

Minutes of the AIS Board of Directors Videoconference, August 25, 2021
Approved September 25, 2021

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

Pam Messer (21) - Membership

John Jones (14) - Registrar/Recorder

Claire Schneider (15) – Director, Recording Secretary

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

Howie Dash (23) – Director, RVP Counselor

Janis Shackelford (15) – Director, Policy, RVP 15

Lorene Crone (7) - Director, Electronic Services

Mike Reed (17) - Director, Awards

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

Linda Baumgarter (20) - RVP 20, RVP Representative

Carol Cullen (14)

Christine Dickinson (14)

Eva Barry (23) - RVP 23

Gerry Snyder (15)

Jean Richter (14) - RVP 14

Jeannette Graham (11)

John Ludi (13) - Publication Sales Director, RVP 13

Joshua Winzer (22)

Kate Brewitt (2)

Lois Rose (4)

The meeting was called to order on Zoom at 5:01 pm PDT.

A quorum was present.

1. Motion 1: to approve the minutes from the regular AIS Board Meeting, June 23, 2021.

There was one spelling correction.

Motion by Janis Shackelford and seconded by Howie Dash. Motion passed.

REPORTS

2. Advertising Editor - Dawn Boyer (absent)

No report submitted.

3. Bulletin Editor - Jane Milliman (absent)

No report submitted.

4. Exhibition Schedules - Lois Rose

An electronic report was posted. Forty-nine schedules have been approved, with two more expected.

3. Exhibition Show Reports - Wayne Messer

An electronic report was posted. Next year, it is likely that the U.S. Postal Service will begin to treat all mailings of AIS medals as “small packages” (not CD mailers) with an increase in postal fee from \$2 to \$4.95.

The winner of Best Seedling in a show receives an E.C. (Exhibition Certificate). A seedling can also win an E.C. when it receives five votes by qualified AIS judges. In the past, the seedling must receive the five votes in one show. The newly adopted *Handbook for Judges* states, “An E.C. may be awarded to any seedling which receives a cumulative total of five or more votes from AIS judges attending the show or any other AIS approved shows in a calendar year (Ch 4, page 10).” Because E.C. votes are now cumulative, Lois Rose will remind show chairs to send in all ballots, even when there are fewer than five. Wayne proposed methods of reporting the winners of E.C.s in *Iris: The Bulletin*. It would be valuable for the hybridizer to know the shows and locations where their seedling had received votes. It appears that a seedling can win more than one E.C.

The position of Exhibitions Show Reports is open. Applicants should contact Jody Nolin.

4. Insurance - Michelle Snyder

An electronic report was posted. Twenty-one certificates of insurance were received for shows and sales.

5. Photo Contest - Susan Driver

An electronic report was posted. The 2021 contest ended at midnight, August 1, with entries from Belgium, New Zealand, and Italy as well as USA. Thank you to the judges: Dawn Boyer, Earnie Royal and Steve Speights. Susan expressed a special “Thank you,” to Rick Tasco, Terry Aitken, Hooker Nichols, and Bob Van Liere for contributing 2021 introduction rhizomes for the contest winners.

OLD BUSINESS

6. Judges Handbook - Bonnie Nichols

The electronic version is available for download. Its location on the AIS website, wiki, and other places (e.g., AIS Storefront) will be made more obvious. Bonnie has sent information to News & Notes and to *Iris: The Bulletin* about how to complete future revisions and updates to the *Handbook for Judges*. Several people have asked for a list of all the changes to the *Handbook*.

Motion 2: That the domestic price of the new *Handbook* be \$20 without a cover and \$25 with a cover.

Motion by Jill Bonino and seconded by Neil Houghton. Motion carried.

Discussion: The cover is a 3-ring binder that can be purchased at most stores that sell stationary products. It is easy to insert the cover page of the *Handbook* into the sleeve of the front cover of the binder. The printed *Handbook* pages have been 3-hole punched. John Ludi ordered 100 copies and when the supply gets low, he will order 25 copies at a time.

International mailings of the *Handbook* will be very expensive. International requests will be directed to download the pdf file of the *Handbook*. John Ludi will add, “For information about overseas postage, contact the AIS Storefront.”

Every chapter in the *Handbook* begins with page 1. Avery offers a set of 31 tabs which can be used to mark each of the chapters in the *Handbook*. These can be purchased online or at a store that carries stationary supplies.

7. 2022 AIS Convention update - Howie Dash

The Hotel Encanto has opened reservations for the convention. The convention rate is available for two days before and two days after the convention. The contract has been signed with the bus company. Thank you to Dale Strauss for making the language clear in all the contracts about potential cancellations. Optional tours are being planned to Old Mesilla (an old Mexican village), the White Sands Missile Range, and Spaceport (where Richard Branson launched). There will be a silent auction. Eva Barry of Region 23 will be the chair. Scarlett Ayres will be in charge of the Boutique.

Currently, New Mexico requires masks for indoor meetings but there are no limits on the size of groups. Every convention attendee will receive three masks in their welcome SWAG bag.

About transportation, the Las Cruces Shuttle Company operates almost hourly between the El Paso Airport and Las Cruces with one stop being the El Encanto, the convention hotel. Check their website for fares and hours of operation.

