

Minutes of the March 22, 2023, AIS Zoom Meeting
Approved at AIS Spring Board Meeting, April 12, 2023

In attendance:

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

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

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

Claire Schneider (15) - AIS Secretary, Recording Secretary

Jill Bonino (15) – AIS Treasurer, Foundation Liaison, Foundation Treasurer

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

John Ludi (13) – Publication Sales Director, Convention 2024 Co-Chair

Pam Messer (21) – Membership Secretary

Jane Milliman (2) - Bulletin editor (absent)

Cheryl Deaton (15) - Director, Youth Chair (absent)

Doug Chyz (5) - Director, Public Relations & Marketing Co-Chair

Heather Haley (4) - Director, World of Irises Blog Manager

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, Annual Awards

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

Scarlett Ayres (23) – Director

Susan Driver (7) – Director, Calendars, Photo Contest Chair

Wayne Messer (21) - Director, News & Notes, Electronic Services

Margaret Kelly (9) - RVP 9, RVP Representative

Anita Moran (4) - RVP 4 (acting)

Anna Cadd (14) - VP Spuria Iris Society

Ben Dukes (4)

Beth & Mason Train (15) - Region 15 JT Chair

Carol Cullen (14) - Region 14 JT Chair

Carolyn Hoover (14) - RVP 14

Charlotte Brennand (12) - RVP 12

Christine Dickinson (14)

Delane Langton (11) - 2025 Convention Co-chair

Fred Pedersen (6) - RVP 6

Gary White (21) - Finance Chair, Webinar Manager

Gerry Snyder (15)

Harriet Robinson (1) - RVP 1

Jan Blaedel (14)

Janice Hull (5) - RVP 5

Jeannette Graham (11) - RVP 23
Jim Hedgecock (18) - RVP 18
Joann Bassett (2)
Josh Winzer (22) - RVP 22, Nominating Chair
Kim Peterson (18)
Laura Cralle (17)
Lois Rose (4) - Exhibition Schedules
Mary Platner (15)
Michael Becker (21) - RVP 21
Susan & Glenn Grigg (4)

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 as corrected from the February 22, 2023, Zoom AIS Meeting. Motion by Janis Shackelford and seconded by Howie Dash. Motion approved.

SPRING REPORTS

2. Awards - Mike Reed

A digital report was posted. Tim Valenzuela has finished the AIS Ballot.

The online voting system is being tested now. When finalized, all the judges will receive an email with a link to the AIS Ballot. The target for completion is March 31st. Paper ballots should be received by the judges a couple weeks later.

With one exception, all the sections and cooperating societies have been contacted regarding the convention awards. Confirmations have been received from those people giving and receiving awards. Janis Shackelford and Jill Bonino volunteered to photograph the award winners.

3. Bulletin Editor - Jane Milliman (absent)

A digital report was posted that contained the deadlines for submission of articles to *IRISES: The Bulletin*. Articles and news for future issues of the *Bulletin* should be sent to bulletineditorialboard@irises.org.

The spring issue of *The Bulletin* is now available online, one of the benefits of being an e-member of AIS.

4. Legal Advisor - Veronica Johnson (absent)

A digital report was posted.

Jody Nolin, affiliate liaison, gave a synopsis of Veronica's presentation at a previous affiliate meeting. The IRS sometimes recognizes a group of organizations as tax-exempt if they are affiliated with a central organization such as AIS. This avoids the need for each of the organizations to apply for an individual exemption. Some of the AIS affiliate groups do have an individual tax-exemption status while others use the AIS group tax-exemption. However, there are some affiliates which might have had the tax-exempt status at one time but have misplaced or lost their records and now are struggling to be reinstated. The 501c3 packet is posted on the AIS website. AIS

regions are covered under the AIS tax-exemption status. Jody has copies of the 990, the nonprofit form that is filed annually for tax-exempt groups.

5. News & Notes - Wayne Messer

A digital report was posted.

The three most accessed links in the February issue of *News & Notes* were the iris show calendar, the AIS iris calendar, and the top 10 irises. Once again, Wayne requested feedback and recommendations for *News & Notes*.

To increase the number of open clicks, it was suggested that the title line in the email that delivers *News & Notes* be "News & Notes" instead of "News from the American Iris Society."

There was a discussion about how to generate an increase the percentage of recipients who open *News & Notes*.

6. Photo Contest - Susan Driver

A digital report was posted.

Susan needs three judges and is looking for volunteers. In the 2022 Photo Contest, there were many more photo entries and of better quality than were entered in previous years. Nice job, Susan!

It was recommended that the Photo Contest rules and entry forms be sent to each RVP so they can be distributed at the spring regional meetings.

Anita Moran volunteered to send her collection of winning photos from previous contests to Wayne so they can be made available for viewing. Because Janet Smith was in charge of previous photo contests, she also might be asked to send a folder of winning photos.

UPDATES and UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7. Judges - Bonnie Nichols

Bonnie was pleased to announce that judges are keeping up with their dues.

8. AIS Convention 2023 - Bonnie Nichols

Approximately 230 people have registered so far. There are a few bloom stalks in the gardens now. This is a good sign meaning that there will be a great bloom display in three weeks.

The AIS Board Meeting will begin at 2 pm on Wednesday, April 12th. This will be a hybrid meeting, both in-person and Zoom. The Geek Luncheon is scheduled for noon on Thursday. Jill Bonino, Geek Luncheon chair, described some of the items being offered in the auction. Revenue from the Geek auctions supports the work of the Electronic Services Committee, which funded the development of the online system.

NEW BUSINESS

9. none

ANNOUNCEMENTS

10. Webinars - Gary White

On March 29, Chad Harris will conduct a webinar on the topic of historic Japanese iris. On April 5, Bob Hollingworth will present "Knowing and Growing Siberian Iris". His webinar will include a judges training session.

These two webinars complete the spring webinar season.

11. About the *Handbook for Judges*

Anita Moran has created a cheat sheet for chapters 7 to 21 from the AIS *Handbook for Judges*. Lois Rose is giving it an editor's look-see. Anita will send a final draft to Bonnie Nichols and Claire Schneider.

The AIS Storefront has for sale a compilation packet of all the 2022 revised chapters that can replace the old chapters of the previous edition.

The next AIS Board of Directors meeting will be in Dallas, April 12, 2023, 2 pm Texas time.

Adjourned at 6:15 pm PDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Schneider