

(DRAFT)

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

DALLAS, TEXAS

APRIL 5-6, 2014

FULL MINUTES

President Jim Morris called the Spring Meeting of The American Iris Society Board of Directors to order at 1:05 PM on Saturday, April 5, 2014, and announced a quorum was present. President Morris asked Board Members, Committee Chairs, RVPs, and guests to introduce themselves.

Present during the various sessions were: **Officers:** President, Jim Morris; 1st Vice President, Gary White; 2nd Vice President, Jody Nolin; Secretary, Michelle Snyder; Treasurer, Dwayne Booth; and Editor, Kathleen Sonntag. **Administrative Officers:** Registrar/Recorder, John Jones; Recording Secretary, Susan Boyce; and Publication/Sales, John and Kay Ludi. **Directors:** George Boyce, Susan Boyce, Gordon Carver, Ron Cosner, Cheryl Deaton, Al Elliott, Paul Gossett, Susan Grigg, Ron Killingsworth, Bob Pries, and Debra Strauss. **RVP Representative:** Winona Stevenson. **Immediate Past President:** Judy Keisling. **Committee Chairs:** Riley Probst, Dave Silverberg, and Gerry Snyder. **RVPs:** Don Rude (4), Jim Copeland (6), James Bledsoe (22), and Howie Dash (23). **Guests:** Glenn Grigg (4), Jill Copeland (6), Ann Booth, Chad Harris, Fran Hawk, Nancy Price (13), Shirley Trio Probst (14), Lew Begley, Bonnie Nichols (17), and Jean Morris (18).

President Morris welcomed all and encouraged all present to participate in discussions, with the reminder that only Board members may make motions and vote. President Morris requested the appointment of Gary White to serve as the Parliamentarian. Deaton moved and Stevenson seconded. Motion carried.

President Morris announced that Harold Griffie had resigned his position as Director on the Board of The American Iris Society. Morris announced that he has appointed Al Elliott to fill the remainder of Harold's term.

*Snyder moved and White seconded:

That we appoint Al Elliott to replace Hal Griffie on the Board. **Motion carried.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

New Orleans, Louisiana – November 1-2, 2013

*George Boyce moved and Susan Boyce seconded:

Approve Fall minutes as published on the website. **Motion carried.

President Morris requested that in the future when we post the minutes digitally, that we should identify them as draft minutes, because they are not officially approved until the next board meeting.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

President – Jim Morris noted the passing of many well know irisarians this last year. President Morris requested John Jones be appointed as Motions Secretary.

*Deaton moved and Susan Boyce seconded:

That we appointed John Jones as Motions Secretary. **Motion carried.

Secretary – Michelle Snyder reported on the interim motions passed since the Fall 2013 AIS Board meeting.

1. *Michelle Snyder moved and Susan Boyce seconded:

That George Hildenbrandt be approved as incoming RVP for Region 3. **Motion carried.

2. *Susan Boyce moved and Deaton seconded:

That we raise the Shipping and Handling fee for the Exhibition supplies from \$12.00 to \$13.00 effective January 1, 2014. **Motion carried.

*Gossett moved and Booth seconded:

That the interim email vote actions be approved. **Motion carried.

1st Vice President – Gary White had no report.

2nd Vice President – Jody Nolin had no report.

Treasurer – Dwayne Booth reported on the financial five month status of the AIS. He encouraged raising fees in a few areas of the AIS. No action was taken on the subject at this time. Booth also noted some problems with money being received from the company that handles the transactions for the AIS Storefront shopping cart after orders are placed and shipped out. More research will be done to correct this problem. Booth recommended that the AIS stop producing calendars starting with 2016. This will be addressed in the Publication/Sales report.

Advertising Editor – Ron Killingsworth reported that he expects a decrease in the number of display advertisements placed for the year.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORTS:

Membership Secretary – Tom Gormley was not present, but his report indicated a small increase in memberships. White asked how many memberships are actually people who hold an E-membership and also a regular AIS membership. The number is not listed in Tom's report. Ideas for gaining and retaining new member were discussed.

