of high resolution photographs.” In other words, to set up a repository in Google Drive that would be different and separate from the Iris Encyclopedia. Access to the repository would be restricted to a select group of photographers who could deposit photos and those members who would use the photos in the Bulletin and other publications. There is no specific motion. But that committee should continue forward working on this idea.

Insurance – Michelle Snyder submitted an electronic report. From August 31, 2016, to August 31, 2017, fifty-one copies of Certificates of Insurance were issued for various events. Everything continues to run smoothly.

Iris Program Resources (Slides & Digital) – Janet Smith submitted an electronic report. Janet Smith has resigned from this position and Neil Houghton will take over. The slides are being digitized by Janet and sent to the appropriate societies. e.g. the slides of historic iris have been digitized and sent to HIPS. The hard copies have been sent to the library. The Foundation paid for a scanner that can digitize six slides at a time.

Iris Program Resources (speakers) – Al Elliott submitted an electronic report. The list of speakers will be updated over the next few months.

Judges – Judy Keisling submitted two electronic reports. AIS Judges Report is a summary of judges. There is a typo in the second chart. Region 1 has 22 judges, not 202. Overall there has been a loss of 17 judges. The good news is that Region 14 & 15 have added lots of new apprentice judges.

The second report is a list of judges recommended for approval.

MOTION 15 to approve these judges for 2018.

Motion by Dwayne Booth & seconded by Gerry Snyder. Motion 15 carried unanimously.

Florence Darthenay, an AIS member and judge who lives in France, is recommended by Hooker and Bonnie Nichols and Jill Bonino for the position of international judge. The only thing required by AIS is that a judge be a member of AIS and that they vote the AIS ballot.

MOTION 16 That we approve Florence Darthenay as an overseas AIS judge.

Motion by Jill Bonino. Seconded by Dwayne Booth. Motion 16 carried unanimously.

Judges Handbook Revision – Betty Roberts has submitted an electronic report.

February 1 sounds great as a deadline for all submissions to the handbook. A recommendation is that the Board review the revised Judges Handbook in its entirety, not chapter by chapter.

Discussion: Betty asked if the size of the handbook should change, maybe to 8.5 by 11? The cost to ship a larger handbook would increase and everyone would have to purchase a new cover. The smaller size is easier to carry into the garden. A suggestion is that the handbook have tabs to make it easier to find the various sections. Another suggestion is to make a digital copy of the Judges Handbook with hotlinks to the different chapters that we could carry in an I-Pad or tablet. It would save printing costs to have a digital copy that could be printed upon demand. There is a digital copy of the Judges Handbook available through the Iris Encyclopedia.

Legal Advisor – Veronica Johnson (absent) has no report.

Library – Dave Silverberg submitted an electronic report.

The physical library lease comes up May 31, 2018, and action will be required by the Foundation before that date.

Online library - Bob Pries has submitted an electronic report.

A search of pdf documents cannot be done unless one is using Adobe Acrobat. However pdf documents that have been translated into “transcripts” are searchable in the Iris Encyclopedia. Bob reports that he has been setting up transcripts of books, journals and catalogs in the reading rooms. Bob would welcome the addition of regional and affiliate newsletters to the online library and recommends that we contact him for details regarding the best format for sending these documents. A suggestion is that an article in the Bulletin be written to describe the extensive contents and organization of the online library.

Photo Contest - Janet Smith submitted an electronic report.

Janet has resigned and based on her recommendation, the future of the Photo Contest is being discussed in committee. The 2017 Photo Contest is finished.

Public Relations & Marketing – Bob Pries submitted an electronic report.

The Landing Pad idea is the place on the Internet to send people for a desired action. Bob’s report contains an example of a flyer that lists the benefits of being AIS member. The flyer would have an URL link which takes the reader to a landing pad for joining the AIS.

AIS News & Notes – Wayne Messer is editor and his report begins on page 3 of Public Relations & Marketing Report.

