

Minutes of the AIS Fall Board hybrid meeting, November 2, 2024

NOTE: The attendance is located at the end of these Minutes.

The meeting was called to order at 10:32 am CST. There had been a technical problem connecting the Zoom attendees with the in-person meeting, which delayed the start of the meeting by 30 minutes.

A quorum was present. Andi Rivarola was absent due to an illness, so Bonnie Nichols, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, became the presiding officer. Bonnie welcomed the new and returning AIS Board of Directors: Jean Richter (returning), Margaret Kelly (new), Josh Winzer (New), and Beth Train (new). She also gave each of the departing directors a Certificate of Appreciation: Janis Shackelford, Wayne Messer, and Phyllis Wilburn, to say “Thank you, for your years of service to AIS”.

Gary White was appointed parliamentarian.

1. Approve the Minutes of September 25 Zoom Board Meeting – Claire Schneider

**Motion 1:** To approve the Minutes of the September 25 meeting.

Motion by Janis Shackelford and seconded by Mike Reed. Motion approved.

**REPORTS**

2. Awards & Ballots – Mike Reed

Using a PowerPoint program, Mike described the current situation with his supply of Wister Medals and a proposal for acquiring new medals: to engage Medal Craft to create the two dies (front and back) and produce the engraved medals. Included in the cost would be a presentation box for each medal, making a total price of \$203 for each medal. According to the *Handbook of Judges*, the Wister Medal is provided by AIS and not by The Tall Bearded Iris Society (TBIS). Mike was asked to contact TBIS about contributing to the cost of these new Wister Medals. There was a discussion about what to do with the 28 remaining Wister Medals, all of which have major flaws. Perhaps donate one to each AIS Region and one to the AIS Library. There was a discussion about the shape of the Medal: should it be round or square?

**Motion 2:** To allocate \$8500 to purchase thirty newly designed Wister Medals, which should last for the next ten years. [Note: this allocation would include the creation of the two die-casts.]

Motion by Jody Nolin and seconded by Linda Wilkie. Motion approved.

### 3. Membership – Jean Richter

A digital report was posted. Currently there are 2834 individual members which is an increase of 60 members. The full memberships are the most popular. There has not been much change in AIS Regional memberships. Region 14 is still the largest with Regions 10, 12, and 24 having the smallest memberships.

The Integrated Online System (IOS) does not show the AIS membership join date before 2016 which is something that judges chairs need to know. Jean will ask Tim Valenzuela to produce a report with join dates.

Thank you, Jean. Your reports are so complete and you are so easy to work with.

### 4. Storefront Sales – John and Kay Ludi

Three reports were posted: Storefront Report Fall 2024, Storefront Inventory Fall 2024, and Storefront Sales Fall 2024. John has received a number of requests for the revised *Basic Iris Culture* booklet, which is still in production. He reported that since the end of September, he has sold 63 of the AIS 2025 Calendars and still has a large supply. Jean Richter, membership secretary, urged for a speedy completion of the *Basic Iris Culture* booklet. She sends a copy to each new AIS member and her inventory is low.

**Motion 3:** To authorize the printing of 1000 copies of a colorized *Basic Iris Culture* booklet, to be printed for approximately \$9500.

Motion by Jill Bonino and seconded by Beth Train. Motion approved.

### 5. Symposium – Riley Probst

Riley was absent and no report was provided.

### 6. Foundation – Jill Bonino

A digital report was posted. Financially, it has been a good year. Investments and capital gains have done very well. There have not been any new requests for funding. Work continues on the AIS Library. Donations to the AIS Foundation can be made in wills. A suggestion that a webinar be organized that describes the different types of donations to AIS and explains how to donate.

Discussion: The Foundation has two investment portfolios: the Foundation and the DeBose Trust. Capital gains, interest, and dividends from the Foundation account are used for AIS operations and expenses. Capital gains from the DeBose Trust remain in the Trust. Only the interest and dividends from that account are transferred into the Foundation account.

Research projects currently supported by the AIS Foundation will end soon, which is to say, the Foundation welcomes applications for new research projects that involve iris.

#### 7. Iris Programs Speakers – Hooker Nichols

A digital report was posted, information only. A list of programs is on the AIS website and will be discussed at the next Affiliate Work Group meeting.

