

Minutes of the January 25, 2023, AIS Zoom meeting
Minutes approved by AIS Board of Directors, Feb 22, 2023
With two corrections to misspelled names.

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 Liaison
John Ludi (13) – Publication Sales Director
Pam Messer (21) – Membership (absent)
Jane Milliman (2) - Bulletin editor (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, RVP 17
Phyllis Wilburn (14) – Director, Section & Cooperating Society Liaison
Scarlett Ayres (23) – Director
Susan Driver (7) – Director, Calendars, Photo Contest
Wayne Messer (21) - Director, News & Notes, Electronic Services, Website
Margaret Kelly (9) - RVP 9, RVP Representative

Adam & Ruby Cordes (6) - Exhibition Reports
Anna Cadd (14)
Beth & Mason Train (15)
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)
Fred Pedersen (6) - RVP 6
Gary White (21) - Finance, Webinars
Harriet Robinson (01) - RVP 1
Jan Blaedel (14)
Janice Hull (5)

Jeannette Graham (11)
Joann Bassett (2)
Josh Winzer (22) - RVP 22, Nomination
Kate Brewitt (2)
Kevin Hillamann (18)
Lois Rose (4) - Exhibitions Schedules

Michael Becker (21) - RVP 21

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

1. Minutes from previous Zoom AIS Meeting - Claire Schneider

Motion 1: to approve the minutes from the November 16, 2022, Zoom AIS Meeting. Motion by Janis Shackelford and seconded by Phyllis Wilburn. Motion approved.

Discussion: It was noted that because there is an Iris of the Year, perhaps AIS should create an "Iris City of the Year" which for 2023 would be Dallas.

FALL REPORTS

2. Storefront Sales - John Ludi

Two digital reports were posted, Storefront Sales and Storefront Inventory. Some copies of *100 Year Bold* have been sold by the Storefront and more have been sold by Jim Morris at AIS and regional conventions. John plans to drive to the Dallas convention, taking a truck load of items to sell, including more of *100 Year Bold* and the remaining 2023 AIS Calendars. The Exhibitions Supplies Order Form will continue to include the option for ordering free packets of bookmarks, packets of 45, nine different scenes.

3. Symposium - Riley Probst (absent)

No report was received. The results of the Symposium 2022 are in the winter issue of the *Bulletin*. The 2023 Symposium ballot will be in the spring issue.

Discussion: There were several suggestions to increase participation in voting the symposium. Make it an online ballot. Reduce the number of entries on the ballot from overwhelming to a reasonable number. Include all classes of irises. Change the name to something less enigmatic, e.g., Popularity Poll. Allow anyone to vote, not just AIS members. Make the results of the Symposium more useful. For example, group the results by region instead of just a nationwide list. Perhaps retire irises from the Symposium ballot that have won a number of years in a row; retire them to the Iris Hall of Fame. It is "like pulling teeth" for the RVPs to collect the Symposium ballots. Can we make it easier to vote and collect the results? Maybe include categories such as blooms all year long, best growing iris in my garden. Might be a problem to retire irises from the list because if they are winning year after year, then they are irises that do well in the garden and should be recognized for that. To increase participation, send the Symposium ballot to the RVPs who would then send the ballot to affiliate presidents who would then send it to their membership. It is so much easier to email the Symposium ballots and to collect the email results than to use snail mail. There are

online ballot templates that would make the Symposium easier to access and to tally. Another suggestion was to create two ballots, one for historic iris and one for current cultivars. Writing extra names on a digital ballot is a problem when the names are misspelled. Create an online ballot that is designed to sort results by region. Perhaps a committee could be formed to work on the Symposium.

UPDATES & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4. Online Registration update - Janis Shackelford

The system is up and running. Tim is fixing the bugs. Janis has been working with the associate registrars in other countries about their registrations. At the present time, the online registration system is not available or appropriate for registrations from other countries.

5. Online Interactive update - Andi Rivarola

A digital report was posted today. Tim Valenzuela is working on the membership part of this huge project. Adding AIS awards to the interactive system will be Tim's next challenge.

6. 2023 Convention update - Bonnie Nichols

The reporter from D magazine will publish an article about the 2023 Convention, maybe using the recent AIS press release. The AIS Board meeting will begin at 2 pm and should be short, followed by a surprise dinner being arranged by Bonnie. Other activities being organized include a presentation on containers, an iris show, a silent auction of regional baskets, and a live auction of irises and AIS publications. There are five buses with captains. The gardens look good. The convention booklet is being worked on, lunches have been ordered, the convention pins and goodie bags are ready, arrangements are being created for table decorations. Judges for garden training are being recruited. Volunteers are needed to help clean the gardens. "However, please don't discard the weeds. They are being collected and dried for the goodie bags." The Geek Luncheon, which supports the AIS electronics fund, is on the schedule. Money from previous Geek events was spent on the development of the online registration system. Jill Bonino would appreciate receiving donations for the Geek auction.

NEW BUSINESS

7. Spring reports schedule - Claire Schneider

This is a tentative schedule. If anyone wants or needs to change their report date, just send Claire an email with your plan.

8. Judges update - Bonnie Nichols

Three candidates have been upgraded to apprentice judge. Six people have qualified for certification as artistic design judges. Seven judges have passed away. The color code for the Judges List: golden rod for artistic design judge, red for apprentices.

Motion 2: to approve the updated list of judges as of January 2023 with seven deceased, three new apprentices, and six artistic design judges.
Motion by Howie Dash and seconded by Jody Nolin. Motion approved.

9. Awards update - Mike Reed

Mike reminded us and all cooperating societies, sections, and committees who plan to present awards at the AIS convention, to have their awards in hand at the convention. If unable to attend the convention, then make arrangements to send their award to Mike BEFORE the convention.

The 2023 AIS ballot is not ready for print or to go online. However, it should be ready sometime in April. Tim Valenzuela is working on the awards-ballot software as part of the overall online system.

10. Nelson Award - Adam Cordes

Thanks go to Gary White and Keith Keppel for providing background to Adam regarding the Nelson Award. The iris that has received the most Best Specimen of Show awards in a calendar year wins the Nelson Award. However, it is unclear in the *Handbook for Judges* that the hybridizer of that iris should receive the award.

If the hybridizer is deceased, the spouse should be asked if they want the award.

Otherwise, the name of the iris and its hybridizer will be noted on the awards page in the wiki. The last entry for the Nelson Award was in 2015. The Nelson Award page in the wiki should be updated with prior winners and a description of the actual award.

Addresses for the hybridizers can be collected from the membership secretary.

At some point there should be a motion to clarify who or what is the recipient of the Nelson Award. Adam will work on this.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. Webinars - Gary White

In 2022, there were nine webinars.

Coming up February 15, there will be a JT webinar by Stephanie Markham, "Judging Bearded Irises as Garden Plants." On March 1, Alan McMurtrie will give a program on reticulata irises. On March 8, Chad Harris' program will be about Japanese irises. On April 5, Bob Hollingworth's program will be "Knowing and Growing Siberian irises". The next webinars will be scheduled after the convention.

Including these four programs, there will be a total of 34 webinars on the AIS YouTube Channel.

Virginia Keyser, a judge, has passed away at age 104, on Monday, January 23. She participated in 53 AIS conventions and thoroughly enjoyed attending and visiting with her iris friends. Irises were the delight of her life. Photos of Virginia would be greatly appreciated for an article in the *Bulletin* about her and her life. Her 100th birthday was celebrated at the NOLA convention.

The next AIS Board of Directors meeting will be February 22, 2023, 5 pm, PST.

Adjourned at 6:35 pm PST.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Schneider