Because the News & Notes is an electronic publication, Wayne can keep track of the number of clicks on each edition and each URL within. The jigsaw and new hybridizer links are very popular. The most popular edition was the Special Edition announcing the AIS Medal Awards. Wayne will send the News & Notes to each affiliate club which can then be forwarded to all the non-AIS members as incentive to join AIS.

Social Media (as part of Public Relations & Marketing) – Andi Rivarola submitted an electronic report.

The presence of AIS on social media has grown phenomenally. Females are the predominant viewers (77%) of the AIS Facebook page. And 73% of the Facebook viewers are over the age of

45. TwitterAIS has almost 1500 followers. The AIS blog has grown and is visited by many from other countries.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS (continued)

MOTION 3 (revisited) That for the 2018 shows all named iris declared by the entrant to be introduced be eligible for show awards.

Motion by Dwayne Booth. Seconded by Howie Dash.

Discussion: Motion 3 is being revisited because a long discussion regarding “introduction” and “seedling” ended without resolution. Should “introduction” as a requirement for AIS show ribbons and awards be removed? Bob Pries’ suggestion is that we define a seedling as an iris without a published, verifiable name. Names of iris can be verified by looking in the Iris Encyclopedia (using a cell phone) or in the published checklists. What to do with an iris older than 30 years that was registered but never introduced? Should these old iris be eligible for show ribbons and awards?

Motion 3 withdrawn by Dwayne Booth & Howie Dash.

MOTION 17: That show entries of current year introductions are to be supported by the show exhibitor with documentation of introduction. Entries of prior year irises are to be supported by the online irisregister.org database as introduced or the official printed checklists and R&I.

Motion by Dwayne Booth. Seconded by Howie Dash.

Discussion: The Iris Encyclopedia (wiki) is not an official record. The register doesn’t list any information about iris names before 1950. The irisregister.org is available to those with an e-membership. The checklists and R & Is are not always available at iris shows. Show awards are independent of the AIS award system (e.g. HC).

Motion 17 failed by show of hands: Ayes = 4 Nays = 8

MOTION 18: That introduction be removed as a requirement for show ribbons and awards for irises with verifiable names.

Motion made and modified by Bob Pries. Seconded by Jim Morris.

Discussion: This motion relates to named iris and seedlings entered in shows. Registered irises are named iris. But where in the show does one enter a named seedling? Can it be registered but not introduced. What’s the difference between seedling in a show and a seedling in a garden? What is the definition of “verified?”

Information about this motion should go out in News & Notes and be distributed to next year’s show chairs.

Motion 18 is carried.

VIII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES (continued)

2020 Centennial (as part of Public Relations & Marketing) - Andi Rivarola submitted an electronic report.

The report contains the schedule & timeline of meetings and garden visits for the 2020 Convention. It also contains a list of optional tours and meal options. Andi emphasized that all of this is proposed and not yet final. Howie Dash offered advice regarding transportation in the New York-New Jersey area. We saw a sample of artwork proposed for the Centennial medal. The call for guest iris (only bearded iris) will go out in the Winter 2018 issue of the Bulletin. A consideration is that Presby's Garden is small and will host the international iris and a garden of very old, historic iris. Nancy Skjei-Lawes of Presby will receive guest iris for the international iris competition. The guest iris will be planted in public gardens and the hybridizers have been notified that none of their rhizomes will be returned.

Paul Gossett reported that the hotel contracts for 2016 and 2020 conventions were negotiated and signed at the same time. Hotel parking should be discounted and Wi-Fi should be free. This time the reception should be a sit down dinner. A list of nearby restaurants is being prepared. AV probably will cost the same as in 2016. The cost of AV could be reduced by combining or eliminating some of the meetings.

