

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA
NOV 2-3, 2007

FULL MINUTES

President Jeanne Clay Plank called the Fall Meeting of The American Iris Society Board of Directors to order at 7:07 PM on Friday, November 2, 2007, and announced a quorum was present. President Plank welcomed all attendees. Board Members, Committee Chairs, RVP's and guest in attendance introduced themselves.

Present during the various sessions were: **Officers:** President, Jeanne Clay Plank; 1st Vice President, Dr. E. Roy Epperson; 2nd Vice President, Judy Keisling; General Secretary, Michelle Snyder; Treasurer, Jill Bonino.

Administrative Officers: Recording Secretary, Susan Boyce; Publication Sales, John Ludi. **Directors:** Louise Carson, Paul Gossett, Donna James, John Jones, Bob Keup, John Ludi, Jim Morris, Joyce Poling, Bob Pries, George Sutton, Gary White. **RVP Representative:** Jerry Coates. **Immediate Past President:** Terry Aitken. **Committee Chairs:** Cheryl Deaton, Maureen Mark, Bob Plank, Avery Poling, Gerry Snyder, Margaret Sutton. **Guests:** Ron James (2), Ruth Barker (4), Maryann Coates (4), Glenn & Susan Grigg (4), Donna Shields (4), Pat Byrne (17), Jean Morris (18), Linda Rader (21), Mary Ann Holman (22), Betty Lou Martin (22),

ELECTION OF SECRETARY:

President Plank announced that AIS Secretary, Patricia Randall was unable to attend this meeting. Secretary Randall had tendered her resignation as of the adjournment of this meeting and Michelle Snyder had been designated Secretary-elect at the Spring Board meeting. In order to facilitate the change in office, in the interest of clarity and simplicity, Plank requested that the Board affirm the action taken at the Spring meeting and elect Michelle Snyder to the position of General Secretary at the beginning rather than the end of the meeting as customary with other officer elections.

*Gossett moved and Keisling seconded:

That Michelle Snyder be elected as the AIS Secretary. **Motion carried.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS:

President Plank announced that the AIS General Secretary received no additional nominations, and, therefore, the published candidates for the AIS Board of Directors are duly elected by acclamation. They are: Paul Gossett (22), Bob Keup (2), Jim Morris (18), and Bob Pries (18). New Board members were seated with full voting privileges.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma - April 30-May 1, 2007.

The corrections were as follows:

AIS Website:

1. Presidents report, "Madision" is misspelled, should have been "Madison".
2. Attendees, Bulletin, Insurance, and Report of the Nominating Committee, "Synder" is misspelled, should have been "Snyder".
3. Bulletin motion that was worded incorrectly and passed. "Salary" should have been "compensation".
4. Youth, "Cameron" is misspelled, should have been "Kameron".

Digest Minutes as printed in the AIS Bulletin #347, starting on page 68:

1. 2nd paragraph under Action Taken, "John Jones approved and approved"; should have been "John Jones appointed and approved".
2. 2nd paragraph under Interim email action, "Madision" should have been "Madison".
3. Insurance, p70; Report of Nominating Committee, p71; and Designation of Secretary Elect, p72; should have been "Snyder".
4. 2nd from bottom line on p.68, "wages" is an inappropriate wording. It should be "compensation".
5. Top line on page 69 was a motion that was worded incorrectly and passed. "Salary" should have been "compensation".
6. "Secion Liaison" on page 71 should have been "Section Liaison".
7. Youth on page 71, "Cameron" should have been "Kameron".

*Epperson moved and Keisling seconded:

** That the minutes digest as printed in the October 2007 bulletin as corrected, and the full minutes as published electronically also be corrected, be approved. **Motion carried.**

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

President - Jeanne Clay Plank requested approval of the following appointment of the Motion Monitor as follows:

*Epperson moved and Gossett second:

That Gerry Snyder serve as temporary Motion Monitor until the pending arrival of John Jones, whose flight was delayed. **Motion carried.

President Plank announced a request from the Society of Louisiana Irises that consideration be given to their becoming an AIS Section.

*Gossett moved and Epperson seconded:

That the AIS accept the request of SLI to move from Cooperating Society to AIS Section. **Motion carried.

In order to make the transition proceed smoothly, President Plank appointed a committee of Jim Morris and Bob Plank to work with the Board of SLI.

In accordance with standard practice, Plank asked for affirmation of interim Board action taken by email vote since the April 2007 Board Meeting. Secretary Michelle Snyder reported the following Board email action for affirmation: That the AIS follow the recommendation of the Scientific Committee and fund the

Andrew Wheeler Grant Proposal.

