

Minutes of the November 16, 2022, AIS Zoom meeting

Approved by the AIS Board of Directors, January 25, 2023, without corrections.

In attendance:

Andi Rivarola (15) - President, Convention Liaison (temporary), Social Media,
Strategic Planning, Membership Development, Bulletin Editorial Board

Bonnie Jean Nichols (17) - 1st VP, Judges, Handbook Revision,
Convention Chair 2023

Howie Dash (23) - 2nd VP, RVP Counselor, Audit

Claire Schneider (15) - Secretary, Recording Secretary

Jill Bonino (15) – Treasurer, Foundation Liaison

Jody Nolin (6) - Immediate Past President, Honorary Awards, Affiliate Chair

John Ludi (13) – (absent)

Pam Messer (21) – Membership

Jane Milliman (2) - (absent)

Cheryl Deaton (15) - Director, Youth

Doug Chyz (5), Director, Public Relations & Marketing

Heather Haley (4) - Director

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 (absent)

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

Scarlett Ayres (23) – Director (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

Adam Cordes (6) - Exhibition Reports

Anna Cadd (14)

Bob Hollingworth (8) - Scientific Advisory

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

Carol Cullen (14)

Carolyn Hoover (14) - RVP 14

Charlotte Brennand (12) - RVP 12

Christine Dickinson (14)

Delane Langton (11)

Gary White (21) - Finance, Webinars

Gerry Snyder (15)

Harriett Robinson (01) - RVP 1

Helen Bliven (14)

Jan Blaedel (14)

Janice Hull (5)

Jeannette Graham (11)

Josh Winzer (22) - RVP 22, Nomination

Michelle Snyder (15) - Insurance

Veronica Johnson (18) - Counsel

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm PST. A quorum was present.

1. Welcome to the new and re-elected directors, whose terms will expire in 2025: Doug Chyz (5), Linda Wilkie (21), Lorene Crone (7), and Heather Haley (4).

2. Minutes from previous Zoom Meeting - Claire Schneider

Motion 1: to approve the minutes from the October 25, 2022, Zoom Board Meeting with two corrections. Motion by Janis Shackelford and seconded by Jody Nolin. Motion approved.

FALL REPORTS

3. Finance - Gary White

This report was one section in the Treasurer's Report. The total portfolio market value as of October 31, 2022 was \$880,785. The portfolio continues to generate about \$30,000 in annual interest and dividends. After discussions with Karl Johnson, no decisions have been made regarding movement of funds in the AIS and Foundation accounts.

4. Foundation Liaison - Jill Bonino

The Foundation has turned down one grant request and extended another grant without additional money. The University of Texas, San Marcos, is planning to submit a proposal in the near future.

5. Storefront Sales - John Ludi (absent)

Two digital reports were posted. John was unable to attend, so his report was postponed.

6. Symposium - Riley Probst (absent)

No report was received.

FALL MEETING ACTIONS

7. Approval of Judges - Bonnie Nichols

A digital report was posted plus the spreadsheet list of all AIS judges. As of November 16th, there are 401 certified judges, 111 retired judges, 35 judges dropped, and 10 new apprentices. Three judges failed to vote the AIS Ballot for two consecutive years and two judges have been reinstated for 2023. The online judges training sessions have been very appreciated.

Motion 2: to forgive those three judges who failed to vote the AIS Ballot for two years in a row. Motion by Doug Chyz and seconded by Jill Bonino. Motion approved.

Motion 3: to approve the list of judges for 2023 as presented by Bonnie.
Motion by Bonnie Nichols and seconded by Howie Dash. Motion carried.

Discussion: Anne Barbetti of Italy, recently passed away.

8. RVP counselor - Howie Dash

A digital report was posted. Anita Moran has volunteered to be Region 4 RVP until she can be officially voted into office at their next regional meeting. It has been difficult to find people to serve as RVPs and to have them serve for the three-year term.

