

Minutes of the August 24, 2022, AIS Board of Directors Zoom Meeting  
Approved at the AIS Board of Directors Meeting, September 28, 2022, without  
corrections.

Attending:

Andi Rivarola (15) - President, Convention Liaison (quasi-temporary), Public Relations,  
Social Media, Strategic Planning, Membership Development  
Bonnie Jean Nichols (17) - 1st VP, Judges, Handbook Revision, RVP 17,  
Convention Chair 2023  
Howie Dash (23) - 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, RVP Counselor, Audit  
Claire Schneider (15) - Secretary, Recording Secretary  
Jill Bonino (15) – absent  
Jody Nolin (6) - absent  
John Ludi (13) – Publication Sales Director, Storefront, RVP 13  
Pam Messer (21) – Membership  
Jane Milliman (2) - Editor of *IRISES: the AIS Bulletin*

Bill Dumont (13) - absent  
Cheryl Deaton (15) - Director, Youth  
Doug Chyz (5), Director, Public Relations & Marketing  
Janis Shackelford (15) – Director, Registrar/Recorder, Policy, RVP 15  
Jean Richter (14) - Director, Image Coordinator, Iris Programs Digital  
Linda Wilkie (21) - Director, Advertising  
Lorene Crone (7) – Director, Electronic Services  
Mike Reed (17) – Director, Awards  
Phyllis Wilburn (14) – Director, Section & Cooperating Society Liaison  
Scarlett Ayres (23) – absent  
Susan Driver (7) – Director, Calendars, Photo Contest  
Wayne Messer (21) - Director, News & Notes, Electronic Services, Website, RVP 21  
Margaret Kelly (9) - RVP 9, RVP Representative

Anna Cadd (14)	
Beth & Mason Train (15)	
Bob Pries (4) - Encyclopedia Manager, Gardens, Public Relations & Marketing	
Carol Cullen (14)	
Charlotte Brennand (12) - RVP 12	
Christine Dickinson (14)	
Dale Strauss (17) - Legal Counsel	
Delane Langton (11)	Jeannette Graham (11)
Gerry Snyder (15)	Jim Hedgecock (18) - RVP 18
Gary White (21) - Finance, Webinars	Joann Bassett (2)
Heather Haley (4)	Kate Brewitt (2)
Jacqueline Pountney (23)	Kim Peterson (18)
Jan Blaedel (14)	Lois Rose (4) - Exhibition Schedules
Jean Kaufmann (6) - RVP 6	Mary Platner (15)

Michelle Snyder (15)

Susan Grigg (4)

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 pm PDT. A quorum was present

1. Announcement that Paul Gossett passed away this week, peacefully. His friends will be at the service in Tulsa next week. Paul devoted an incredible amount time and personal effort in support of AIS. AIS will miss him, but not as much as many of the members will.

2. Minutes from previous Zoom Meeting - Claire Schneider

**Motion 1:** to accept the minutes from the July 27, 2022, Zoom Board Meeting without corrections. Motion by Janis Shackelford and seconded by Bonnie Nichols. Motion approved.

## FALL REPORTS

3. Affiliate Liaison - Jody Nolin

A digital report was posted, information only. The year began with 154 affiliate clubs. Of those, 142 are in good standing, having paid their dues. On the bright side, three groups are looking to start up new clubs. Region 24 has had issues with an aging population. There are only two judges in that region, Don Nelson and his wife. It might be a problem finding a RVP to replace Don, the outgoing RVP. It was suggested that Region 24 merge with Region 7, instead of with Region 10 because most of the clubs are located in northern Alabama. Jody has filed the 990N forms with the IRS for 79 groups, including affiliates, regions, and some sections. But the IRS has not sent out a revised list of EINs under the AIS tax umbrella since 2018 making it difficult to know the standing of each club. Eighty affiliate presidents responded to a survey voting that membership recruitment, shows and publicity, YouTube videos, and social media presence were top issues. They plan to meet during the winter to develop a best practices document for clubs.