* Morris moved and White seconded. **Motion carried.**

1st Vice President - Roy Epperson deferred his report until later.

2nd Vice President - Judy Keisling deferred her report until later.

General Secretary - Michelle Snyder stated that her computer does not have Adobe Acrobat, a software application necessary for editing, re-formatting and transmitting Board member reports to Electronic Services for posting to the Board Reports Internet page. She requested that she be authorized to purchase Adobe Acrobat.

*Epperson moved and Morris seconded:

That Secretary Snyder be authorized to purchase Adobe Acrobat for a reasonable price. **Motion carried.

Treasurer - Jill Bonino reported that Bob May from Hartford Insurance conducted an audit for the AIS's General Liability coverage, and sent his findings back to Hartford. Based on this report, it is possible that the AIS insurance premium rates may drop next year.

Bonino reported receiving a notice from the IRS stating: "That beginning in 2008, small tax exempt organizations that previously were not required to file returns, may be required to submit an annual electronic notice". This new requirement would apply to all AIS affiliates, sections, and regions that have their own federal tax ID number that don't file a form 990 because they are too small. She will be receiving more details about this in the future, and will forward this information when it becomes available.

Bonino reminded the Board that should she become incapacitated, there needs to be a backup person who lives in close proximity, and who can have access to AIS funds for paying bills. She requested a Board-approved emergency signer on all of the AIS accounts.

*Sutton moved and Snyder seconded:

That Cheryl Deaton be given authority to sign bank transactions in case Treasurer Jill Bonino is incapacitated. **Motion carried.

Bulletin - Managing Editor Terry Aitken reported the slide scanner which is used for the bulletin, needs to be replaced.

*Epperson moved and Keup seconded:

That the Managing Editor Aitken be authorized to purchase a slide scanner and the software upgrade for a price not to exceed \$350. **Motion carried.

Aitken requested that the Board revisit and change the compensation for guest editors adopted at the Spring meeting.

*Epperson moved and Bonino seconded:

That Guest Editors be compensated at \$1,000 per issue and the Managing Editor at \$500 per issue, retroactively. **Motion carried.

President Plank pointed out that the AIS By-laws state (Article V, Section 3,h) that an officer or director receiving compensation for an AIS position (for instance, Editor) loses full voting powers while taking compensation. Discussion followed about how voting privileges versus compensation should be applied to members of the Board of Directors who serve as one-time guest-editors.

*Pries moved and Keup seconded:

That a Guest Editor, if also a Director, be able to accept compensation without losing the right to vote. **Motion carried.

The meeting recessed at 8:40 pm and was called back to order at 8:55 pm.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORTS:

Membership Secretary - Tom Gormley was not in attendance. President Plank observed that the MemSec's report indicated a continued gradual drop in membership. Although not unique to the AIS, membership loss is a condition that deserves constant attention.

Recording Secretary - Susan Boyce stated that there was a two month delay in the minutes being posted on the website after she submitted them. She will in the future, email the full minutes to those who need them as soon as they are done.

Registrar/Recorder - Mike and Anne Lowe were not in attendance. Their report requested that the Board, in consultation with the Publications Sales Director, set the number of R&I's to be printed for 2007.

*Pries moved and Gossett seconded:

That we print 500 - 2007 R&I's. **Motion carried.

Publication/Sales Directors - John Ludi reported that an excessive number of old bulletins are still in stock at the storefront. A discussion followed on ways to advertise the sale of excess bulletins.

Unfinished Business - none

New Business - none

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Affiliates - Chair Brad Kasperek was not in attendance. President Plank restated a strong need for an affiliates handbook to assist the affiliates.

Awards - Chair Roy Epperson noted that there is only one Wister Medal left in stock, and there is an immediate need to cast more.

*Sutton moved and Morris seconded:

** That the AIS cast 36 Wister Medals. **Motion carried.**

Calendars - Chair Terry Aitken recommended that for the 2009 calendar, we order 2000. The same amount as last year.

*Epperson moved and Gossett seconded:

That we produce 2000, 2009 calendars. **Motion carried.

Convention - Chair Paul Gossett stated that he is still looking for a site to host the 2011 convention. He also reported that Region 15 had extended an invitation to host the 2012 convention in Ontario, California to be held April 16-21, 2012.

*Gossett moved and Epperson seconded:

The the AIS accept the invitation of Region 15 to host the 2012 National Convention. **Motion carried.

Donations - Chair Donna James reported that there has been continued confusion about the distinction between the AIS and the AIS Foundation, and as a consequence continued confusion about how to donate to one versus the other. It was recommended that information on how to donate to each organization be clarified on the AIS Website and in the AIS Bulletin.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 pm, and the Board went into Executive Session.

