Minutes of the AIS Zoom Board meeting, September 25, 2024

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

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

1. Minutes of August 28 Zoom Board Meeting – Claire Schneider
Motion 1: To approve the Minutes of the August 28 meeting with corrections from two people.
Motion by Janis Shackelford and seconded by Bonnie Nichols. Motion approved.

REPORTS
2. Calendar – Susan Driver
A digital report was posted, information only.
John Ludi asked that the number of printed copies of the AIS 2026 Calendar be reduced to 600 copies. He still has many copies of the 2025 Calendar in the Storefront and suggested that AIS doesn't need that many leftovers of the 2026 Calendar. John has posted a notice in the next *News & Notes* about the surplus of 2025 Calendars.

3. Photo Contest – Susan Driver
A digital report was posted, information only. Sixty-five adult and 6 youth participants submitted a total of 342 photos. The contest results and photos have also been sent to the AIS webmaster, AIS editor, and AIS Bulletin Editorial Board. Susan thanked the hybridizers who contributed rhizomes for the winners: Rick Tasco, Mike Sutton, Hugh Stout, Terry Aitken, Hooker Nichols, Linda Miller, Thomas Johnson, Howie Dash and Delane Langton. She also thanked the judges: Heather Haley, Earnie Royal and Bonnie Nichols.

4. Digital Programs – Jean Richter
A digital report was posted, information only. In addition to a pdf, the actual list of digital programs has been posted on the AIS website. Jean requested donations of more digital programs, especially of beardless irises and programs that are germane to specific geographical areas such as the Southwest or the Midwest. Most programs are in a PowerPoint format and are available either as a downloadable program attached to an email or as a link to a Google Drive, if too large to be attached to an email.

5. PR and Marketing – Bob Pries & Doug Chyz
A digital report was posted, information only. Bob has been interviewed by a *Garden* writer for an article about native irises. A link on the *Iris Encyclopedia (the wiki)* to a

spreadsheet of iris exhibitions has been set up and continues to be updated by Doug. Today, Bob received a request for information about how affiliates could create and manage a website. Wayne Messer has created web pages in the *Iris Encyclopedia* and on the AIS website for affiliates. At the next AIS Board meeting there will be an update about a template for creating a website within the AIS organization. Jody Nolin will survey attendees at the next Affiliate Work Group meeting about their need for a website template.

6. *Iris Encyclopedia* (the wiki) – Bob Pries

A digital report was posted, information only. Bob began his report by saying there were 453,007 unique visitors to the *Iris Encyclopedia* (the wiki) in September. But this is a lie!! Bob said. About 80% of those "visitors" are from China and after conferring with Tim Valenzuela, the conclusion is that these "visitors" are Chinese bots. The question is, what are the bots doing? And is there a way to know how many real visits there are to the *Iris Encyclopedia*?

The join button (membership) has been added to the wiki. Bob proposed that a donation button be added periodically to the wiki, a button similar to what sometimes is seen on the Wikipedia website. Coding should be added to allow the donor to direct their donation to a specific AIS program. Next was a discussion about phishing and the security of emails.

7. Image Coordinator – Janis Shackelford

A digital report was posted. Currently, the Online Iris Register only accepts photos that are larger than 1 MB. If the photo is smaller, it is returned to the hybridizer with a request for a photo with a larger resolution. Janis has received a couple of requests to reduce the size required of photos that are submitted with a registration. She asked the AIS Board to approve a reduction in resolution for photos submitted with an iris registration. This would require a change to the registration form in the Online Integrated System. Janis said that a reduction to 600 KB would be acceptable.

UPDATES & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8. AIS Fall Board Meeting – Bonnie Nichols

Because of low registration for the AIS Fall Meeting, the meeting venue and hotel have been changed. The Board will be meeting at the Farmer's Branch Recreation Center. Bonnie has reserved a 15-passenger van to transport attendees to the Rec Center. The plan is that attendees will stay at a common hotel near the airport making it more efficient to transport everyone to the meeting. The Fall Meeting will be a one-day event with an estimated cost of $1200. Because this AIS Board Meeting will be a hybrid

Zoom meeting, an effort will be made to prepare the room for open communication among all participants. Tentatively, the meeting will begin at 9 am Dallas time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Jill Bonino announced that she is working on the AIS budgets for the fiscal year 2024-2025. She requested that all AIS programs send their estimated income and expenses, ASAP.

The next AIS ZOOM Board Meeting will be October 23, 2024 at 5 pm PDT, maybe.

ADJOURNED at 6:25 pm PDT

In attendance:
Andi Rivarola (15) - President, Convention Liaison (temporary), Social Media Chair, Strategic Planning Chair, Membership Development Committee Chair, Bulletin Editorial Board (BEB) 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 Treasurer
Jody Nolin (6) - Immediate Past President, Honorary Awards Chair, Affiliate Liaison
John Ludi (13) – Publication Sales Director, Convention 2024 Co-Chair
Jane Milliman (2) – Editor of *IRISES, the AIS Bulletin* **(absent)**

Carolyn Hoover (14) – Director, AIS Youth Chair, RVP 14
Doug Chyz (5) - Director, Public Relations & Marketing Committee Co-Chair
Heather Haley (4) - Director, *World of Irises* Blog Manager
Janis Shackelford (15) – Director, Registrar/Recorder, Image Coordinator, Policy

Jean Richter (14) - Director, Membership Secretary, Digital Iris Programs
Linda Wilkie (21) - Director, Advertising Sales Chair, Electronic Services Co-Chair, AIS Webmaster
Lorene Crone (7) – Director, Electronic Services Co-Chair, RVP 7 **(absent)**
Mike Reed (17) – Director, RVP 17, Annual Awards Chair

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

Scarlett Ayres (23) – Director
Susan Driver (7) – Director, Calendars Chair, Photo Contest Chair
Wayne Messer (21) - Director, *News & Notes* Editor
Margaret Kelly (9) - RVP 9, RVP Representative

Beth Balaney-Train (15) – RVP 15
Bob Pries (4) – Encyclopedia Manager, Gardens Coordinator,
                        Public Relations & Marketing Co-Chair
Carol Cullen (14) – Region 14 JT Chair
Charlotte Brennand (12) – RVP 12
Christine Dickinson (14)
Dean Richards (4)
Gary White (21) - Finance Committee Chair, Webinars Chair
Gerry Snyder (15)
Harriet Robinson (1) - RVP 1
Janice Hull (5) – RVP 5
Jeanette Graham (11) - RVP 11
Josh Winzer (22) – RVP 22, Nominating Committee
Lois Rose (4)
Mason Train (15)
Olga Batalov (15) – Exhibition Schedules

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Schneider