

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
AUSTIN, TEXAS  
APR 14-15, 2008

**FULL MINUTES**

President Dr. E. Roy Epperson called the Spring Meeting of The American Iris Society Board of Directors to order at 1:00 PM on Monday, April 14, 2008, and announced a quorum was present. President Epperson asked Board Members, Committee Chairs, RVPs, and guests to introduce themselves.

Present during the various sessions were: **Officers:** President, Dr. E. Roy Epperson; 1st Vice President, Judy Keisling; 2nd Vice President and Treasurer, Jill Bonino; General Secretary, Michelle Snyder. **Administrative Officers:** Registrar/Recorder, Mike and Anne Lowe, Recording Secretary, Susan Boyce; Publication Sales, John and Kay Ludi. **Directors:** Louise Carson, Paul Gossett, John Jones, Brad Kasperek, John Ludi, Jim Morris, George Sutton, Gary White. **RVP Representative:** Jerry Coates. **Immediate Past President:** Jeanne Clay Plank. **Committee Chairs:** Terry Aitken, Ruth Barker, Cheryl Deaton, Rita Gormley, Kitty Loberg, Maureen Mark, Bob Plank, Gerry Snyder, Margaret Sutton. **RVPs:** Jody Nolin (6), Lynn Williams (14), Kate Brewitt (16), Debra Strauss (17), Carolyn Ash (18), Jim Reilly (23). **Guests:** Glenn and Susan Grigg (4), Dorothy Willott (6), Darnell Hester (7), Barbara Aitken, Dave Silverberg (13), Jill McGraw, Shirley Trio (14), Linda Smith (15), Sandy Ives, Terry Laurin (16), Jean Morris (18), Marjorie Jansen, Carolyn Lingefelter, Linda Rader (21), Linda Bell, Carol Goldsberry, James Russell (22), Steve Kelly (23).

President Epperson welcomed all and encouraged all present to participate in discussions, with the reminder that only Board members may vote.

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:**

Durham, North Carolina - November 2-3, 2007.

No additions or corrections were made to the Digest Minutes as printed in the AIS Bulletin #348 (January 2008). No additions or corrections were made to the full minutes as posted on the AIS website.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS:**

**President** - Dr. E. Roy Epperson asked that the appointment of John Jones as Motion Secretary be approved. Gossett moved and Keisling seconded. Motion carried.

President Epperson noted that four board members are not in attendance at this meeting. He also stated that a few Standing Committee Chairs have sent in their resignations:

Joyce Poling has resigned her position as Iris Program Resources (Speakers).

\*Jones moved, and Bonino seconded:

\*\*That President Epperson's recommendation of Dana Brown be approved

as Iris Program Resources - Speakers Chair. **Motion carried.**  
Rita Gormley has resigned her position as Silent Auction Chair.

\*Morris moved and Gossett seconded:

\*\*That President Epperson's recommendation of John and Barbara Sautner be approved as co-chairs of the Silent auction. **Motion carried.**  
Jim and Janet Giles are resigning as the Exhibitions co-chairs at the end of the season. President Epperson will make an appointment later.  
George and Margaret Sutton are resigning as Advertising Editors later on this year. President Epperson will make an appointment later.

President Epperson noted in his report that the Chicago Botanical Garden is working to establish a Siberian Iris Garden collection. He also noted that George Edmonds has undertaken the project of recognizing the 100th anniversary of the publication of the Bertrand Farr sale list of Irises.

In accordance with standard practice, Epperson asked for affirmation of interim Board action taken by email vote since the November 2007 Board Meeting.

\*Michelle Snyder moved and Gossett second.

\*\*That the AIS approve the appointment of Kate Brewitt as RVP for Region 16. **Motion carried.**

**1st Vice President** - Judy Keisling deferred her report until later.

**2nd Vice President** - Jill Bonino deferred her report until later.

**General Secretary** - Michelle Snyder noted that the Dykes Medal has arrived. She also stated that Susan Boyce will be the General Secretary backup in case of extended trips or in case of emergency.

**Treasurer** - Jill Bonino reported that because of lower interest rates the rate of return on investments will be down this year. Bonino also stated the need of two people to sign the investment papers. She proposed:

\*That all future investment transactions require at least the President and the Treasurer (or the Treasurer's backup signer) sign the transaction for it to be completed.