Saturday, November 3, 2007 - the meeting was called back to order at 8:07 am and the Honorary Awards were announced.

Honorary Awards - President Plank announced the results of the Honorary Awards.

The Hybridizers Medals were awarded to: Robert Bauer & John Coble (Region 6) , and Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks (Region 1).

The Distinguished Service Medal was awarded to Jeanne Clay Plank (Region 15).

The Bee Warburton Medal was awarded to Sidney Linnegar (Great Britain).

Electronic Services - Chair John Jones reported that currently there are 229 subscribers to the online registration checklist database. Up from 192 in the Spring of this year. The online PayPal membership payment option continues to work well. He stated that he would like to change to a different ISP server. He has located one that is less expensive and offers more services and options.

*Jones moved and Bonino seconded:

That we change ISP's to Lunar Pages. **Motion carried.

Jones also noted a new online program "Membership Lookup" is now available. This is a valuable tool for RVPs and others to check on the expiration dates of the members in their region. It will only contain members names and expiration dates. No other information such as addresses or phone numbers will be on this list.

Jones noted that the website redesign is going to raise his budget this year.

*Jones moved and Sutton seconded:

That we approve a maximum budget of \$8,000 to redesign the website, \$3,000 to come from the General fund and \$5,000 to come from the Electronic Services Restricted fund. **Motion carried.

Jones also noted that some of the website redesign services must be paid with a credit card. He posed the possibility of the AIS acquiring a credit card.

*Bonino moved and Snyder seconded:

That the AIS Treasurer investigate the ramifications of obtaining a corporate credit card. **Motion carried.

Exhibitions - Chairs Jim & Janet Giles were not in attendance, but sent a report listing the 2007 show results. The report, corrected for errors, will be published in the January 2008 AIS Bulletin.

Foundation Liaison - Chair Roger Mazur was not in attendance. Bob Plank gave an updated report to the Board on the status of the DuBose estate.

Handbook Revision Committee - Chair Roy Epperson noted that the Operations Manual is finished with the exception of the Photo Contest, RVP Representative, and the RVP counselor job descriptions.

President Plank stated that the RVP Manual is now posted on the AIS Website for all to see.

Epperson stated that he and Judges Chair Keisling have received numerous complaints about the two new judges designations of Senior (S) and Master (M). Senior (S) had replaced the Active Master (AM) designation, and Master (M) had replaced Emeritus (E).

*Bonino moved and Keisling seconded:

That we return to the Master (M) designation and drop the Senior designation. **Motion carried.

*Morris moved and Gossett seconded:

** That we return to the Emeritus (E) designation and drop the Master designation from that position. **Motion carried.**

These changes will affect five pages of the new Handbook for Judges and Show Officials. Copies of the five new pages will be sent out with the new orders for the Handbook for Judges and Show Officials.

The meeting recessed at 9:50 am and called back to order at 10:05 am.

Insurance - Chair Michelle Snyder stated that the insurance premium renewal rate was very similar to last years total.

Judges - Chair Judy Keisling presented the recommended Judges list for 2008, noting the change of Senior (S) back to Master (M), and Master (M) back to Emeritus (E). She also stated that starting in 2008, the AIS would no longer list the Retired (R) judges in the Approved AIS Judges listing published in the

January AIS Bulletin.

*Keisling moved and Epperson seconded:

**That the list of recommended judges for 2008 as corrected be approved.

Motion carried.

Keisling noted that she had received a recommendation for judgeship for an Overseas member.

*Keisling moved and Epperson seconded:

**That Zdenek Seidl be approved as an Overseas (OS) Judge for 2008.

Motion carried.

Keisling reported that several people have requested that a Retired (R) judge be allowed to judge an approved iris show. A discussion followed during which it was reaffirmed that if Retired (R) judges decide they want to become active again, they need to fulfill the educational requirements necessary to bring them back to an active status.

*Keup moved and Morris seconded:

**That no change in the present status of Retired Judges be made.

Motion carried.

One last point Keisling noted, was that some of the Regions still want the deadline for In-garden judging requirements pushed back another year to 2009. By consensus, the Board decided not to change this deadline.

Library - Chair Tracy Plotner was not in attendance and did not submit a report.

Non-Profit Incorporation Tax Exempt Status 501 (c)(3) - Chair Bob Plank had no additional information to report.

Photo Contest - Chair Kitty Loberg was not in attendance, but sent a report on the 2007 AIS Photo Contest.

*Epperson moved and James seconded:

**That Kitty Loberg be approved to conduct the 2008 Photo Contest.

Motion carried.