Registrar/Recorder – John Jones reported that the 2013 R&I is now available for sale. Morris noted that he received a request that the iris name reserve time be changed from the current three years to five years. Several years ago it was five years. After a discussion, Jones recommended that it be kept at three years. Also discussed was the possibility of changing the printing of the ten year checklist, and breaking it up and printing it every 5 years. After a discussion it was recommended that we keep the current ten year checklist.

The meeting recessed for a break at 3:01 pm and reconvened at 3:15 pm for Executive session. The Executive session recessed for the dinner break at 4:45 pm and the General meeting reconvened at 7:00 pm.

Registrar/Recorder continued.

Jones reported on the discussion held during the Executive session regarding using trademark names as iris names. After a discussion:

*Deaton moved and Stevenson seconded:

That we hold in abeyance any action on Motion 5, AIS board meeting Fall 2013 regarding trademark disclaimer. **Motion failed.

It was also noted that when a hybridizer sends in the registration form for a new iris name, the registration form has to be signed in pen before being submitted. Jones also noted the huge volume of registrations that are received at the end of the registration year, which results in some delay of processing the registrations in a timely manner. A discussion was held and ideas were brought up to encourage hybridizers to register their new introductions earlier in the year. It was decided that this will be addressed later in this meeting.

Recording Secretary/Policy – Susan Boyce had no report.

Publication/Sales – John Ludi reported on the 2015 calendar sales. He recommends that we wait until the Fall 2014 Board meeting, when we have a more up to date sales information on the sales of the 2015 calendar, before we decide if we should discontinue printing the calendar starting with the 2016 calendar. The board revisited the recommendation of Treasurer Booth to lower the price of the older 10-year checklists in order to sell some of the stock at the AIS Storefront.

*Susan Boyce moved and Booth seconded:

**That we change the price of the 1939 thru 1999 Check List each to \$5.00.

Motion carried.

Editor – Kathleen Sonntag recommended that the monthly date on the *IRISES* (January/February, April/May, July/August, and October/November) be changed to Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall. There was a lot of discussion as this seasonal connotation has been used twice in the past and was changed back to January, April, July, and October dates rather quickly. After an extremely lengthy discussion:

*Pries moved and Keisling seconded:

**That the Editor of *IRISES* may title the issues seasonally (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall) and that the target publication dates be January, April, July, and October.

Motion carried by a vote of 9-5.

Sonntag also expressed a desire to discontinue all entry forms, (registration forms and entry forms), as she feels most people do not use these forms. The subject of printing a special yearly business supplement was again brought up to the board. There was a discussion on removing the photo contest entry form, since this contest is handled exclusively on the internet.

*Keisling moved and White seconded:

That we discontinue printing the Photo Contest Entry form in *IRISES*. **Motion carried.

Another lengthy discussion was held about keeping the convention registration form in the Fall and Spring issues to encourage attendance at the conventions.

*White moved and Gossett seconded:

**That we create a business supplement for the Winter January issue of *IRISES*.

After a discussion about the unknown cost of printing a business supplement:

*Deaton moved and Snyder seconded: That we table this motion until the Nov 2014 Board meeting.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

1. Library ad hoc committee – Chair Ron Cosner reported slow progress on evaluating the options of possibly relocating the AIS Library. Also discussed was the possibility of digitizing some of the contents of the library.
2. Operations Manual Review – Debra Strauss reported on the job descriptions that she has already received.

The meeting recessed for a break at 9:00 pm and reconvened at 9:14 pm.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Affiliations – Chair Susan Boyce reported on the affiliation process and the problems that have happened this year.

Affiliates Liaison – Jody Nolin reported on the confusion that she has also encountered with affiliates confusing her position with the affiliations position. She noted that the Affiliates Liaison and Affiliations used to be one combined position and since the division of this job several years ago, many problems have arisen having two different committees. She noted that these two positions should be combined in the future. Nolin also noted that she has just sent out a new survey to the affiliates and will be receiving the results of this survey shortly, and will report back at the Fall Board meeting.

