

Minutes of the February 22, 2023, AIS Zoom meeting
Approved with corrections at AIS Zoom Meeting, March 22, 2023

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
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, Awards, RVP 17 (absent)
Phyllis Wilburn (14) – Director, Section & Cooperating Society Liaison
Scarlett Ayres (23) – Director
Susan Driver (7) – Director, Calendars, Photo Contest (absent)
Wayne Messer (21) - Director, News & Notes, Electronic Services, Website
Margaret Kelly (9) - RVP 9, RVP Representative

Anna Cadd (14) - Spuria Iris Society, VP
Beth & Mason Train (15) - Region 15 JT Chair
Bob Pries (4) - Encyclopedia Manager, Gardens, Public Relations & Marketing
Carol Cullen (14) - Region 14 JT Chair
Carolyn Hoover (14) - RVP 14
Christine Dickinson (14)
Delane Langton (11)
Fred Pedersen (6) - RVP 6
Gary White (21) - Finance, Webinars
Harriet Robinson (01) - RVP 1

Jan Blaedel (14)
Jeannette Graham (11) - RVP 11
Kate Brewitt (2)
Mary Platner (15)
Tina Muller (11)
Veronica Johnson (18) - Counsel

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm PST. A quorum was present.

1. Minutes from previous Zoom AIS Meeting - Claire Schneider

Motion 1: to approve the minutes from the January 25, 2023, Zoom AIS Meeting. Motion by Janis Shackelford and seconded by Phyllis Wilburn. Motion approved.

SPRING REPORTS

2. Convention Liaison - Andi Rivarola

2024 AIS-Japanese-Species Convention - John Ludi

A digital report was posted with a tentative schedule, hotel information, and a list of the five gardens to be on the tour. It was suggested that the AIS Board meeting be moved to Wednesday which would reduce the number of convention days from five to four.

When the final budget details are worked out, the registration form will be finalized.

2025 AIS Convention - Delane Langton

A digital report was posted with a colorful convention logo. The hotel, gardens, judges training sessions and some of the meals have been organized. The plan is for a full week format with optional pre-convention tours. Mike Sutton has been confirmed as guest speaker.

It is advised that if people want to visit any of the nearby national parks before or after the 2025 Convention that they make reservations well in advance.

3. Disaster Plan - Wayne Messer

Wayne is updating the Disaster Plan. Contact information including names, phone numbers and email addresses should be on file for all AIS chairs, directors, and officers.

Wayne is also working on a Recovery Plan. Specifically, he suggests a backup person or committee should be in place to carry on the tasks and duties of someone who can no longer do theirs. There should be a job description and access to all relevant files, perhaps in a shared Google folder.

Membership, secretary, registrar, and treasurer have lots of AIS paper documents. Some of these documents could be discarded after a period of time. Others should be scanned and stored in the AIS drive. Veronica Johnson will investigate the required

periods of time. Veronica said paper documents should be digitized and stored with access by appropriate AIS officers. Jill Bonino was thrilled to hear about a shredding event for documents older than ten years and maybe those older than three years. It was suggested that an archivist be involved in selecting which articles should be saved and which can be discarded.

Another suggestion was to set up an archival folder in the AIS Google Drive for important AIS documents. RVP counselor, registrar, secretary, etc., all need storage place.

4. Legal Advisor - Veronica Johnson

Veronica is available to answer legal questions. She can be contacted at vjohnson@howardandjohnsonlaw.com

5. Policy - Janis Shackelford

A digital report and spreadsheet were posted. Janis has compiled and sorted all the AIS motions from the last 22 years, up to and including December 2022. Her compilation to 2020 is posted on the AIS website. Her latest report will be on the AIS website soon.

6. AIS secretary & recording secretary - Claire Schneider

No reports were given or posted.