Policy & Historical Resources - Mike and Anne Lowe were not in attendance. No report was sent for Historical Resources. On Policy, President Plank will work with Jones on simplifying the searches for Board Motions for future referencing.

Programs: Digital, Slides, & Speakers - Avery and Joyce Poling. A. Poling reported that the Slide Program rentals were very slow during the summer, but have picked up since September. A. Poling tendered his resignation. J. Poling reported that the Speakers list is growing. A discussion about listing this information on the AIS Website did not result in action taken.

RVP Counselor - Chair Louise Carson noted that Regions 16 and 20 currently do not have RVP replacements for 2008. It was noted that it is getting more difficult every year to find RVP replacements. Morris suggested that we might

need to realign some Regions in the future to alleviate this problem. Carson presented the RVP list for 2008 for approval.

*Carson moved and Gossett seconded:

That the list of proposed RVP's for 2008 be accepted. **Motion carried.

First Year RVPs:

Region 1: Michael J Zuraw
Region 2: Vaughn Sayles
Region 3: Hal Griffie
Region 5: Earnest Yearwood
Region 7: Darnell Hester
Region 10: Ron Betzer
Region 16: no candidate
Region 17: Debbie Strauss
Region 19: Gary Slagle
Region 20: no candidate
Region 21: LeRoy Meininger
Region 23: James Reilly
Region 24: Jim Chappell

Second Year RVPs:

Region 6: Judy Nolin
Region 8: William C. Dougherty
Region 9: Nancy Pocklington
Region 11: Jayme Adams
Region 12: Thomas Miller
Region 14: Lynn Williams
Region 18: Carolyn Needham Ash
Region 22: Robert Treadway

Third Year RVPs:

Region 4: Jerry Coates
Region 13: Terry Aitken
Region 15: Kathy Chilton

RVP Representative - Representative Jerry Coates stated that the one year term held by the RVP Representative might not be long enough. Just as you learn your job, your term is over. It was noted that the RVP discussion site is now online and operational.

Silent Auction - Chair Rita Gormley was not in attendance. President Plank stated the need to approve the Silent Auction for 2008.

*White moved and Gossett seconded:

****That we continue the Silent Auction in 2008. Motion carried.**

Symposium - Chair Gerry Snyder reported that all but one Region has turned in their tally numbers for the Symposium. He also reported that an error had omitted four irises from this year's Symposium ballot. There were four irises that were missing from the ballot. He requested input from the Board on how to compensate for this omission. The discussion that followed focused on allowing the four irises to remain on the ballot for additional years.

*Sutton moved and Keup seconded:

****That we place the following irises on the 2008 Symposium ballot for three years:**

Dorothy Devenport (Hooker Nichols)
Peaches and Dreams (Joseph Ghio)
Peppermint Cream (Richard Ernst)
Tropical Delight (Michael Sutton)

Motion carried.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:00 noon and called back to order at 1:00 pm.

Public Relations - Chair Bob Pries reported on various new ways to attract new members. An extensive discussion followed.

*Aitken moved and Snyder seconded:

**** That we experiment with advertising land pads on the AIS Website for one year. Motion carried.**

*Pries moved and Morris seconded:

****Approve that a Public Exhibits Toolbox be developed and incorporated into the AIS Website by February 2008. Motion carried.**

* Epperson moved Keisling seconded:

****That the AIS adopt in principle, the concept of a yearly coffee table magazine to be published in January for all members and provided to new members as they join during the year. This would have no data or administrative information but be a pleasurable color magazine that would begin preparation at least a year prior to printing and be bid separately from the AIS Bulletin. Motion carried.**

*Morris moved and Bonino seconded:

**** That the AIS investigate a photo wiki for AIS members on the members only section of the AIS Website. Motion carried.**

Publications - Chair Maureen Mark reported that work is still continuing on the following projects: The floral arrangement of irises book by Carolyn Hawkins, Hybridizers articles compilation by Betty Roberts, and the Hybridizers Manual by Terry Aitken. Mark also reported on the ISBN numbers that are assigned to publications. She noted that after checking on the Library of Congress website, it was found that AIS is allowed to register three individuals to access the registering of the publications.

*Jones moved and Snyder seconded:

** That the AIS General Secretary (primary keeper), Publications Chair, and the AIS President be designated as the managers of The American Iris Society ISBN log book. **Motion carried.**

Mark noted that the AIS centennial is approaching. She stated that it might be wise to start working on this project. President Plank agreed.

Mark suggested that another possibility might be to make a 5 or 10 year compilation of conventions consisting of pictures and articles.

Scientific Advisory Committee - Chair Gary White reported that Dr Alan Meerow's research is finished and has sent in his report.