Scarves – Michelle Snyder

Michelle asks if the AIS be interested in purchasing scarves and/or tea towels with a lovely iris pattern. These are printed on 100% cotton and would make delightful items to sell to members and visitors at the 2020 convention or to use as prizes. The wholesale price for each item is \$8 U.S. plus postage and packing with a minimum order of six items, any combination of scarves and tea towels. After her fashion show, no action was taken.

RVP Counselor - Howie Dash submitted an electronic report and a list of the RVPs for all the regions.

Some regions don't have an assistant RVP. This is a problem when the term of the current RVP ends because there is no one to take over as RVP. Howie requests a copy of the bylaws from each region as well as a roster of officers.

Discussion: AIS bylaws state that the term of office for the RVP is three years. In special circumstances, and at the end of their three years, the Board might approve allowing the current RVP to be in office for an extra year with the stipulation that this extra year will be their last year. In the current case before the Board, a request for a fourth year of an RVP term, the RVP still has another year remaining on her term. The Board took no action in that case this year.

RVP representative – Bev Hoyt (absent)

No report

Scientific Advisory Committee – Bob Hollingworth submitted an electronic report.

Two published papers were received recently. One was funded by AIS (not the Foundation) several years ago and is about Louisiana iris in Florida. It will be forwarded to the Society of Louisiana Iris and SIGNA. The other was funded by the Foundation and written by a Russian PhD student who worked with Carol Wilson.

Section and Cooperative Society Liaison – Jody Nolin had no report.

Silent Auction – Debbie Strauss & Nick Stewart submitted an electronic report.

After six years in this position and raising over \$35,000, they have resigned and now we need two people to take over the Silent Auction.

Strategic Planning – Andi Rivarola submitted an electronic report.

- 1) The AIS Photo Contest is being reviewed.
- 2) The Image Coordinator duties are being written up by the new coordinator, Neil Houghton.
- 3) There are two options for the elimination of Fall Board Meetings. (1) to end all Fall Board meetings and replace them with monthly teleconferences. (2) to have monthly teleconferences with a Fall Board meeting once every three years, the year when the officers change.

Discussion: Attendance should increase at the teleconferences, especially by the RVPs because there are no travel expenses for a teleconference.

For the 2018 Fall Board Meeting in Portland, John Ludi has arranged for a free meeting room and reduced cost for meals. There will be free shuttles to airport and no charge for AV. The hotel will charge \$93 per night for a room. The Tulsa Area Iris Society has begun plans to host the 2019 Fall Board Meeting. But they have agreed to host in 2021 if the Board votes to change the Fall Meeting schedule. According to Veronica Johnson, legal advisor, meetings must be open and published, but they don't have to be face-to-face.

MOTION 19: Starting in 2018 the AIS Fall Board meetings will be held in-person every three years.

Motion by Andi Rivarola. Seconded by Howie Dash.

Discussion: The Fall Meeting is long, over 14 hours total. To replace the Fall Meeting, the Board could hold more than one teleconference per day or increase the time frame of each teleconference. Committee reports could be submitted before a teleconference and if no action is required, discussion would be minimal and the meeting could move along.

Motion 19 carried unanimously.

Symposium - Riley Probst submitted a printed report.

For the Symposium the RVPs are instructed to count the ballots and send the results to Riley by October 1. However there are six RVPs who haven't responded. The good news is that even without the ballots from those six regions, participation in the Symposium has increased. Riley suggested that inserting the ballot in the Bulletin boosted voting. Some data from the voting: the average iris received 14.4 votes and 38 different hybridizers had iris on the ballot. The oldest iris was Stepping Out (1964) and the newest iris were Tijuana Taxi and Good Morning Sunshine (2014). The results are not yet final, but it looks like Dusky Challenger is ranked first, Gypsy Lord is second and Queen's Circle is third.

Youth - Cheryl Deaton submitted an electronic report.

Cheryl reported that if the Strategic Planning Committee recommends that we continue with the Photo Contest, there is a youth member who might be interested in taking over the Photo Contest. In the future Cheryl would like to send out Louisiana iris to the youth. Paul Gossett and Joe Musacchia might be able to provide these Louisianas.