1. Harriet Robinson, year 1
2. Cara Hutchings, year 1
3. Gary D. Slagle II, year 3
4. Anita Moran (acting), year 3
5. Janice Hull, year 1
6. Fred Pedersen, year 1
7. Caroline Winters, year 3
8. Katerina Bergeron, year 2
9. Margaret Kelly. Year 2
10. Catherine B Mason, year 3
11. Jeanette Graham, year 1
12. Charlotte Brennand, year 2
13. John Ludi, year 3
14. Carolyn Hoover, year 2
15. Janis Shackelford, year 3
17. Mike Reed, year 1
18. Jim Hedgecock, year 2
20. Mark Warinner, year 1
21. Michael Becker, year 1
22. Joshua Winzer, year 2
23. Jacqueline Pountney, year 1
24. Sandra Little, year 1

Motion 4: to approve the list of RVPs as presented.
Motion by Howie Dash and seconded by Phyllis Wilburn. Motion approved.

9. Treasurer & Budget - Jill Bonino

Several digital reports were posted: Treasurer's Report, AIS Assets, Restricted Funds, PLby Operation, and a draft budget. AIS did very well this last year, actually ending

with a net income. Each operational area either made money or had tiny losses. Congratulations to Membership, Exhibitions, Registrations, and Storefront because they are paying or almost paying for themselves. Investments had a very good year, too. One correction: the order for RVP pins was 50 not 100. Total assets are \$1,216,111.00 in cash, investments, and money markets.

The draft budget 9-30-23 shows the operational income and expenses in each area for the year. Using information received from each category, the income and expenses (respectively) budgeted for 2023 are: Member Services \$71,500 and \$74,410; Exhibition services \$5700 and \$5300; Registration \$18,000 and \$15,000; Storefront \$10,000 and \$5850; Administration \$48,415 and \$39,650. With a total general fund income of \$153,615 and expenses of \$140,210 leaving a net income for 9-30-23 of \$13,405. For restricted funds, a loss of \$4097 is projected for the 9-30-23 budget.

Regarding the Rainy-Day Fund, \$1800 is added to that fund every year with a current balance is \$10,800. It was decided to keep the Rainy-Day Fund and continue to contribute annually to it.

Thank you to all who contributed their budget numbers and discussed their budget issues with Jill such that the Board was able to move steadily through the proposed AIS budget 9-30-23. A special thank you to Jill Bonino for all her patience and skill as she worked through the AIS budget. Well done, Jill!

Motion 5: To approve the draft budget for 9-30-23 as presented and amended. Motion by Jody Nolin and seconded by Bonnie Nichols. Motion approved.

10. Donations - Jill Bonino

The Donation Management Agreement, approved by the American Iris Society Finance Committee and the AIS Foundation (AISF), clarifies and formalizes the receipt and distribution of donations received by the AISF and AIS. This document has been carefully scrutinized and edited by AIS counsel and is posted in AIS Docs, November 2022.

Motion 6: to approve the AIS Donation Management Agreement as corrected. i.e., remove "TV" from "4a: Record the date, amount, and fund into which the TV money is to be deposited, along with the name of any "in memory of" memorials or honorees." Motion by Bonnie Nichols and seconded by Janis Shackelford. Motion carried.

11. Planned Giving - Jill Bonino

Jill presented three documents: the Donation Levels Program, AISF Donation Form, and AIS Planned Giving Program. The donation process has been expanded to offer different levels, types, and schedules for making donations. For example, donations can be made one time, monthly, quarterly, etc., in the form of cash, stocks, real estate, IRA, or anything else of reasonable value. The donor will be able to designate a specific fund to receive the donation or percentage of the donation.

The announcement of this expanded donation program will be in the next issue of *IRISES: The Bulletin* and posted on the AIS Foundation website.

Recognition will be given to donors in *IRISES: The Bulletin*.

Thank you, Jill, for this wonderful, expansive donation program.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12. Online Registration update - Janis Shackelford

Janis is working on the 2022 R&I (Registrations and Introductions). The deadline for submitting registrations was November 1 which gave Janis a couple of months to compile the R&I.

For clarification, an iris is considered introduced when it is first sold, even if that sale occurs before the iris is registered. This means that an iris can have a registration date that occurs years after it has been introduced.

13. Online Interactive update - Andi Rivarola

Tim Valenzuela has begun to work on this complicated task and plans to be finished in February.

NEW BUSINESS

14. Library - Bob Hollingworth & Andi Rivarola

A digital report was posted. The inventory of items in the AIS Library continues to be a challenge. There are boxes and file cabinets containing mountains of papers, medals, hybridizing notes, photos, slides, disks, etc. that need to be cataloged. Decisions of what to keep or discard are difficult. Attempts to hire outside help have not been successful.