Section Liaison - Chair Jim Morris reported on his AIS Bulletin articles.

The meeting recessed at 3:20 pm and called back to order at 3:35 pm.

Youth - Chair Cheryl Deaton reported that the Oklahoma City Convention committee has donated money to be used for youth, to encourage youth participation at the conventions. It was decided that this money will be used for the convention registration fees of the Clarke Cosgrove winners.

*Morris moved and James seconded:

**That we create a new fund YCCR (Youth Cosgrove Convention Registration) to pay for convention registration fees of Cosgrove winners.

Motion carried.

Deaton reported that the estate of Jimmy Jones has donated Endowment money to be used for the Clarke Cosgrove Youth Award. This will enable more money to be awarded to the winners.

*Morris moved and Gossett seconded:

That we increase the Clarke Cosgrove Youth Award (CCYA) award winners' amounts to: Winner \$500, First Runner-up \$300, and Second Runner-up \$200. **Motion carried.

Deaton stated that the Classroom Iris Project Youth Fund has more than enough money in it to last for a long time. She was wondering if future donations could be better utilized in another youth fund, and how to advise potential donors to donate to other youth funds.

* Morris moved and Sutton seconded:

That we mark the CIP-YF as "Due to the generosity of the donors, the Classroom Iris Project Youth Fund is fully subscribed" and add a recommendation that donations be made to other Youth funds. **Motion carried.

Deaton closed her report with the reminder that nominations for the Clarke Cosgrove Youth Award are due January 31, 2008.

BUDGET FOR 2007-2008

Treasurer Bonino opened a line-by-line discussion of the Proposed Budget for the fiscal year 2007-2008, with changes that had been added and subtracted as they came up during discussion throughout the meeting. A balanced budget

could not be reached.

*Bonino moved and Snyder seconded:

That we accept a budget that has an estimated excess of expenditures over income of \$753.00 for the FY ending 9/30/2008. **Motion carried.

The meeting recessed for dinner at 5:07 pm and was called back to order at 7:50 pm.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

* Sutton moved and James seconded:

** Dr. E. Roy Epperson is elected as President of The American Iris Society. **Motion carried.**

Incoming President Epperson accepted the gavel from outgoing President Plank.

Nominations were opened for the remaining elected offices. Upon receiving no additional nominations from the floor, nominations were closed and the following slate of officers was elected by acclamation:

1st VP - Judy Keisling

2nd VP - Jill Bonino

Secretary - Michelle Snyder

Treasurer - Jill Bonino

Editor - open

APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS:

President Epperson requested the appointment of the following officers.

Registrar/Recorder - Mike and Anne Lowe

Membership Secretary - Tom Gormley

Recording Secretary - Susan Boyce

Publications/Sales - John and Kay Ludi

*Plank moved and Gossett seconded:

Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

President Epperson requested approval for the following Standing Committee appointments:

Affiliates - Brad Kasperek

Awards - Ruth Barker

Calendars - Terry Aitken

Convention Liaison - Paul Gossett

Donations Secretary - Donna James

Electronic Services - John Jones

Exhibitions - Jim and Janet Giles

Foundation Liaison - Roger Mazur

Honoray Awards - Jeanne Clay Plank

Insurance - Michelle Snyder

Iris Program Resources (Speakers) - Joyce Poling
Iris Program Resources (Slides & Digital) - Janet Smith
Judges - Judy Keisling
Judges Handbook Revision Committee - vacant
Librarian - Tracy Plotner
Managing Editor - Terry Aitken
Photo Contest - Kitty Loberg
Policy & Operations Manual - Jeanne Clay Plank
Public Relations & Marketing - Bob Pries
Publications - Maureen Mark
Registrations - Mike and Anne Lowe
RVP Counselor - Louise Carson
Scientific Advisory Group - Gary White
Section Liaison - Jim Morris
Silent Auction - Rita Gormley
Symposium - Gerry Snyder
Tax Exemption Advisor - Bob Plank
Youth - Cheryl Deaton
*Keup moved and Gossett seconded:
Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: President Epperson extends his sincere appreciation to the Eastern North Carolina Iris Society, Susan & Glenn Grigg, and Region 4 for making this meeting possible. The Spring 2008 meeting will be held in Austin, Texas, April 14-19, 2008 at the Omni Hotel Southpark, 4140 Governors Row, Austin, TX 78744. 1-512-448-2222. Convention co-chairs are Jim Landers, 1-254-773-5017, email at jimlanders43@hotmail.com; and also Pat Byrne, 1-281-391-6190, email at patb1@consolidated.net.

ADJOURNED:

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Susan Boyce