\*\*Jones moved and Gossett seconded. **Motion carried.**

Bonino stated that Cheryl Deaton had been added as a backup signer on all of the bank accounts.

Bonino reported on her research of the possibility of the AIS obtaining a corporate credit card. A lengthy discussion followed on the merits of having an AIS corporate credit card.

\*Jones moved and Sutton seconded:

\*\*That the AIS obtain an AIS corporate credit card and issue a card for use by the Electronic Services Chair for payment of fees in performance of the Electronic Services Chair's functions for the AIS. The AIS credit card account to have a monthly limit not to exceed \$1500.00. All expenses to be approved by the normal AIS voucher approval process prior to payment of the credit card

charge. **Motion carried by a vote of 10-4.**

**Advertising Editors** - Margaret and George Sutton reported that there is still some decline in display ads. The shopping sections are still holding their own.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORTS:**

**Registrar/Recorder** - Mike Lowe stated that The American Iris Society has been approved again as the international cultivar registration authority for the genus iris for another four years. Lowe reported that the current R&I format needs to be changed shortly. The current saddle format versus the perfect binding format was discussed. Another discussion followed about possibly changing the size of the R&I booklet, starting in 2010. Lowe also mentioned that the official iris introductions need to be reported back to the registrar. One last note Lowe reported on a problem with some questioning Registrar Lowe's acceptance of certain iris names. A discussion followed and the Board wanted the record to show: **\*\*That this discussion was brought before the Board and the consensus was that the Board endorse fully, the current position of the Registrar/Recorder in regards to acceptable iris names.**

**Membership Secretary** - Tom Gormley was not present but his report stated that membership is still declining. It also stated that PayPal still works well in new memberships and renewals.

Meeting recessed at 2:50 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 3:07 pm.

**Recording Secretary** - Susan Boyce reported the problems she encountered with the recording machine at the Fall Board meeting have now been corrected and it is now working fine.

**Publication/Sales Directors** - John and Kay Ludi reported that the Eric Nies Chronicles and the Clarence Mahan books are now sold out and will not be sold any more. Ludi reported that the Invitation to Join pamphlets will not need to be reprinted this year. One last item Ludi reported on was the need to print the new AIS seals.

\*Ludi moved and Kasperek seconded:

**\*\*That we print 10,000 AIS seals. Motion carried.**

**Bulletin Editor** - Terry Aitken reported that the AIS Bulletin appears to be on budget. The July guest editor is Terry Aitken.

**Unfinished Business** - None.

**New Business** - President Epperson stated that the New Business will be discussed later on in the meeting.

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

**Affiliates** - Chair Brad Kasperek reported that the RVPs are getting the affiliate renewals done on a timely basis. A suggestion was made that a kit be made to help groups who might want to start up an affiliate club.

**Awards** - Chair Ruth Barker reported that 638 Official AIS 2008 ballots were mailed out to eligible voting judges. Morris presented a petition to the board signed by at least ten judges, that an iris 'PERFORMER' be placed back on the AIS HM eligibility ballot. President Epperson quoted from the Judges Training Handbook that it is possible that an iris be placed back on the ballot after it had rotated off. A discussion followed about this policy.

\*Morris moved and Lowe seconded:

\*\*A proper petition having been submitted to the AIS Board, it is requested that the Miniature Tall Bearded Iris 'PERFORMER' be placed back on the AIS HM eligibility ballot. **Motion carried by a vote of 10-4.**

After more discussion, President Epperson recommended that the Handbook Revision committee consider this policy and report back to the board at the fall board meeting.

**Calendar** - Chair Terry Aitken reported that the cost of the calendars have gone up slightly, but it will still be under budget for this year.

**Convention Liaison** - Chair Paul Gossett reported that The British Columbia Iris Society had extended an invitation to the AIS to host the 2011 convention.

\*Gossett moved and Bonino seconded:

\*\*That the AIS accept the offer of the British Columbia Iris Society to host the 2011 AIS Convention in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. **Motion carried.**

**Donations** - Chair Donna James was not present and her report showed the monthly amounts of donations received so far this fiscal year.

