

**AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS  
MAY 11-12, 2009**

**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, May 11, 2009, and announced a quorum was present. President Epperson asked Board Members, Committee Chairs, RVPs, and guest 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; Membership Secretary, Tom Gormley; Recording Secretary, Susan Boyce; Publication Sales, John and Kay Ludi. **Directors:** Cheryl Deaton, Rita Gormley, Paul Gossett, John Jones, Brad Kasperek, Bob Keup, Jim Morris, Bob Pries, and Gary White. **RVP** **Representative:** Jody Nolin. **Immediate Past President:** Jeanne Clay Plank. **Committee Chairs:** Terry Aitken, Ruth Barker, Kitty Loberg, Bob Plank, and Gerry Snyder. **RVPs:** Lynn Williams (14), Debra Strauss (17), and Jim Reilly (23). **Guests:** Kathie Kasperek (12), Barbara Aitken, Dave Silverberg (13), Shirley Trio (14), Linda Smith (15), Ted Baker, Chuck Chapman (16), Jean Morris (18), and Wang Rui (China).

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:**

Las Vegas, Nevada - October 31-November 1, 2008.

No additions or corrections were made to the Digest Minutes as printed in the AIS Bulletin #352 (January 2009, page 98). 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 the appointment of John Jones as Motion Monitor.

\*Deaton moved and M Snyder seconded. **Motion carried.**

President Epperson stated that since our last meeting, Betty Roberts has been elected RVP of Region 20. President Epperson stated that this will be retroactive to February 28, 2009, the date that she was elected.

\*R Gormley moved and Gossett seconded.

\*\*That Betty Roberts be appointed, RVP of Region 20. **Motion carried.**

President Epperson stated that Board Members: Joyce Poling, Donna James, and Jerry Coates are not in attendance for this meeting.

Epperson also stated that Wil Benson has presented to The American Iris

Society, two copies of The Articles of Incorporation of The American Iris Society. One copy was given to the secretary and the other copy to the treasurer. Along with this was a copy of the official song of The American Iris Society, which will be sent to the AIS Library.

President Epperson also stated that the AIS will be receiving a sum of money from the estate of Jimmy Jones.

In one last piece of business, Epperson stated that the AIS Distinguished Service Medal that was presented to Keith McNames was found for sale on Ebay. The Medal was purchased and will be sent to the AIS Library.

In accordance with standard practice, Epperson asked for affirmation of interim Board action taken by email vote since the November 2008 Board Meeting.

\*Gossett moved and Gormley seconded:

\*\*That the Scientific Advisory Committee be asked to formulate a written policy on the collection of wild iris plants with good collection data and should include any fees be waived by AIS if they are registered. This policy would then be presented to the AIS Board of Directors for approval. **Motion carried.**

\*J Plank moved and Jones seconded:

\*\*That the AIS President appoint an ad hoc committee to formulate a strategic plan for The American Iris Society. This committee would be: Gary White, Chair; Jeanne Clay Plank, (Policy and historical perspective); Jill Bonino, (Finances); Bob Pries, (Publicity and Marketing); and Debra Strauss, (RVP 17). **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 reported that she has received a copy of the AIS charter and it is now in her possession. She also stated that the Dykes Medal has arrived.

**Treasurer** - Jill Bonino reported on the financial, six month status of the AIS. The AIS is currently on track compared to other years at this time. Because of the down economy, investment income is down because interest rates are extremely low at this time.

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

**Membership Secretary** - Tom Gormley reported on the still ever declining membership in the AIS. It was noted that all the different garden societies are experiencing the same membership decline. A lengthy discussion followed on how to gain and retain new members.

**Registrar/Recorder** - Mike and Anne Lowe reported that the number of iris registrations have dropped in number. M Lowe also reported on the status of the

upcoming ten year checklist due to be published, with a target range of early 2011.

**Recording Secretary** - Susan Boyce had no report.

**Publication/Sales Directors** - John and Kay Ludi reported that the Invitation to Join leaflets will need to be reprinted in the fall. A discussion followed about making ITJ's available on the internet for downloading.

\*Jones moved and Kasperek seconded:

\*\*That we design an Invitation to Join, in color, in an 8.5 x 11 inch format, that can be made available on websites for downloading. **Motion carried.**

Also it was decided by consensus that the storefront be authorized to sell the 2009 calendars at the convention at a price of \$1.00 each.

**Unfinished Business** - None.

**New Business** - None.

**Reports of Special Committees** - Epperson reported that Jerry Coates, Chair of the Regional Realignment committee is unable to attend, and R Gormley reported on the status of the committee.

Gary White reported on the Strategic Planning Committee. The first meeting was just held and the work in this committee has just started.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Awards** - Chair Ruth Barker reported on the success of putting the ballot online to find errors before the ballot was printed and sent out. Barker presented a new idea of the judges being able to vote online (e-ballot). After a long discussion on the advantages, disadvantages, and costs involved, a motion was formulated.