Honorary Awards – Gary White announced the winners.

Jeanne Clay Plank – Gold medal

Debbie Straus – Distinguished Service Award

Nick Stewart - Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Robert Hollingworth – Judge Emeritus

XI. Appointment of RVPs

MOTION 20 to approve the RVP list as amended.

Motion by Michelle Snyder. Seconded by Dwayne Booth. Motion 20 carried unanimously

XIII. Approval of the Budget 2/17/2018

Treasurer's report Adopted Budget Fall 2017 - Dwayne Booth submitted an electronic report. Booth remarked that this spreadsheet might be easier to decipher than previous proposed budgets because some line items have been combined. Columns allow comparison between 2016/2017 and 2017/2018. Check out the footnotes for a complete understanding of the budget and a giggle or two. The General Fund proposed income total is \$116,900. After discussion, the revised General Fund proposed expenses total is \$129,775 making a net loss of \$12,875. The budget can be revisited at future teleconferences and/or at the Spring Board meeting. The fiscal year is October 1 to September 30.

MOTION 21 to accept the FY 2017/2018 budget as amended.

Motion by Gerry Snyder. Seconded by Jill Bonino. Motion 21 carried unanimously.

IX. Election of Officers

After receiving no additional nominations from the floor, nominations were closed and the following officers were elected by acclamation.

President – Gary White (motion by Michelle Snyder, seconded by Jill Bonino)

1st Vice President – Jody Nolin (motion by Michelle Snyder, seconded by Jill Bonino)

2nd Vice President – Andi Rivarola (motion by Jody Nolin, seconded by Jim Morris)

Secretary – Michelle Snyder (motion by Jill Bonino, seconded by Jim Morris)

Treasurer – Dwayne Booth (motion by Jill Bonino, seconded by Howie Dash)

Editor of the Bulletin – Jane Milliman (motion by Michelle Snyder, seconded by Dawn Boyer)

X. Appointment of Administrative Officers

Registrar/Recorder – John Jones and Joanne Prass-Jones

Membership Secretary – Tom Gormley

Recording Secretary – Claire Schneider

Publication/Sales – John and Kay Ludi

XII. Appointment of Standing Committee Chairs

Advertising Editor – Dawn Boyer
Affiliations/Affiliate Liaison – Jody Nolin
Awards – Gerry Snyder
Calendars – Janet Smith
Convention Liaison – open
Donations Development – open
Electronic Services – David Cupps
Encyclopedia Manager – Bob Pries
Exhibitions – Lois Rose and Wayne Messer (Exhibition Supplies – open)
Foundation Liaison – Jill Bonino
Gardens, Display & Test – open
Gardens, National Collections – Charlie Carver
Honorary Awards – Jim Morris
Image Coordinator – Neil Houghton
Insurance – Michelle Snyder
Iris Program Resources (digital) – Neil Houghton
Iris Program Resources (speakers) – Al Elliott
Judges – Judy Keisling
Judges Handbook Revision – Betty Roberts
Legal Advisor – Veronica Johnson
Library – Dave Silverberg
Photo Contest – open
Public Relations & Marketing – Bob Pries
Public Relations, Social Media – Andi Rivarola
RVP Counselor – Howie Dash
RVP Representative – Bev Hoyt
Scientific Advisory – Bob Hollingworth
Section & Cooperating Society Liaison – Phyllis Wilburn
Silent Auction – open
Strategic Planning – Andi Rivarola
Symposium – Riley Probst
Youth – Cheryl Deaton

XIV. Announcements

Spring Meeting, April 9 to 14, 2018 in New Orleans, LA.
Chairs: Paul Gossett & Joe Musacchia

Fall Board Meeting, November 3 & 4, 2018 in Portland, OR
Chair: John Ludi

Next Electronic Board Meeting, November 29, 8 PM EST.

XV. Meeting Adjourned, 8:37 PM