

Minutes of the Sept 27, 2023, AIS Zoom Board Meeting

In attendance:

Andi Rivarola (15) - President, Convention Liaison (temporary), Social Media Chair, Strategic Planning Chair, Membership Development Chair, Bulletin Editorial Board Chair

Bonnie Jean Nichols (17) - 1st VP, Judges Chair, Handbook Revision Chair

Howie Dash (23) - 2nd VP, RVP Counselor, Audit Chair

Claire Schneider (15) - AIS Secretary, Recording Secretary

Jill Bonino (15) – AIS Treasurer, Foundation Liaison, Foundation Treasurer (absent)

Jody Nolin (6) - Immediate Past President, Honorary Awards Chair, Affiliate Liaison

John Ludi (13) – Publication Sales Director, Convention 2024 Co-Chair

Jane Milliman (2) - Bulletin editor (absent)

Cheryl Deaton (15) - Director, Youth Chair

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

Heather Haley (4) - Director, World of Irises Blog Manager

Janis Shackelford (15) – Director, Registrar/Recorder, Image Coordinator, Policy, RVP 15

Jean Richter (14) - Director, Membership Secretary , Iris Programs Digital

Linda Wilkie (21) - Director, Advertising

Lorene Crone (7) – Director, Electronic Services

Mike Reed (17) – Director, RVP 17, Annual Awards

Phyllis Wilburn (14) – Director, Section & Cooperating Society Liaison

Scarlett Ayres (23) – Director (absent)

Susan Driver (7) – Director, Calendars, Photo Contest Chair

Wayne Messer (21) - Director, News & Notes, Electronic Services

Margaret Kelly (9) - RVP 9, RVP Representative

Anna Cadd (14) - Spuria Iris Society VP

Beth Train (15) - Region 15 JT Chair

Bob Pries (4) - Encyclopedia Manager, Gardens, Public Relations & Marketing Co-Chair

Carol Cullen (14) - Region 14 JT Chair

Carolyn Hoover (14) - RVP 14

Catherine Mason (10) – RVP 10

Charlotte Brennand (12) - RVP 12

Christine Dickinson (14)

Delane Langton (11) - Convention 2025 Co-Chair

Fred Pedersen (6) - RVP 6

Gary White (21) - Finance, Webinars

Gerry Snyder (15)

Harriet Robinson (1) - RVP 1

Ivan Craig (15)

Jan Blaedel (13)

Janice Hull (5) – RVP 5
Jeanette Graham (11) - RVP 11
Jim Palmer (22)
Kenneth Duke (5)
Michelle Snyder (15) - Insurance
Veronica Johnson (18) - Counsel

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 PM PDT. A quorum was present.

1. Approval of the minutes from the August 23, 2023, Zoom AIS Meeting - Claire Schneider

Motion 1: Motion to approve the minutes.

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

REPORTS

2. AIS Encyclopedia (the wiki) – Bob Pries

A digital report was posted. By the end of September, there will be approximately 161,000 users. Doug Chyz has been updating the Encyclopedia with the primary AIS awards now back as far as 1975. Another project has been to create pages for each convention, past and future. An illustrated checklist is being worked on, currently with more than 1000 registrations. Another project is creating image galleries for the classes of iris. Kate Brewitt and Terry Lauren have been working on the checklist with the assistance of John Black.

Bob requested photos for the *AIS Encyclopedia* in several categories: past conventions, irids, and hybridizers. It would be helpful if the photo would be identified with the names of people and/or name of the gardens.

Bob described the **Other Irids** section of the *AIS Encyclopedia* with pages for over 1000 species, cultivars, and hybrids in the iris family.

3. Update on the unregistered irises coming out of Europe – Bob Pries

Bob reported that the name and contact information of the person merchandizing the unregistered, so-called “dinner plate” irises has been acquired. A letter is being crafted to ask this person to register these Japanese irises. Unregistered irises are not eligible for AIS awards. The names of unregistered irises are not vetted and in some cases, there are two or more irises with the same name or very similar names.

In some cases, unscrupulous characters are renaming registered irises, as if the iris were their own creation.

4. Insurance – Michelle Snyder

A digital report was posted, information only. Post COVID-19, more certificates are being issued. There were seven in 2020-2021 and 40 in 2022-2023. The policy has been renewed and all is good with issues.

5. Calendar – Susan Driver

Digital report was posted.

Motion 2: To accept the pricing for the AIS 2025 Calendar.
Motion by Doug Chyz and seconded by Jody Nolin. Motion approved.
The bid is from Sundance Press to print 750 calendars, each of 24 pages. With postage, the total cost would be \$2110.00

6. Photo Contest 2023 – Susan Driver

The contest ended August 1. There were 225 entries last year, this year there were 425 entries. All the judging has been completed and prizes issued to the winners. Thank you to the AIS membership chair for providing addresses.

Susan plans to redesign the entry form, especially to allow entry form and photos to be submitted all in one email. She also plans to write an article or two about how to take a better photograph. A suggestion was to create a webinar on how to take a better photograph. Bob Pries volunteered to create a gallery in the wiki that would contain all the entries in the photo contest.

Thank you, Susan, for doing such a fine job with the photo contest and AIS calendar.

7. News & Notes – Wayne Messer

A digital report was posted, information only. The latest issue dealt with the AIS award winners. Anyone with an idea for an article or a need to report a project or event should send an email to Wayne. *News & Notes* is emailed to every AIS member. An easy way to contact Wayne is to reply to the *News & Notes* email.

Thank you, Wayne, for keeping up with all the AIS news in such a timely manner.

8. Digital Programs – Jean Richter

A digital report was posted, information only. Most of the requests for digital programs arrive during iris season and at the beginning of the year. Jean asked for ideas for new programs to add to the collection. Programs are distributed by email or through a link to a Google drive.

9. Iris Speakers – Hooker Nichols

A digital report was posted. Forty speakers are on the list. Interestingly, some of the speaker requests have come from garden clubs.

UPDATES & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10. Convention 2025 – Delane Langton

This summer 2100 irises were planted in the convention garden, Billings, Montana. After all their hard work, Delane and Jane spent a week in Glacier National Park. Delane shared a couple views of the park, hoping to encourage convention visitors to extend their stay to visit the nearby parks. Yellowstone National Park is also nearby.

NEW BUSINESS

11. Official Fall Board Meeting – Andi Rivarola

The first weekend in November traditionally, has been the official fall Board meeting. This year, it will be a Zoom meeting on Saturday, November 4th, 9 am Pacific Daylight Time. The plan is to complete as much business as possible at the October 25th regular Board meeting and November 4th official Fall Meeting so we can skip a December meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

12. Webinar – Gary White

The next webinar will be on Saturday, October 28th at 10:30 am PDT. Bob Pries will present a program on the “Other Irids” in the Iridaceae family. He has over 1000 photos of these other irids.

Gary asked for a volunteer to present a webinar on photography.

The next AIS Board of Directors meeting will be October 25, 2023, 5 pm PDT via Zoom. The official AIS Fall Meeting will be November 4, 2023, 9 am PDT via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 5:58 pm PDT.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Schneider