\*Kasperek moved and Gossett seconded:

\*\*That the Awards chair get the specific costs of going to the electronic voting system and present the results before or at the Fall Board meeting.

**Motion carried.**

**Affiliation** - Chair Brad Kasperek reported on the finished, affiliation process. Region 16 added one new affiliate, but other regions lost a total of seven affiliates.

**Calendar** - Chair Terry Aitken reported that the 2010 calendars are in production and is expected in August.

\*Kasperek moved and Bonino seconded:

\*\*That we re-price the 2010 calendar to \$7.00 for one and \$50.00 for ten, and that the international price be set at \$10.00 for one and \$60.00 for ten.

**Motion carried.**

**Convention** - Chair Paul Gossett reported that a convention site for the 2013 convention is needed. Gossett also reported that the Flint Ridge Iris Society and the Georgia Iris Society have issued an invitation to host the 2011 AIS Fall Board meeting.

\*Plank moved and Deaton seconded:

\*\*That we accept the invitation of the Flint River Iris Society and the Georgia Iris Society to host the Fall 2011 AIS Fall Board meeting. **Motion carried.**

\*Gossett moved and Plank seconded:

\*\* That Paul Gossett as Convention Liaison be authorized to sign the hotel contract for the Fall 2011 Board meeting. **Motion carried.**

**Donations** - Chair Donna James was not in attendance, but her report stated that donations are on the downside.

**Electronic Services** - Chair John Jones reported that the AIS Irisregister is making great progress in normalizing the electronic database, that has been experiencing problems. The AIS Irisregister has generated \$13,571 in revenue. Jones stated that the website redesign process is going well. Jones also stated that the AIS Wiki establishment process has encountered problems and is going slowly.

\*Jones moved and Deaton seconded:

\*\*That the Electronic Services Chair be authorized to spend up to \$500.00 from the restricted ESC fund for website related software using the AIS Credit card. **Motion carried.**

\*Jones moved and Keisling seconded:

\*\*That the Electronic Services Chair be authorized to compensate himself, on the same basis as compensating Chris Hollinshead (AIS Webmaster), for work done in the implementation (not design) of the new AIS website. Said compensation of both parties not to exceed the amount approved previously by the AIS Board of Directors. **Motion carried.**

Meeting recessed at 5:00 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 7:30 pm.

**Exhibitions** - Chair Jayme Adams was not present, and did not send in a report. Epperson thanked Jayme Adams for this undertaking.

**Insurance** - Chair Michelle Snyder reported on the additional insurance coverages, that were implemented since the 2008 Fall Board meeting.

**Iris Program Resources (Speakers)** - Chair Dana Brown was not in attendance. Epperson reported on the questionnaire that was sent out to obtain speakers for this list.

**Iris Program Resources (Slides & Digital)** - Chair Janet Smith was not in

attendance. R Gormley stated that a lot has been done to improve this program.

**Judges** - Chair Judy Keisling reported a loss of 20 judges, most of whom were retired judges. Keisling reported that copies of an e-learning JT program on Ethics were sent out to a few regions for testing. Keisling also stated a need to assemble a manual on regional judges training for each regions judges chair.

**Library** - Chair Tracy Plotner was not in attendance. Her report listed for Board approval, items that were sent from the AIS Library for the 2009 convention Silent Auction.

\*Gormley moved and Snyder seconded:

\*\*That the AIS accept the items from the AIS Library for the 2009 Silent Auction. **Motion carried.**

**Tax Exemption Advisor** - Chair Bob Plank reported that the need for his assistance in helping Regions, Affiliates, and AIS sections in obtaining 501(c)(3) tax exempt status, has slowed down to a trickle.

**Photo Contest** - Chair Kitty Loberg reported that one new category was added to the photo contest. A discussion was held about the prescreening of the photos due to the large number of entries that have been received. Loberg also noted about possible changes that are to be implemented for the 2010 photo contest.

**Policy** - Chair Jeanne Clay Plank reported on the search for old AIS policy papers.

**Publications** - Chair Maureen Mark was not in attendance, but her report noted the projects in progress.

**Public Relations** - Chair Bob Pries reported on his accomplishments over the last four years. Pries stated that he wants the AIS Wiki to be available to all, not just only the AIS membership.

\*Jones moved and Snyder seconded:

\*\*That the access to AIS Wiki be made available to the general public and that all entries be reviewed prior to being entered in the wiki. **Motion carried.** Pries reported on working with the American Public Gardens Association.

\*Pries moved and J Plank seconded:

\*\*That the Public Relations Chair be given authority to collaborate with the American Public Gardens Association to create national collections of iris within AIS members' gardens and botanical gardens. **Motion carried.**

**Scientific Advisory Committee** - Chair Gary White reported on the two ongoing studies of Dr. Alan Meerow and Andrew Wheeler. White reported on the AIS board's request that the committee develop/reinstate a policy on registration of wild iris plants.

