

Minutes of the February 23, 2022, AIS Board of Directors Zoom Meeting
Approved [with corrections in blue](#), March 23, 2022

Present:

Andi Rivarola (15) - President, Convention Liaison (temporary), Public Relations, Social Media,
Strategic Planning, Membership Development
Bonnie Jean Nichols (17) - 1st VP, Judges, Handbook Revision, RVP 17
Howie Dash (23) - 2nd VP, RVP Counselor, Audit Comm, AIS 2022 Convention Co-chair
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) – Publication Sales Director, RVP 13
Pam Messer (21) – Membership

Bill Dumont (13) - Director
Cheryl Deaton (15) - Director, Youth
Doug Chyz (5), Director, Public Relations & Marketing
Janis Shackelford (15) – Director, Registrar/Recorder, Policy, RVP 15
Jean Richter (14) - Director
Linda Wilkie (21) - Director
Lorene Crone (7) – Director, Electronic Services
Mike Reed (17) – Director, Awards
Phyllis Wilburn (14) – Director, Section & Cooperating Society Liaison
Scarlett Ayres (23) – Director, AIS 2022 Convention Co-chair
Susan Driver (7) – Director, Calendars, Photo Contest
Wayne Messer (21) - Director, News & Notes, Electronic Services Website, RVP 21
Linda Baumgartner (20) - RVP 20, RVP Representative

Adam Cordes (6) - Exhibitions Show Reports
Bob Pries (4) - Encyclopedia Manager, Gardens, Public Relations & Marketing
Dawn Boyer (17) - Bulletin Advertising Editor
Gary White (21) - Finance, Webinars
Jim Hedgecock (18) - RVP 18
Josh Winzer (22) - RVP 22
Lois Rose (4) - Exhibitions Schedules
Neil Houghton (2) - Image Coordinator, Iris Program Resources Digital

Carol Cullen (14)
Christine Dickinson (14)
Jeannette Graham (11)
Kate Brewitt (2)

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

Note: This meeting was interrupted at 5:35 pm and restarted about 10 minutes later. Several attendees in the first session were unable to rejoin in the second session.

1. Minutes from previous Zoom Meeting - Claire Schneider

Motion 1: to approve the minutes from the January 26, 2022, Board Zoom Meeting.

One correction: Motion 2 was approved.

Motion by Scarlett Ayres and seconded by Phyllis Wilburn. Motion approved.

2. SPRING REPORTS

President Report by Andi Rivarola - no report

1st VP Report by Bonnie Nichols - no report

2nd VP Report by Howie Dash - no report

Secretary Report by Claire Schneider - electronic report posted, information only.

Immediate Past President by Jody Nolin - no report

Recording Secretary Report by Claire Schneider - no report

Policy Report by Janis Shackelford - electronic report posted.

The Motions Index has been updated.

Registrar Report by Janis Shackelford - electronic report posted.

Janis shared the draft parentage diagram of one of the Schafer-Sacks irises. Because of the complex series of brackets and parentheses, the diagram is not accepted by the Janis' program. A suggestion was that Janis ask the hybridizer to provide the parentage diagram, either as a document or as a scan. Bob Pries volunteered to sort out the diagram.

OLD BUSINESS

3. Convention 2022, Las Cruces, update - Howie Dash & Scarlett Ayres

An electronic report was posted. Approximately 210 have registered with 52 choosing to attend the optional tour. There are about 30 registered for the Geek Dinner. The deadline to register for the Convention has been extended to March 15. The convention gardens have been manicured. There are no more double rooms at the convention hotel, the Encanto, only king rooms. Howie has been working with the Hilton Garden Inn, about two miles from the Encanto Hotel, trying to arrange for rooms at the convention rate. Parking at the Encanto Hotel will be free. The Las Cruces shuttle will take reservations beginning March 1 from El Paso to the Encanto Hotel. It takes between 45 and 60 minutes to ride the [shuttle from El Paso to the Encanto](#) and vice versa. Regarding COVID protocols, the indoor mask mandate has been dropped for New Mexico, but we are waiting to hear if the TSA will drop the mask mandate for riders on buses. April is a month of high pollen activity in the Las Cruces area. A reaction to the pollen might be confused with a mild case of COVID. It is recommended that all convention attendees bring their own COVID test kit and masks. There will be summary of COVID protocols in the convention booklet.

4. Convention 2023, Dallas, update - Bonnie Nichols

In the next week, the convention committee will have their final negotiations and contract proposal for the hotel Marriott near the DFW Airport. The gardens are looking good.

5. Convention 2024, update - John Ludi

The committee will meet with the hotel next month. There will be a boutique The 2024 convention schedule will have a full week of activities.

6. Planned Giving - Andi Rivarola & Jill Bonino

Jill is preparing a presentation of planned giving options for the Finance Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

7. Photo Contest - Susan Driver & Wayne Messer

There was an extended discussion about where and when the winners of the AIS Photo Contest should be published. The contest ends August 1st, and the results are known by August 15th. In previous years, the winners were announced in the winter issue of *Irises: the Bulletin*. The question is, should the winners be announced as soon as they are known or wait to be published in *Irises*? The consensus was to announce the winners as soon as they are known on the website and/or in *News & Notes*.

Because there were so many photos in the contest this year, Susan was able to use some of the non-winning photos in the *AIS 2023 Calendar*.

8. Storefront update - John Ludi

The shipment of 750 copies of the *AIS 2023 Calendar* has arrived at the Storefront. John will be taking some calendars to Las Cruces.