Note: Dale Strauss added that the IRS no longer produces a paper copy of the list of EINs. Instead, the fill-in form and lists are posted on the IRS website.

4. Convention Liaison - Andi Rivarola

Bonnie Nichols gave an update of the 2023 Convention. The hotel is accepting reservations and the panel of speakers is organized. The dates for the 2024 Convention in Portland are set: June 17 to 22. The hotel will be the Holiday Inn Portland. The dates for the 2025 Convention in Billings, Montana, are also set: June 1 to 7.

Tentatively, the 2026 Convention will be at the Presby Garden. The 99th anniversary of the Presby Garden will be in 2026, so it might be fun to celebrate.

#### 5. Image Coordinator - Jean Richter

A digital report was posted, information only. Having only been working as image coordinator for a few weeks, Jean is already well practiced at loading images into the AIS Wiki. Jean is looking forward to the online registration process because images will be loaded automatically and be available to the *Bulletin* editor, *News & Notes*, etc. She volunteered to be available to vet images for the registrar. The video interviews collected by Neil Houghton at the Las Cruces Convention are in the care of Iris Programs Digital chair. A waiver of the use of photographs in use.

#### 6. Insurance - Michelle Snyder

A digital report was posted, information only. An incident was reported that will be handled by Michelle. There is a slight increase in the cost of the policy. Each annual AIS policy expires on August 31. Certificates for AIS events (e.g., shows) that take place AFTER August 31st cannot be covered until the new policy is in place. In other words, the request for coverage for events AFTER August 31 must be submitted after the new policy is in effect.

#### 7. Legal Counsel - Dale Strauss

A digital report was posted. Dale will resign as legal counsel effective December 31, 2022. There are two issues for AIS. First, is the exemption procedure for non-profit groups. The IRS is in the process of approving "donation supervision responsibility" which would require the umbrella parent of non-profits to oversee processes of the groups under their purview. In this case, the AIS would be responsible for managing their groups (e.g., regions, sections, cooperating societies and affiliates), seeing that bylaws, resolutions, minutes, etc., are consistent throughout. The only thing that would be permitted to differ would be how meetings are run. The onset date for the group exemption procedure has not yet been set, but Dale recommends that AIS be prepared. It will be the responsibility of AIS to make sure their groups keep their bylaws, resolutions, etc., consistent with bylaws, resolutions, etc., of the AIS.

The second issue is the collection of records from affiliates, sections, regions, etc. Many of the original organizational documents are missing such as the original 501(c)3 application and early newsletters. Dale recommends that all affiliates be required to scan and submit their documents of organization to the AIS Board of Directors. Having those organizational documents is important when a group wants to change banks.

Before a change can be made, the group must provide their basic corporate documents (e.g., bylaws, 501(c)3 papers) to the bank. Many groups do not have these original corporate papers.

Michelle Snyder had and has passed along the original AIS 501(c)3 papers for AIS to Claire Schneider. Which is the state of origin for the AIS? Pennsylvania? All corporations must maintain a registered office for legal purposes. However, when management changes and file boxes are forwarded, it can become unclear where the legal office is located. For insurance purposes, the contact person is the AIS insurance lady, who at this time is Michelle Snyder. However, in the case of a formal litigation, there needs to be a registered legal agent to receive legal documents. At this time, it is unclear who that person.

Dale will create a proposal that addresses these issues for presentation to the AIS Board of Directors.

The Board thanked Dale Strauss for all his years of service to the AIS.

Basically, articles of incorporation and updated bylaws that follow those of AIS are the two items that need to be forwarded to the umbrella group: AIS.