7. Registrar - Janis Shackelford

A digital report was posted. The online register is working well. Most of the hybridizers seem to like it. The Chinese associate registrar regrets the demise of the yellow registration cards. Janis has established a policy that she will only accept registrations from the world-wide associate registrars, not from individuals. A description of the registration and name reservation process was included in the report. Her cache of stamps will be shared with membership, treasurer, and storefront. For 2022, the registrations and name reserves generated over \$14,000.

8. Webinars - Gary White

The first webinar was presented in July of 2020 by Andi Rivarola. Since then, there have been 31 webinars which have ranged in length from 35 to 105 minutes. In 2022, there were nine webinars. Most of the webinars can be viewed on the YouTube AIS channel. Judges training credit can still be obtained for some of the webinars. The number of viewers on the YouTube channel has ranged from 180 to 5,800. The most popular is 'Iris Growing Basics on Bearded Iris' by Bonnie Nichols. It is interesting to note that of those who register for any webinar event, only 50 to 60% actually

attend. Gary thanked the members of the Webinar Team: Andi Rivarola, Heather Haley, and Claire Schneider.

Future webinars: March 8th on reticulata irises by Alan McMurtrie. April 5, 'Knowing and Growing Siberian Irises' by Bob Hollingworth. TBA, Japanese irises by Chad Harris and 'Irises of Israel'. After the April 5th webinar, there will be a break in the webinar schedule and resume in the summer.

9. Youth - Cheryl Deaton

A digital report was posted today. Currently there are 169 youth members. Cheryl recommended that a Youth Table be set up at each exhibition that would have examples of live irises, coloring pages, word search puzzles, copies of previous youth newsletters, and other items that would motivate youth to enroll in AIS. The Coloring Contest has had challenges and its deadline was postponed to February 1st. The Ackerman Essay Contest deadline is March 21st. The Clark Cosgrove is being judged now. Cheryl has information for starting a youth iris program in a classroom or scout troop or other group of children.

The *Iris Fan*, the newsletter for the Youth Program which is published twice a year, provides information about contests and their deadlines. Evidently, the *Iris Fan* has not been published for over a year. Without this newsletter, the youth are not informed about contests and their deadlines and names of winners. Cheryl said she would be working on it this weekend.

10. Judges - Bonnie Nichols

Bonnie asked that the Board approve recent additions to the list of AIS judges 2023.

Motion 2: that we approve Carolyn Hoover (14) for artistic design judge, Josh Ryan (22) as apprentice judge, and Sharon Touchstone (11) as master judge.

Motion by Bonnie Nichols and seconded by Doug Chyz. Motion carried.

UPDATES & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11. 2023 Convention - Bonnie Nichols

The gardens look good, buses are in place, the panels are organized, and the live and silent auctions continue to collect plants, publications, and other items. There will be seven garden judges training sessions. Classroom judges training will be conducted by Jill Bonino and Debbie Strauss.

There was discussion about problems with hotel reservations. People with problems should send Bonnie an email with details.

12. Online Interactive System - Andi Rivarola

Tim Valenzuela has been working on this and hopes to go live very soon. This is a complex system that will unite membership, registration, and images.

NEW BUSINESS

13. Bulletin Editorial Board (BEB) - Andi Rivarola

This group, the BEB, searches for interesting articles and authors with interesting stories. The BEB had its first meeting August 2, 2022, and since then there have been letters to the editor and emails sent to Andi which compliment the improvement.

There is a new email address for submitting articles,

bulletineditorialboard@irises.org. Please send article ideas, photographs, etc., to this email. For example, one idea was to create a club snapshot where one of the 150 AIS affiliates is profiled with stories and photographs of what they have been doing. A suggestion is to add the email address with the deadline dates in the *Bulletin*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome aboard! We have a new membership secretary. President Andi Rivarola announced that Jean Richter (14) will step in to take over on July 1st, for Pam Messer who steps down as MS on June 30th. Thank you, Pam Messer, for all your hard work as membership secretary!

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

Adjourned at 6:15 pm PST.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Schneider