John sent 750 copies of the *Basic Iris Culture Booklet* to Pam Messer, membership chair, earlier this week. Currently there are 250 copies left in the Storefront. The latest printing of the booklet was done by Sundance Press in 2012, where approximately 5000 copies were printed. John thinks that 250 copies are enough for this fiscal year, but he wants input from the AIS Board. In the past, this is the time of the year when clubs order packets of 25 booklets to have as handouts at shows and plant sales.

Discussion: Perhaps instead of mailing a copy of the booklet to new members, a pdf copy could be emailed. Judy Kiesling might have a pdf copy of the "Basic Iris Culture Booklet." There is a flip-form copy of the booklet on the e-member website.

9. The AIS Membership Drive has been extended to June 30, now March 1 to May 31.

Motion 2: to extend the AIS Membership Drive to June 30th.

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

Discussion: there is no change to the budget of the Membership Drive. Affiliates, sections, and cooperating societies are included in the Membership Drive.

Motion 3: To extend the AIS Membership Drive, from March 1 to June 30, and to include cooperating societies as well as sections and affiliate clubs.

Motion by Janis Shackelford and seconded by Doug Chyz. Motion passed.

NOTE: Looking back, Motion 3 should have been an amendment to Motion 2. But, if that is the only parliamentary error we made during this meeting, good for us.

10. R&I - Bob Pries

Traditionally, the registration information of iris has not gone into the *AIS Iris Encyclopedia (the wiki)* until the *R&I (Registrations & Introductions)* was printed.

Discussion: This would be registration information included in the *Iris Encyclopedia* on the individual cultivar pages. The entire *R&I* is not be published or posted in the *Iris Encyclopedia*. It is a time-consuming process to enter the registration information and photo into the *Iris Encyclopedia*, but Bob and his team of Encyclopedia workers will strive to have this information available before conventions. It is important that the *Iris Encyclopedia*, *Iris Register* and the *R&I* have identical information. It would be efficient and more accurate, if the registration information and photos could be posted to all three sources simultaneously. There was a discussion about the quality of photos and designation of an official photo for the registration of an iris.

Motion 4: to allow registration information to be added to the individual cultivar pages of the *Iris Encyclopedia* as soon as it becomes available and not wait for a *R&I* to be published.

Motion by Doug Chyz and seconded by Jean Richter. Motion passed.

Janis Shackelford will create a pdf of registration information and send it to Bob Pries.

11. Webinars - Gary White

We had nice turnouts for the two February webinars: Doug Chyz on container iris and Patrick Spence on Japanese iris. “Awards and Ballots” by Gary White will be the webinar for March 2 and will count as a judges training (JT) for 1.5 hours. “Awards and Ballots, part 2” for 0.5 hours of JT will be the first half of the March 9 webinar. The second half of the March 9 webinar will be “Ethics” by Bonnie Nichols for 1 hour of JT. Both of these webinars originally were developed by Judy Kiesling and for these webinars, will contain updated information.

A JT on “Awards and Ballots” will also be presented at the 2022 Convention in Las Cruces.

Because of the convention, shows, treks and hybridizing, there are no webinars scheduled for April and May.

NOTE: The JT on Awards and Ballots will be replaced with a different training session.

Lois Rose has developed a program about show schedules and would be willing to do a webinar or presentation on this topic. It could be for information only or as a JT on the Fall 2022 Webinar Schedule.

12. Artistic Design Judge proposal - Dawn Boyer

Two electronic documents were posted, “Guidelines for Certification as an AIS Artistic Judge” and “Guidelines to be Grandfathered in as an AIS Certified Artistic Design Judge.” Dawn reviewed both. The activity report for the Artistic Design judge could be an extra line added to the AIS Judges Activity Report.

Discussion: In order to be grandfathered as an AIS artistic design judge, the applicant must be an AIS judge. These guidelines do not prohibit using garden judges or other qualified people to judge the Artistic Design Division. Using certified AIS artistic design judges in a show will save the expense of hiring outside judges. It might be difficult for candidates for AIS artistic design judge to find enough shows where they can meet the hours of apprenticeship. One solution might be to promote virtual shows that include an Artistic Design Division. A virtual show that is nation-wide and on-going for 30 days would be an opportunity to engage many judges and apprentices as well as seeing some exceptional entries.

Dawn will present a program at the 2022 Convention in Las Cruces. We encouraged her to make it a two hour program, not just one hour.

13. Schedule of Spring Reports - Claire Schneider

Claire has created a tentative schedule for the spring reports and asked that anyone who wants to change the date of their report send her an email. The objective is to hear most of the reports in monthly Zoom meetings leaving only a few for the Spring Convention Board Meeting.

Reports scheduled for the March 23 teleconference (emphasis on publicity, publications, and membership development):

Bulletin Editor – Jane Milliman

Electronic Services – Lorene Crone & Wayne Messer

Encyclopedia – Bob Pries

Image Coordinator – Neil Houghton

Iris Program (speakers) – Hooker Nichols

Iris Programs (digital resources) – Neil Houghton

Membership Development – Andi Rivarola

News & Notes – Wayne Messer

Photo Contest – Susan Driver

Public Relations & Marketing – Bob Pries & Doug Chyz

Social Media – Andi Rivarola

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER ISSUES

The next Board of Directors Meeting will be March 23, 2022, at 5 pm Pacific DAYLIGHT Time.

Please contact Bonnie Nichols if you are available to conduct a garden training at the 2022 Convention at Las Cruces.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm PST.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Schneider