#### 8. Registrar - Janis Shackelford

A digital document was posted. Janis showed two iterations of the yellow card each showing a different intensity of watermark. The yellow card certifies a registration and is sent to the hybridizer in an email as a pdf file. However, China requests that an actual paper yellow card with water mark be mailed to the hybridizer in China. A suggestion was to create a template with the watermark. When a registration is completed, the registration information could be typed directly into the template and emailed to the hybridizer who then would print the yellow card on yellow paper or card stock. For whatever reason, China does not or is unable to print the yellow card. Thus, Janis has been printing and mailing yellow cards to China, at the expense of AIS. It was suggested twice that China print their own yellow cards from an emailed pdf file. Janis was informed by the associate registrar in China, they don't like to print their own. Well, boo hoo, the Chinese associate registrar needs to get over it, commented one of the Board members. Ironically, Chinese hybridizers have not received any yellow cards mailed by Janis due to the COVID lockdown, which once again raised the question of, why don't they accept an email with the registration information and print it on yellow paper, cardstock, or whatever color they want.

Last year, China registered 48 irises out of 1046 irises registered. They pay \$10 per registration while North American hybridizers pay \$15 per registration. To recoup the postage costs and keep registration fees consistent, why not charge \$15 per iris worldwide, including China? Or institute a handling fee for anyone who requires a mailed paper yellow card. Currently, Janis puts ten cards in an envelope and mails it to China with an international stamp that costs \$1.65. In some countries, the associate registrars keep part of the registration fee as payment for their work in translating the registration information. Janis will explore options for sending yellow cards with the registration associate of China.

The original registration file is not available to the public. The file goes to the Iris Encyclopedia (the wiki) where it is posted. Anyone can see and download the information in the wiki. The online registration system will be able to post information about newly registered irises almost immediately.

#### 9. Scientific Advisory - Bob Hollingworth (absent)

A digital report was posted, information only. The Scientific Committee reviewed one proposal from the University of Georgia. The topic was the evolutionary effect of climate change and pollinator interactions on flower form in *I. missourensis*. The proposal was viewed favorably and subsequently funded by the AIS Foundation.

#### 10. Section & Cooperating Societies - Phyllis Wilburn

A digital report was posted, information only. The sections and cooperating societies have been sending in their reports, sometimes late, but they always look good in *IRISES: The Bulletin*.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### 11. The Handbook for Judges

To recap, Chapters 1, 2, and 24 have been approved at previous AIS Board Meetings. Chapter 4 and 28 were sent back to the Handbook Team to clean up inconsistencies regarding eligibility of seedlings and single blossoms for the Silver and Bronze Medals. It was suggested that changes to these chapters be highlighted in *News & Notes*. A new edition of the *Handbook for Judges* will be sent to the printer, Edition 8.22. In addition, people will be able to download each of the revised chapters or the entire new edition. All will be available online. The revision process has been scheduled for once a year, with a deadline of December 31 for the submission of suggested changes.

**Motion 2:** to approve the Chapter 4 as presented this evening.

Motion by Bonnie Nichols and seconded by Phyllis Wilburn. Motion carried.

The paragraph and chart that were approved in Chapter 24 were added to Chapter 25, 26, and 28.

**Motion 3:** to approve Chapter 25 with the addition of the verbiage that corresponds with Chapter 24.

Motion by Bonnie Nichols and seconded by Howie Dash. Motion carried

**Motion 4:** to approve Chapter 26 with the changes that were reviewed this evening. Motion by Bonnie Nichols and seconded by Lorene Crone. Motion carried.

**Motion 5:** to approve Chapter 28 as presented.

Motion by Susan Driver and seconded by Howie Dash. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### 12. Webinars - Gary White

Jean Richter will give a program on Lloyd Austin irises in a September 14th webinar. This will be the 28th webinar. Wayne Messer will send out a special edition of *News & Notes* with the registration link for this webinar on September 9th.

Possible topics for future webinars include the life cycle of an iris, *Iris reticulata* (the small bulbous iris), and gardening for oldsters. Another program is being planned for other genera besides *Iris* in the Iris family. Requests have been made for a few more judges training sessions.

Records of attendance in the webinars have been kept and of the number of views of the webinars that have been posted on the YouTube channel. Regardless of the topic in the webinar and how many people register, approximately 55% of those who do register for the webinar actually attend.

The next AIS Board of Directors meeting will be September 28, at 5 pm Pacific time.

Adjourned at 6:48 pm Pacific Time

Respectfully submitted,  
Claire Schneider