\*White moved and and Jones seconded:

\*\*That clones of an iris species collected in the wild may be registered and the registration fee will be waived. The only requirements will be: The registrant will provide: the name of the collector, location of where the specimen was collected and the date when the specimen was collected, which information will be noted on the registration form. Note: the location should include at a minimum at the State and County in the U.S.A., and distance from a populated place, or regional location in other countries. GPS data would be most desirable. The exact location data will be made available only to bona fide researchers upon written request and with the approval of the scientific committee. **Motion carried.**

**Silent Auction** - Chairs Barbara and John Sautner were not present at this meeting, but their report noted the continued success of the AIS Silent auction.

**Youth** - Chair Cheryl Deaton announced that the Cosgrove winner and the first runner-up are present at the convention. White announced the winners of the Ackerman Essay contest. They are: Karinna Copeland, Region 6 (12 and under age group) and Kyle Pedersen, Region 21 (13 and up age group).

**Report of the Nominating Committee** - Chair Hal Griffie presented the slate of nominees for consideration as candidates for the four director positions on The American Iris Society Board of Directors: Ruth Barker (4), Jody Nolin (6), Barbara Sautner (8), Susan Boyce (12), John Jones (14), Lynn Williams (14), Dana Brown (17), Debra Strauss (17), and Hugh Stout (22).

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

The Board of Directors went into executive session from 9:10 pm until 10:00 pm.

Tuesday, May 12, 2009 - the meeting reconvened at 8:06 pm.

President Epperson announced the Director nominees selected for the three year terms which will expire in 2012. They are: Ruth Barker, John Jones, Jody Nolin, and Lynn Williams.

**Advertising Editor** - Bob Keup reported that some of the advertisements are still being sent to the Suttons instead of him.

**RVP Counselor** - Chair Rita Gormley reported on the extremely successful meeting held earlier in the day. Gormley announced the following election results from the Board of Counselors meeting. For 2010: Chair, Carrie Winters (Region 4) and Secretary, Debra Strauss (Region 17). The Nominating Committee Representatives are Hal Griffie (Region 3) and Jim Reilly (Region 23). The RVP Board Representative for 2009-2010 is Debra Strauss (Region 17).

**Ad Hoc Committee Report:** Jill Bonino reported on the proposal from the ad hoc committee that was held earlier in the day.

\*Jones moved and Bonino seconded:

\*\*That effective October 1, 2009 thru September 30, 2010, if a person/couple join AIS for a triennial single or dual membership, either a new membership or a renewing membership from a single or dual one year membership, AND join at least one AIS Section or Cooperating Society for a triennial membership, THEN all memberships will run for FOUR years for the price of THREE years. This special member discount plan will not apply to any AIS Section or Cooperating society that does not agree to accept the four years-for-three cost discount. This plan is to be announced in the July 2009 AIS Bulletin. **Motion carried.**

**Section Liaison** - Jim Morris reported on the Section meeting that was held earlier in the day, and the status of the request of the Canadian Iris Society. Morris announced that Ken Roberts will be the section representative to the AIS Nominating Committee. Morris reported that the Society for Louisiana Irises are withdrawing their request to change from a Cooperating Society to becoming an AIS Section. Morris also reported that the Median Iris Society will host a mini convention April 14-16, 2011 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, with Perry Dyer as the chairman.

**Foundation** - Liaison Gary White reported on two requests for funding. The first one is the Presby Memorial gardens for \$17,000, which will not be funded. The second request is for John Kaufmann for \$5,000 to fund the study on Iris Herbicide Evaluation proposal. This study will be to evaluate several different herbicides on the market to see their effects on irises when applied directly onto the irises. The Foundation will be funding this proposal. White noted that Roger Mazur will totally retire from the Foundation board after serving for a very long time.

**Symposium** - Chair Gerry Snyder reported on the upcoming symposium ballot.

**Nominating Committee Appointments** - President Epperson announced the appointment of Paul Gossett and Cheryl Deaton as Board representatives to the 2010 AIS Nominating Committee. Gossett and Deaton will join Hal Griffie (RVP), Jim Reilly (RVP), and Ken Roberts (Sections) as members of this Committee.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The Fall Board Meeting will be held November 6-8, 2009 at the Radisson Inn Airport Hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma. 2009 Fall Meeting Chair, Paul Gossett may be reached at [pwgossett@juno.com](mailto:pwgossett@juno.com) or (918) 742-1204.

The Spring 2010 AIS Board Meeting and Convention will be held May 31-June 5, 2010 in Madison, Wisconsin.

President Epperson expressed sincere appreciation on behalf of the Board to Debora Hughes and Carolyn Ash, co-chairs and their committees. Special thanks go out to Judy Keisling and Paul Gossett for their assistance in making this convention a smooth one, and also commended them in the way the meetings were set up as to the meetings not overlapping one another.

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Boyce