Awards – Chair Gerry Snyder reported that the Awards ballot was sent to the printer on March 25th and it will be mailed to the AIS Judges shortly. He also noted that the online voting will be available soon.

Calendar – Chair Janet Smith was not present, and it was noted again that the decision about whether to print a 2016 calendar will be decided at the Fall Board meeting.

Convention Liaison – Chair Paul Gossett reported that he is now the convention chairman for the 2016 convention in Newark, New Jersey as Essex County has released all of their paid personnel. The new contact person for Essex County is Nancy Skjei-Lawes. Gossett also reported that the 2017 convention will be one day shorter in length. Michelle Snyder presented a proposal for the 2016 Fall Board meeting to be held in Sedona, Arizona.

*Gossett moved and Nolin seconded:

That the Board meeting for Fall 2016 be in Sedona, Arizona. **Motion carried.

Gossett remarked about the search for a site for 2020, which is the AIS' 100th anniversary. Morris asked Pries about the progress of the AIS 100th anniversary book. Morris wants to be kept notified of the progress of this special project.

Donations Development – Chair Cheryl Deaton reported a need for a few more members for this committee. Deaton stated that she is working on an article for *IRISES*, about members including the AIS in their estate planning and wills.

Electronic Services – Chair John Jones reported that the Board still needs to decide what other libraries will receive the digitized AIS bulletin archives. The Board needs to adopt a policy of whether non AIS members or E-members can make individual copies of the bulletins. White noted the possibility, that if non AIS members want a copy, then they should be charged a nominal fee.

Exhibitions – Susan Boyce reported an update in the number of approved iris shows to 128. White noted that the process for approving iris shows, ordering iris show supplies, and reporting the results of an iris show is very easy and much improved.

Legal Advisor – Veronica Johnson was not present, and her report encouraged the AIS to continue to compile the AIS job descriptions and policies into a manual.

Honorary Awards – Chair Judy Keisling reported that a limited number of special medals are left and will need to be ordered, and this will need to be addressed at the Fall Board meeting.

Image Coordinator – Chair Janet Smith was not present, but her report indicated a poor response from the hybridizers in sending in a picture of their new iris introductions to her. Pries stated that he believes that the form should be redone and the policy rewritten. Keisling suggested that since Pries was on the original committee, he should rewrite this policy, and President Morris requested that Pries have this ready to present at the Fall Board meeting.

Insurance – Chair Michelle Snyder reported that everything is running smoothly.

Iris Programs Resources (Slides & Digital) – Chair Janet Smith was not present. Her report showed the income and expenses of this committee.

Iris Programs Resources (Speakers) – Chair Gordon Carver was not present, but his report noted that he is updating the speakers list.

Judges – Chair Judy Keisling had no report.

Judges Handbook Revision Committee – President Morris noted the new appointment of Betty Roberts to head up this committee and needs the Board approval for this appointment.

*White moved and Stevenson seconded:

Approve Betty Roberts as Chairman of the Judges' Handbook Revision Committee. **Motion carried.

Library – Chair Dave Silverberg reported on the newest library additions and the work he has done.

National Collections, Display, & Test Gardens – Chair Bob Pries reported that he has started a site on the Iris Encyclopedia for display or test gardens.

Photo Contest – Chair Janet Smith was not present, but her report stated that the 2014 Photo Contest has now started.

The meeting recessed for the evening at 10:51 pm.

Sunday, April 6, 2014 – the meeting was called back to order at 9:08 pm.

Public Relations – Chair Bob Pries reported on the Iris Wiki. President Morris noted that there is going to be a meeting, Coalition of American Plant Societies, and he is requesting Bob Pries to attend on behalf of The American Iris Society. He would like Pries to be reimbursed for some of the expenses.

*Killingsworth moved and White seconded:

That we reimburse Bob Pries up to \$400.00 to attend Coalition of American Plant Societies Alexandria, VA from the Public Relations Budget. **Motion carried.