8. Fall Report Schedule - Jody Nolin

An annual report from some committees and officers would be sufficient, while others should report more often. With that in mind, a small committee revised the list and schedule of reports. Most of the reports will be heard at one of the monthly Zoom meetings while others will be presented at one of the in-person meetings (e.g., Spring Convention). If anyone needs to change their date of presentation, contact Jody Nolin.

NEW BUSINESS

9. Transitions - Jody Nolin

Will Plotner will take over the AIS Library. Gardens@molalla.net is the correct email address and will be corrected on the AIS website.

Janis Shackelford has been appointed registrar/recorder, effective September 1st. John Jones will become assistant registrar.

There was a sincere, "Thank You" and round of applause for the years of dedication and hard work completed by John Jones.

Names, contact information, email address, and the physical address of the in-coming people will need to be changed in *Irises: The Bulletin* and on the AIS website.

10. Watermark Registration Cards - John Jones

There has been an increase in iris registrations from China. Many of these registrations are part of an academic program that requires papers on the hybridization and breeding work being done with irises. John proposed that a watermark be added to the registration cards going to China, giving them a more professional appearance, keeping in line with the academic nature of the work being done in China. After more discussion it was decided to add a watermark to all future iris registration cards, American and international.

11. Membership Drive Program - Andi Rivarola

An electronic report was posted with information about the five-year plan for this membership drive. The cost for implementing this program will be from the printing of extra *Irises: The Bulletin*.

Motion 3: That the AIS Board approves the 5-Year Plan as outlined by the AIS Membership Development Committee, with a budget expense cap of \$13,110 for year 2022. For subsequent years, a detailed budget will be proposed in advance.”

Motion by Andi Rivarola and seconded by Neil Houghton. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion: The plan for 2022 is that from March 1 to May 31, each new member to join an affiliate club or to join an AIS section will receive a free one-year print membership with AIS, if that new member also would be a new member in AIS. Concern was expressed that there might be hundreds of new members signing up, which would cost AIS a fortune for all the extra *Iris*: *The Bulletin*. The strategy for this plan is that some of these new members, after enjoying the benefits of AIS, will renew their membership. The funding for this program will be added as a line item to the AIS budget.

A suggestion was to add cooperating societies to the plan.

The process for implementing the plan will be left up to the Membership Development Committee. Their plan is for five years and at some point, they might need to change it. The Committee will bring changes and adjustments to their plan to the AIS Board of Directors.

12. Printing the 2019 Checklist - John Jones

John reported that there has been a problem printing the 2019 Checklist. Until it can be printed, he would like to post online a pdf file of the 2019 Checklist that people could download.

Motion 4: that the 2019 Checklist be available for \$25 from the AIS Storefront as a downloadable pdf file and after it has been printed, a hardcopy of the Checklist will be mailed. Motion by Neil Houghton and seconded by Gary White. Motion passed.

Discussion: A suggestion was made that instead of mailing out a package of papers (e.g., the Checklist), that a thumb drive containing the pdf file of the 2019 Checklist be mailed. The 2020 R&I is already in print.

13. Website Storage - Lorene Crone

An electronic report was posted. Host Papa, the server for the AIS website, has reported that memory usage on the website has spiked recently and recommended that AIS double their RAM from 2GB to 4 GB. The cost would go from \$2303.64 for 3 years to \$4643.64 for 3 years. Lorene asked if anyone had noticed that the AIS website has slowed and if not, perhaps the website has sufficient RAM. The wiki Iris Encyclopedia is not served by Host Papa. Lorene was advised to ask Host Papa for details regarding RAM or memory usage by the AIS website.

14. Video Equipment update - Neil Houghton

Neil reported that he has purchased the newest model of video equipment, which slightly exceeds his budget of \$500 and equipment allotment of \$500. Exceeded by how much? By \$17.

15. Voucher Program - Doug Chyz

Doug proposed that the Voucher Program be terminated. The new Membership Drive Program (approved at today's meeting) will replace the Voucher Program. Doug will contact the nurseries that have contributed iris to let them know of the end of the Voucher Program and thank them for their years of generosity.

Motion 5: to terminate the Voucher Program as of September 30, 2021. Outstanding vouchers must be used by July 31, 2022.

Motion by Doug Chyz and seconded by Susan Driver. Motion passed.

16. AIS Fall Meeting, November 6, 2021 - Claire Schneider & Janis Shackelford

A list of places to visit in San Diego is available. On Sunday, November 7, there will be an Open House from noon until 7 pm at Claire's house in Ramona.

The deadline for the discounted rate for the hotel is October 5th. However, a couple of our members reported getting a rate LESS than the AIS group rate for the Fall Meeting. Janis will follow up to clarify that member reservations are being included in the AIS group and that all are receiving a real discounted rate.

17. Thank you - Jody Nolin

For their rapid and accurate reporting of the awards from the 2021 AIS Ballot, a big thank you to Mike Reed, Wayne Messer, Bob Pries, Bryce Williamson, and Gerry Snyder.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next AIS Board Meeting will be September 22, Wednesday, at 5 PM PDT.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Schneider