**Electronic Services** - Chair John Jones reported a summary of current iris register online subscriptions. Jones noted that the digital projector continues to be used throughout the year. Jones also stated that the process of changing to a new website host for the AIS Website has gone well. In addition, in the process of scanning the AIS Bulletin articles and converting them to a computer text, a new piece of computer software is needed.

\*Jones moved and Plank seconded:

\*\*That the Electronic Services Chair be authorized to spend up to \$400 on OCR software to come from the Electronic Services Restricted fund. **Motion carried.**

**Exhibitions** - Chairs Jim and Janet Giles were not present. They did not have a report, but they submitted their resignations effective at the end of this iris show

season.

**Foundation** - Chair Roger Mazur was not present, but his report stated that a joint ad hoc committee needs to be formed to discuss how to best use the new money for the funding of the AIS Library. President Epperson appointed Jeanne Clay Plank, Jill Bonino, and himself to represent the AIS Board on this ad hoc committee.

**Information Resource** - Chair Anne Lowe recommended that this committee be discontinued.

**Honorary Awards** - Chair Jeanne Clay Plank reported that she had contacted all past presidents and all will serve on this committee again. Following normal procedure, the report from this committee will be presented at the 2008 Fall Board Meeting to the Board of Directors for action.

**Iris Resource - Speakers** - Chair Joyce Poling has resigned and as approved earlier in this board meeting, Dana Brown will assume this position.

**Insurance** - Chair Michelle Snyder reported that the AIS has received a rebate of \$1732 for the last insurance premium.

**Judges** - Chair Judy Keisling reported that several retired judges were dropped due to non payment of dues. Keisling also reviewed the number of judges, region by region, who have not yet met the in-garden training requirement that needs to be completed by June 30, 2008. It was noted that several in-garden judges training sessions are scheduled to be held in the next several weeks.

**Report of the Nominating Committee** - Chair Barbara Aitken presented the slate of nominees for consideration as candidates for the four director positions on The American Iris Society Board of Directors: Jerry Coates (4), Barbara Sautner (8), Cheryl Deaton (15), Keith Smith (17), Nyla Hughes (18), Rita Gormley (21), Gary White (21), and Hugh Stout (22).

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm.

The Board of Directors went into executive session from 4:25 pm until 5:00 pm, with the regular session called back to order at 8:01 pm. Director nominees selected for the three year terms which will expire in 2011 are: Jerry Coates, Cheryl Deaton, Rita Gormley, and Gary White.

**Iris Program Resources (Slides & Digital)** - Chair Janet Smith was not present, but Rita Gormley presented her report. Many of the slide programs need to be revised and updated, and it was pondered if the AIS Board wants to continue with the slide program. After a discussion, it was deemed necessary to continue, but more money is needed to update the slide programs. The following motions

were presented:

\*White moved and Keisling seconded:

\*\*That the price of the program CD's from the Slides and Digital Programs be raised from \$10 to \$15. **Motion carried.**

\*Jones moved and Gossett seconded:

\*\*That the price of program slide sets used for multiple presentations on a set schedule be \$5 per additional presentation. **Motion carried.**

**Photo Contest** - Chair Kitty Loberg reported that the 2008 AIS Photo contest is underway.

**Policy** - Chair Jeanne Clay Plank reported on her quest in going back thru old board meeting minutes in search of all of the motions from past board meetings to be compiled in one book.

**Library** - Chair Tracy Plotner was not present. Her report listed for Board approval, items that were sent from the AIS Library to the 2008 convention Silent Auction.

\*M Snyder moved and Gossett seconded:

\*\*That the AIS Library items for the 2008 convention Silent Auction be accepted. **Motion carried.**

**Scientific Advisory Committee** - Chair Gary White reported that last year a grant was awarded to Andrew Wheeler, and he will be possibly requesting more in the future. Dr. Meerow's research was finished last year and his report was published in a scientific magazine. Dr Meerow stated that one or two more papers will be forthcoming from him. White stated that Dr. Martin and Sunny Taylor will be present for the Scientific Board meeting on Tuesday evening.

**Symposium** - Chair Gerry Snyder reported that he has an Excel spreadsheet available for the symposium tabulation for the RVP's use.