There have been few inquiries for programs. Bonnie asked for a volunteer to fill this position which is being vacated by Hooker.

### **FALL MEETING ACTIONS**

#### 8. Judges Report and approval of Judges for 2025 – Bonnie Nichols

A digital report was posted along with “Recommendation 2025 for Judges” a list of all AIS judges sorted by AIS Region “As of today, we have 369 judges, ranging from apprentice through emeritus.” Unfortunately, twelve judges were dropped due to non-payment of AIS dues, even with a 90-day grace period and multiple reminders.

Bonnie encouraged all show chairs to offer new garden/exhibition judges the opportunity to be a member of exhibition judging panels.

Discussion: A suggestion was that artistic design judges be given a certificate that indicates their achievement. According to the *Handbook for Judges*, a retired judge may serve as a show judge as long as they serve on a panel with at least one fully accredited judge. Only one retired judge may serve on any panel.

A suggestion was that contact information be added to the list of judges. Currently, show chairs obtain contact information for a judge by contacting the judges training chair of that AIS Region. It would be more efficient if some contact information such as an email address, were included on this spreadsheet.

**Motion 4:** to approve the judges for 2025 as presented.

Motion by Margaret Kelly and seconded by Lorene Crone. Motion approved.

#### 9. RVP Report and approval of RVPs for 2025 – Howie Dash

A digital report was posted along with a list of RVPs, as of fall 2024. In the past, the RVPs met once a year. The goal now is for the RVPs to meet four times a year: in January to go over the affiliation process, prior to the spring AIS Board meeting, in July just before the Symposium ballot deadline, and in October at the time of many changes of RVP officers.

Howie thanked the outgoing RVPs: Margaret Kelly, Catherine Mason, Charlotte Brennand, Carolyn Hoover, Jim Hedgecock, and Josh Winzer. He then welcomed the new RVPs: Debra Miller, Cynthia Maldonado, Bryan Earl, Dan Williams, Eric Tansley-

Clarke, and Katherin Smith. Robin Kishbaugh was elected to complete the term of Jacqueline Pountnay. Katerina Bergeron has agreed to serve a fourth year. Despite the continued efforts of Jody Nolin and Lorene Crone, AIS Region 24 continues to have issues.

#### List of RVPs as of Fall 2024

Region 1 – Harriet Robinson, year 3  
Region 2 – Cara Hutchings, year 3  
Region 3 – George Hildenbrandt, year 2  
Region 4 – Anita Moran, year 2  
Region 5 – Janice Hull, year 3  
Region 6 – Fred Pedersen, year 3  
Region 7 – Lorene Crone, year 2  
Region 8 – Katerina Bergeron, year 4\*  
Region 9 – Debra Miller, year 1  
Region 10 – Cynthia Maldonado, year 1  
Region 11 – Jeanette Graham, year 3  
Region 12 – Bryan Earl, year 1  
Region 13 – John Vacchiery, year 2  
Region 14 – Dan Williams, year 1  
Region 15 – Beth Train, year 2  
Region 17 – Michael Reed, year 3  
Region 18 – Eric Tankesley-Clarke, year 1  
Region 20 – Linda Baumgartner, year 3  
Region 21 – Michael Becker, year 3  
Region 22 – Katherin Smith, year 1  
Region 23 – Robin Kishbaugh, year 3\*  
Region 24 – vacant

**Motion 5:** to approve the RVP list for 2025.

Motion by Scarlett Ayres and seconded by Susan Driver. Motion approved.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### 10. Exhibition Supplies Announcement – Nick Stewart

A digital letter was posted advising the AIS Board that Nick will continue as exhibition supplies chair through 2025 unless someone volunteers to take this position before that. After the 2025 season, Nick plans to retire.

Several of the Board members thanked Nick for all his service to the AIS.

**At this time, the meeting took a lunch break.**

### **FALL MEETING ACTIONS (continued)**

#### 11. Treasurer, Budget, & Finance – Jill Bonino

Digital reports posted: Treasurer's Report Fall 2024, AIS Assets 93024, Draft Budget 93025, Plby Operations 093024, and Restricted Funds 93024.