Other issues being worked on include a search for a physical location for the AIS Library or section of the AIS Library where a posse of workers could volunteer, communication and cooperation between the Library and the AIS Encyclopedia (the Wiki), and with the British Iris Society.

A suggestion was made to update the duties and requirements of the AIS librarian. Janet Smith has digitized many of the photographs and slides and next will be the task of making these available.

Andi presented the Search and Help-Wanted article that will be published in the next issue of *IRISES: The Bulletin*. Volunteers, a librarian, and/or an administrator are all needed to inventory, organize, and make available the items in the AIS Library. A physical location located closer to a hub of volunteers and with better access is also part of the search. A suggestion was to take this search to a university or college that offers a library science degree. Another suggestion was to find a group of people excited to work on this project.

15. Membership in the Garden Communicators International - Bob Pries

On behalf of the Publicity Committee, Bob, proposed that AIS join the Garden Communicators International which is " an organization of professional communicators in the green industry including book authors, bloggers, staff editors, syndicated columnists, freelance writers, photographers, speakers, landscape designers, television and radio personalities, consultants, publishers, extension service agents and more. No other organization in the green industry has as much contact with the buying public as GardenComm members." By joining this group, AIS will be able to reach and teach a wider audience about irises and AIS.

The name(s) on the membership could be Doug Chyz, Gary White, and/or Bob Pries.

Motion 7: to approve \$500 for the purchase of an annual membership in the Garden Communicators International.

Motion by Doug Chyz and seconded by Phyllis Wilburn. Motion carried.

16. Iris of the Year - Bob Pries

Garden magazines need lead time when announcing new cultivars or plant of the year. The Publicity Committee is proposing that AIS reinstate Iris of the Year to promote irises in horticultural magazines which in turn will promote AIS. The 2023 Iris of the Year, which is last year's Dykes Medal winner, will be 'Football Hero.'

A press release regarding the 2023 Iris of the Year has been written and will be sent out to as many horticultural magazines as known.

17. Electronic Services - Lorene Crone

Access to the AIS internet service provider and network has been a challenge. Host Papa, the AIS service provider, has finally transferred ownership of Irises.org from John Jones to American Iris Society with Lorene being the contact person.

For over a year, there have been problems receiving emails and having access to the various AIS operational services. Lorene proposes that AIS upgrade our server to double the RAM, bandwidth, and disc space. The cost would increase from \$2300 for three years to \$4700 for three years. The current contract with Host Papa expires in June 2023. However, Host Papa is having a Black Friday Sale which, if AIS agrees to

purchase this upgraded three-year contract and pay for it now, there would be \$500 discount, making the purchase price approximately \$4200 for three years. This upgrade could require two to three hours of down time or none at all. Lorene will follow up on the down time issue.

Regarding backup, our current system has 60 GBs of disc space and 60 GBs of redundancy. With the upgraded system, Host Papa recommends 125 GBs with 125 GBs of backup. Lorene will find out where the backup and redundancy is kept.

The server-system includes the Iris Registry, Irises.org, AIS Lookup, and AIS Board.

The Iris Encyclopedia (the wiki) is located somewhere else. Bob Pries has a separate backup server for the wiki which he uses nightly.

The upgrade system would be paid for through the Electronics Fund and/or the General fund.

Motion 8: that AIS electronic services ISP be upgraded to double the current Host Papa plan and take advantage of the discount by paying for it now in an amount not to exceed \$4800.

Motion by Lorene Crone and seconded by Phyllis Wilburn. Motion carried.

18. YouTube channel - Andi Rivarola

The webinars on the AIS YouTube channel have been divided into chapters. This will make it easy to search through each webinar for a particular topic.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

19. Honorary Awards - Jody Nolin

Approved by the Board of Directors:

Distinguished Service Awards for Janet Smith and Lois Rose.

Hybridizer's Awards for Tom Burseen and Chad Harris.

Emeritus judge for Bob Strohmman.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

20. Webinars - Gary White

The next webinar will be on December 14 with a program by Bob Pries titled, "How to Create a New Iris; the Story of Species Crosses."

The next AIS Board of Directors meeting will be January 25, 2023, 5 pm, PST.

Adjourned at 9:25 pm PST.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Schneider