

Minutes of the AIS Board of Directors Videoconference, Wednesday, Oct 28, 2020

Present:

Jody Nolin (6) - President, Affiliate Chair

Andi Rivarola (15) - 1st VP, Convention Liaison (temporary), Public Relations Social Media,
Strategic Planning

Bonnie Jean Nichols (17) – 2nd VP, Judges, RVP 17

Michelle Snyder (15) – Secretary, Insurance

Jill Bonino (15) – Treasurer, Foundation Liaison

Gary White (21) - Immediate Past President, Honorary Awards, Finance

John Jones (14) - Registrar/Recorder

Pam Messer (21) - Membership

Claire Schneider (15) – Director, Recording Secretary

Doug Chyz (5) - Director, Public Relations & Marketing, RVP 4

Gerry Snyder (15) – Director, Awards

Howie Dash (23) – Director, RVP Counselor

Janis Shackelford (15) – Director, Policy

John Ludi (13) – Director, Publication Sales Director

Lorene Crone (7) – Director, Electronic Services

Neil Houghton (2) - Director, Image Coordinator, Iris Program Resources Digital

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

Susan Driver (7) – Director, Calendars

Wayne Messer (21) - Director, Exhibition Show Reports, News & Notes, RVP 21

Bob Hollingworth (8) - Scientific Advisory, Intellectual Property

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

Cheryl Deaton (15) - Youth

Jean Richter (14) - RVP 14, RVP Representative

Lois Rose (4) - Exhibition Schedules

Mike Reed (17) - asst RVP 17

Scarlett Ayers (23) - AIS 2021 Convention Co-Chair

Elladan McLeester (8) - RVP 8

Sue Brown (15) - RVP 15

Linda Baumgartner (20) - RVP 20

Eva Berry (23) - RVP 23

Judy Schneider (17)

Carol Cullen (14)

Jeannette Graham (11)

Christine Dickinson (14)

The meeting was called to order on Zoom at 5:00 PM PDT.

A quorum was present.

1. Approve the minutes of the September 23rd meeting – Claire Schneider

Motion 1: to accept the minutes of the September 23, 2020.

Motion by Janis Shackelford and seconded by Michelle Snyder. Passed unanimously.

2. Approve the minutes from the special meeting - Claire Schneider

Motion 2: to approve the minutes of the September 29, 2020.

Motion by Michelle Snyder and seconded by Bonnie Nichols. Passed unanimously.

REPORTS

3. Registrar update - John Jones

John reported the number of iris registrations and name reserves since the September board meeting. The AIS website has been updated. He had two expenditures this month: printer repair and renewal of virus protection for the systems. Next was a discussion about the printing and cover of the 2019 Check List (that covers 2010 through 2019.) Affiliate shows are required to have an iris reference on hand for the judges. This could be a hard copy of the most recent check list or the online Iris Registry or Iris Encyclopedia (the wiki.) Discussion of these questions will be postponed to a future meeting: How many copies of the check list should be in the storefront? Should there be an option for print on demand? And should the check list have a soft or hard cover?

John will report at a future meeting the process for registering an iris when the hybridizer is deceased.

4. Membership update - Pam Messer

An electronic report was posted in AIS documents. The process of merging the AIS e-membership and print membership is moving forward.

The return address on the Bulletin has always been the membership secretary. But after a discussion, it was unresolved what the return address should be now that Pam is the membership secretary. Jody Nolin and interested parties will meet next week to solve this problem.

5. Judges Training - Bonnie Nichols

An electronic report was posted in AIS documents. AIS has 461 judges and 115 retired judges. Judges training sessions in the webinars have been successful.

Regarding the requirements for students, apprentices and judges to advance, the webinars will fulfill the classroom training hours. However, the garden training sessions will continue to be difficult as long as the Covid-19 restrictions are in place. There are a few judges who lack email and internet which makes it nearly impossible for them to collect their training hours from a webinar or a virtual garden training. Alternative methods will be needed for those folks to complete their required hours of judges training. At some point, regions and affiliates will be able to post their judges training sessions online so that other clubs and regions could use them.

6. Virtual Shows - Bonnie Nichols

An electronic report was posted in AIS documents. Bonnie wrote, "In summary, if in early 2021, we are still in a pandemic state, the virtual show would definitely serve a purpose." To help affiliates, AIS should produce a few YouTube programs on "How to conduct a virtual iris show."

7. Judges Handbook - Bonnie Nichols

An electronic report was posted in AIS documents. Several people volunteered to type up chapters. There are still many decisions to be made about the handbook. Gerry Snyder will set up a read-only folder in Google Drive where the chapters can be stored. There are several advantages for putting the handbook online: easy to modify, cheaper than a print copy, color photos and diagrams, portable. And once again we were reminded that the process of revising and updating the handbook began in 2014 and we are looking forward to its completion.

8. Webinar update - Andi Rivarola

Andi is working on the winter schedule of webinars. There will be two fall webinars: first one on the culture of bearded irises by Bonnie Nichols. The second webinar will be on beardless irises by Jody Nolin.

9. Membership update - Andi Rivarola

Andi expressed concern about a potential declining membership due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Because garden tours, shows and affiliate meetings have been cancelled, members seem to be drifting away. But gardening is at an all-time high, so perhaps there will be an increase in interest in irises. Suggestions to encourage membership: waive membership dues for the next year, schedule mini-garden tours or open gardens, publish informative and colorful newsletters.

10. 2021 Awards - Gerry Snyder

An electronic report was posted in AIS documents. Gerry will bring to the December meeting, a copy of the instructions for judges on the 2021 AIS Ballot.

NEW BUSINESS

11. Hybridizer Liaison - Jody Nolin

A non-voting position on the AIS board, a liaison would communicate actions of the board to the hybridizers and ideas from the hybridizers to the board.

Motion 3: To create a new position hybridizer liaison.

Motion by Andi Rivarola and seconded by Howie Dash. Passed unanimously.

The board was asked to accept Gary Slagle for this position.

12. The Centennial Supplement #4 - Jody Nolin

The supplement #4 has been delayed and will be published in 2021.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The position of Photo Contest coordinator is open. Talk to Jody if you're interested.

- The next AIS teleconference will be November 18. The tentative agenda will be:

By acclamation, the new directors are seated on the board.

The treasurer's report.

The approval of RVPs and judges.

The 2021 Convention.

The Symposium report by Riley Probst.

The honorary awards and emeritus judge nominations will be discussed in an executive session of voting board members on December 2.

- The agenda for the December 16th meeting will be the judges handbook and Gerry Snyder's presentation about the 2021 awards.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PDT.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Schneider