Financially, the AIS had a very good year with investments paying more than expected. The investments are set for low risk and high dividend incomes. There was a little loss in a few of the departments last year, which has been covered by income from AIS investments. For next year, \$20,000 has been allocated to a restricted 2026 AIS Convention Fund and \$15,000 to the restricted Electronic Services Fund.

Josh Winzer, new AIS Board director, has agreed to be the back-up AIS treasurer. His firm has agreed to take over the tax preparation of the 990 and 990T forms for AIS.

Next, Jill went through the categories of the 2024-2025 AIS Budget, adjusting the financial figures to reflect input from Board members. Income from the general funds is projected to be \$64,485. After including a loss from restricted funds of \$8230, the net total for the draft budget of 2024-2025 will be \$56,255.

John Ludi recalled that a motion was approved at the June meeting of the Board of Directors to allocate \$5300 for the printing of 1000 copies of the revised *Basic Iris Culture* booklet, colorized and updated. Thus, Motion 3 from this morning needs to be rescinded.

**Motion 6:** To rescind the original motion [Motion 3] this morning for the printing of the color version of the *Basic Iris Culture* booklet.

Motion by Jill Bonino and seconded by Susan Driver. Motion approved.

**Motion 7:** to approve the 2024-2025 AIS budget as presented and amended by Jill Bonino.

Motion by Claire Schneider and seconded by Jody Nolin. Motion approved.

Thank you, Jill Bonino, for all your detailed charts and attention to the finances of the AIS.

### **UPDATES & UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was a question about the AIS Board meeting which is on the schedule of the 2025 AIS Convention in Billings, Montana. At this time, the plan is for the April 23, 2025 AIS Board Meeting to be the AIS Spring Meeting and that its format be a Zoom meeting. Instead of a Board meeting at Billings, a suggestion was to have a reception or welcome square dance.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (only open to AIS Board members)**

12. Emeritus Judges – Bonnie Nichols

Done

13. Honorary Awards – Jody Nolin

Done

**BACK in OPEN SESSION**

14. Announcement of Emeritus Judges – Bonnie Nichols

Three people were honored as emeritus judge: Jill Bonino, Robert Treadway, and Andi Rivarola. Congratulations to all of you!!

15. Honorary Awards – Jody Nolin

Andi Rivarola was honored with the AIS Gold Medal. Well done, Andi!!

**ELECTION of AIS OFFICERS**

**Motion 8:** to elect by acclamation the following as AIS officers.

President – Bonnie Nichols

First VP – Howie Dash

Second VP – TBA

Secretary – Claire Schneider

Treasurer – Jill Bonino

Motion by Scarlett Ayres and seconded by Jody Nolin. Because this motion was by acclamation, a vote was unnecessary.

**Motion 9:** to name Lorene Crone as AIS 2<sup>nd</sup> VP and Robert Treadway to fill the director term vacated by Lorene Crone, which expires at the beginning of the AIS Fall Board meeting, November 2025.

Motion by Claire Schneider and seconded by Scarlett Ayres. Motion approved. Congratulations to Lorene! Welcome Robert Treadway!

**APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND OTHER OFFICERS – Bonnie Nichols**

Affiliate Chair – Jody Nolin

Audit Committee – Howie Dash

Awards – Michael Reed

Bulletin Editorial Board (BEB) – Andi Rivarola

Calendars – Susan Driver

Convention Liaison – Andi Rivarola

Electronic Services – Linda Wilkie

Encyclopedia Manager – Bob Pries

Exhibitions Schedules – Olga Batalov

Exhibition Supplies – Nick Stewart

Exhibition Reports – Adam Cordes

Finance Committee – Gary White

Foundation Liaison – Jill Bonino

Garden – Bob Pries

**Garden National Collection – OPEN**

**Garden Display and Test Garden – OPEN**

General Counsel – Veronica Johnson

**Honorary Awards – Andi Rivarola (new)**

Image Coordinator – Janis Shackelford

Insurance – Michelle Snyder

Iris Program Resources Digital – Jean Richter

**Iris Program Resources Speakers – OPEN**

**Judges – Lorene Crone (new)**

**Judges Handbook Revision – Claire Schneider (new)**

Library – Robert Hollingworth

Membership Development Committee – Andi Rivarola

Membership Secretary – Jean Richter

Photo Contest – Susan Driver

Policy – Janis Shackelford

Public Relations & Marketing – Bob Pries and Doug Chyz

Public Relations & Marketing *News & Notes* – Wayne Messer

Registrar – Janis Shackelford

RVP Counselor – Howie Dash

**RVP Representative – Harriet Robinson (new)**

Scientific Advisory Committee – Robert Hollingworth

Section & Cooperating Society Liaison – **OPEN**

**Silent Auction – OPEN**

Social Media – Andi Rivarola

Storefront – John Ludi

Strategic Planning Committee – Andi Rivarola

Symposium – **OPEN**

Webinars - Gary White

*World of Irises* blog – Heather Haley

Youth – Carolyn Hoover

**Motion 10:** to issue a credit card to Bonnie Nichols, the new AIS president.  
Motion by Lorene Crone and seconded by Mike Reed. Motion approved.

Discussion: the maximum amount on this card is \$15,000.

**Motion 11 (amended):** to approve a banking resolution that will authorize Bonnie Nichols, the new AIS president, and Jill Bonino, AIS treasurer, as signatories and remove Andi Rivarola as an authorized signatory on the AIS bank and investments accounts.

To add Josh Winzer as the third signatory on the AIS checking accounts.

Motion by Lorene Crone and seconded by Beth Train. Motion approved.

Discussion: On the investment accounts, there are four signatories: AIS president, treasurer, 1<sup>st</sup> VP and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP. Regarding the AIS checking accounts (Wells Fargo and US Bank), Jill suggested that Josh Winzer be added as an authorized signatory. These changes can be made by gathering everyone on Facetime. Josh Winzer was asked to become the back-up treasurer for the AIS Foundation.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### Webinars – Gary White

Two webinars are in the planning stage. Karen Wigglesworth, of New Zealand, wrote a book about the 1920-1960 iris introductions of Jean Stevens. We might see her program about Jean Stevens early in 2025. Chuck Chapman has a program on broken color irises and the science behind broken color that is planned for a webinar.

Gary reported that these two new webinars will bring the total number to 40. Gary continues to receive requests for more judges training (JT) webinars. Any volunteers?

The next Affiliate Work Group meeting will be November 14, 2025. The topic will be communication. Wayne Messer was invited to speak about Constant Contact. All are welcome to attend.



The next AIS ZOOM Board Meeting will be January 22, 2025 at 5 pm PST.

**ADJOURNED** at 3:05 pm CST

**Attendance, Nov 2:**

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

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

Howie Dash (23) - 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, RVP Counselor, Audit Chair **(Zoom)**

Claire Schneider (15) - AIS Secretary, Recording Secretary

Jill Bonino (15) – AIS Treasurer, Foundation Treasurer

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

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

Jane Milliman (2) – Editor of *IRISES, the AIS Bulletin* **(absent)**

Beth Balaney-Train (15) – Director, RVP 15

Carolyn Hoover (14) – Director, AIS Youth Chair, RVP 14

Doug Chyz (5) - Director, Public Relations & Marketing Committee Co-Chair **(by Zoom)**

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

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

Josh Winzer (22) – Director, RVP 22, Nominating Committee

Linda Wilkie (21) - Director, Advertising Sales Chair, Electronic Services Co-Chair, AIS Webmaster

Lorene Crone (7) – Director, Electronic Services Co-Chair, RVP 7

Margaret Kelly (9) – Director, RVP 9, RVP Representative

Mike Reed (17) – Director, RVP 17, Awards & Ballots Chair

Scarlett Ayres (23) – Director

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

Harriet Robinson (1) – RVP rep to the Board, RVP 1 **(by Zoom)**

Christine Dickinson (14) **(by Zoom)**

David Kelly (9)

Gary White (21) - Finance Committee Chair, Webinars Chair

Gerry Snyder (15) **(by Zoom)**

Hooker Nichols (17) – Iris Programs Speakers

Jan Blaedel (14) **(by Zoom)**

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

Kate Brewitt (2) **(by Zoom)**

Ken Duke (5) **(by Zoom)**

Mason Train (15)

Nick Stewart (22) **(by Zoom)**

Phyllis Wilburn (14) – Section & Cooperating Society Liaison Chair

Wayne Messer (21) - *News & Notes* Editor **(by Zoom)**

Respectfully submitted,  
Claire Schneider