**Tax Exempt Advisor** - Chair Bob Plank has nothing to report.

**Public Relations** - Chair Bob Pries was not present. President Epperson noted the following activities of this committee: The Tool Box is up and running on the AIS website. The posters are available and are great. Work has not yet begun on the AIS Wiki or the Landing Pads. Work on the coffee table book has started off slowly.

**Silent Auction** - Chair Rita Gormley's report noted the Silent Auction successes over the years.

The meeting was adjourned for the day at 9:30 pm.

Tuesday, April 15, 2008 - the meeting reconvened at 8:07 pm.

**Publications** - Chair Maureen Mark reported on the following works in progress. Work on the floral arrangement book by Carolyn Hawkins has been suspended. Betty Roberts is reviewing past bulletin articles on hybridizing for a possible publication for 2009. The hybridizers manual that Terry Aitken is working on is slated for completion in 2010. The AIS centennial publication has two volunteers and is in need of a leader to head this committee.

**RVP Counselor** - Chair Louise Carson announced the following election results from the Board of Counselors meeting. For 2009 - Chair, Lynn Williams (Region 14), Secretary Jody Nolin (Region 6). The Nominating Committee Representatives are Harold Griffie (Region 3) and LeRoy Meininger (Region 21). The RVP Board Representative for 2008-2009 is Jody Nolin (Region 6).

**RVP Representative** - Representative Jerry Coates reported that most of the attendees at the RVP meeting were first year RVPs and that the meeting was very productive.

**Youth** - Chair Cheryl Deaton announced the results of the Ackerman Essay contest. They are: Joanna Huggins, Region 17 (12 and under age group) and Gabriel Lockhart, Region 18 (13 and up age group).

**Section Liaison** - Chair Jim Morris reported on the Section meeting that was held earlier in the day. An idea was proposed that there be a membership discount if a member joins the AIS and a section. No consensus was reached at the meeting, so the proposal was tabled. Also discussed at the meeting was the need for the section editors and cooperating society editors to follow the nomenclature standards that were established by the International Committee on Horticulture when listing iris names in publications.

Morris also stated that Judy Hollingworth will be the section representative to the AIS Nominating Committee.

President Epperson discussed the continuing process of the Society for Louisiana Irises in their possible quest of becoming an AIS Section. Gossett stated a need of clarification of the motion made at the 2007 AIS Fall Board meeting.

\*Gossett moved and M Snyder seconded:

\*\*That there be a clarification of the motion 'That AIS accept the request of SLI to move from Cooperating Society to Section' from the November 2nd and 3rd, 2007 AIS Fall Board meeting minutes. The intent of the motion was to indicate the AIS' willingness to consider a request of the Society for Louisiana Irises to transition from Cooperating Society to AIS Section. **Motion carried.**

President Epperson announced that he had received a request from the Canadian Iris Society to consider their becoming a Cooperating Society of The American Iris Society. Maureen Mark and Sandy Ives presented the request of the Canadian Iris Society. A lengthy discussion followed. President Epperson appointed a committee consisting of Jim Morris, Jeanne Clay Plank, Jerry Coates, Bob Plank, and Kate Brewitt to study how to proceed with this. Sandy

Ives will be the contact person representing the Canadian Iris Society.

**Nominating Committee Appointments** - President Epperson announced the appointment of Judy Keisling and John Jones as Board representatives to the 2009 AIS Nominating Committee. Keisling and Jones will join Harold Griffie (RVP), LeRoy Meininger (RVP), and Judy Hollingworth (Sections) as members of this Committee.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS -**

The Fall Board Meeting will be held October 31-November 2, 2008 at the Santa Fe Station Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. 2008 Fall Meeting Chair, Mary Lee Fortner may be reached at mybasket@cox.net or (702) 228-0827. The Spring 2009 AIS Board Meeting and Convention will be held May 11-16, 2009 in Kansas City, Missouri.

President Epperson expressed sincere appreciation of the Board of Directors of the AIS, and the AIS membership to Pat Byrne, Jim Landers, and all of their committees for this wonderful, 2008 Austin, Texas National Convention.

Meeting adjourned at 9:19 pm.  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Boyce