RVP Counselor – Chair Cheryl Deaton reported the results of the RVP Board of Counselors meeting. Jim Copeland, Region 6, is the new RVP Board Representative. The Nominating Committee representatives are Linda Corapi (Region 1) and Dawn Boyer (Region 17).

RVP Representative – Winona Stevenson had no report.

Scientific Advisory Committee – Chair Bob Hollingworth was not present and did not send in a report.

Section and Cooperating Society Liaison – Chair Gary White reported on the meeting and some of the topics discussed were some of the problems with dwindling memberships and some of the successes of the sections. White announced that Riley Probst (Reblooming Iris Society) will be the Section Representative to the AIS Nominating Committee.

Silent Auction – Chair Debra Strauss reported that she sent 80 letters out to the hybridizers for donations for the 2014 silent auction.

Symposium – Chair Riley Probst reported that the symposium ballot will be coming out in late May and will be available for downloading and printing from the AIS Website. Probst encouraged all to print up the ballot, take copies of it to their regional and affiliate events, and distribute them to all the AIS members so they can vote their symposium ballot.

Youth – Chair Cheryl Deaton reported that there are currently 283 youth members. 105 are in Region 14. Deaton announced the winners of the Clarke Cosgrove Award. Colin

Campbell (Region 4) is the winner, 1st runner up is Sarah Green (Region 21), and 2nd runner up is Faith Winzer (18). Deaton also announced the winners of the Ackerman Essay contest. They are: Haley Cannavan, Region 18 (12 and under age group) and Colin Campbell, Region 4, (13 and up age group).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Electronic Services: John Jones reported back on the issue of the registration fee.

*Deaton moved and Booth seconded:

That effective 1 Dec 2014 the fee to register, reserve, or transfer an iris name for the period from 1 Dec of the registration year through 30 June of the registration year will be \$15.00 for North America and \$10.00 if registered through an Associate Registrar in a non-North American country, and for the period 1 July of the registration year through 30 Nov of the registration year the fee to register, reserve, or transfer an iris name will be \$20.00 for North America and \$15.00 if registered through an Associate Registrar in a non-North American country. All payments must be post marked or made by Paypal payment (for non-North American registrants) by the end date of the respective period to qualify for the associated fee. **Motion carried.

Storefront: John Ludi reported back on the possible repricing of the older Registration & Introduction yearly booklets. He recommended that they be reduced from \$8.00 to \$2.00.

*Susan Boyce moved and Nolin seconded:

That the price for the 2000 through 2009 R&I's be reduced from \$8.00 to \$2.00 each. **Motion carried.

Foundation – Chair Gary White reported on the Foundation meeting held earlier in the evening. White announced that Jill Bonino will become the new treasurer for the Foundation. White also reported on the projects currently being funded.

Report of the Nominating Committee – Chair Nancy Price presented the slate of nominees for consideration as candidates for the four director positions on The American Iris Society Board of Directors: Don Rude (4), Susan Boyce (12), John Ludi (13), John Jones (14), Riley Probst (14), Janet Smith (14), Andi Rivarola (15), and Gerry Snyder (15).

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 pm for Executive Session.

The Board of Directors went into Executive Session at 9:55 pm until 10:18 pm, with the Regular Session called to order at 10:20 pm.

President Morris announced the Director Nominees selected for the three-year terms which will expire in 2017 are: Susan Boyce, John Jones, John Ludi, and Andi Rivarola.

Nominating Committee Appointments – President Morris announced the appointment of Susan Boyce and Paul Gossett as Board representatives to the 2015 AIS Nominating Committee. Susan Boyce and Gossett will join Linda Corapi (RVP), Dawn Boyer (RVP), and Riley Probst (Sections) as members of this committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Fall Board Meeting will be held November 7-8, 2014 at the Hilton Salt Lake City Airport Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah. 2014 Fall Meeting Chair, Paul Gossett may be reached at pwgossett@juno.com or (918) 853-6204.

The Spring 2015 AIS Board Meeting and Convention will be held May 18-23, in Portland, Oregon.

Meeting adjourned at 10:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Boyce