

AIS BOARD ZOOM MEETING MINUTES February 26, 2025

Note: The attendance is located at the end of these minutes.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm MT (5:00 pm PST) by AIS 1st VP Howard Dash, in the absence of Bonnie Nichols who is unable to attend due to illness. Howie welcomed the attendees.

A quorum was present.

1. Minutes of the AIS Zoom Meeting January 22, 2025- Beth Train

Correction by Claire Schneder: Attendance - Linda Wilke was not present.

Motion 1: To accept the minutes of the January meeting as corrected.

Motion by Lorene Crone, seconded by Margaret Kelly. Motion carried..

REPORTS

2. Membership Development-Andi Rivarola

Proposal posted, action required.

\$10 annual membership special to run from March 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025. For new members only, and for those who have lapsed their membership for over a year. Print or Full Membership qualify for this offer. Aim: 750 new members with \$10,230.00 as the proposed request for funding from the AIS Board.

DISCUSSION:

Jill Bonino reported that the AIS budget will be able to cover the cost of this membership drive. The newly revised *Basic Iris Culture* booklet will be available online for the new e-members and full members. Only the new print members will receive a hard copy. At this time, it is unknown how many people have renewed their AIS membership after joining in last year's membership drive. To gather this information would require a change to the Online Integrated System.

There was a suggestion to extend the membership drive to November 1st so it could be publicized at fall iris shows.

Motion 2: That the AIS Board approves the 2025 Membership Drive as outlined by the AIS Membership Development Committee's proposal, with a budget expense cap of \$10,230 to run from March 1st to November 1st, 2025.

Motion by Andi Rivarola, seconded by Jill Bonino. Motion carried.

3. Publicity proposal from AHS - Gary White

Gary and Bob Pries attended a meeting with the Consortium of American Plant Societies (CAPS), where an announcement was made by the American Horticultural

Society (AHS) about increasing membership and involving more plant societies. Their plan is to offer reciprocal ads: AIS publishes one of their ads in the *Bulletin* or in *News and Notes* while AHS publishes an AIS ad in one of their publications. The PR Committee should be strongly involved with this.

Motion 3: To accept the proposal with the American Horticultural Society and/or other plant societies for reciprocal advertising with comparable spaces.

Motion by Jill Bonino, seconded by Heather Haley. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION:

This agreement is between AHS and AIS or other AIS sections and other plant societies such as the American Dahlia Society, but not with AIS regions or affiliates. It was suggested that the 2025 AIS membership drive be one of the ads. The details for the reciprocal ads will be worked out by the P.R. and Marketing Committee.

4. Encyclopedia – Bob Pries

A digital report was posted. For information only.

Almost all visits to the wiki were from the USA. Topics looked at frequently this January and February were bulbous irises, novelty irises, and purple-based foliage.

Ongoing projects:

Hybridizer awards and medals: Doug Chyz is adding a table of the hybridizer's awards and medals to the bottom of their hybridizer page.

Registrations by Year Galleries: Kate Brewitt and Terry Laurin are loading the galleries with pictures. Over 700 galleries of pictures for 2024 and so far, about 100 for 2025.

Pedigrees by Year Galleries: There are over 200 iris pedigrees done by Bob, not all complete yet. He is working on 2024 and 2025 registrations. Seedlings are represented by blue dots. Paul Black and Keith Keppel are working with him to get pictures of their seedlings in.

Glaciata page: Bob is adding a page on glaciatas.

The calendar of shows & sales: Doug has been updating the show and sale calendar, so the public can find out shows or sales in their area. At the bottom of the show schedule, there is a link to the sale schedule.

There continues to be a need for wiki workers who could help with (1) adding images to cultivar pages, (2) adding catalog descriptions to cultivar pages, and (3) scanning articles, documents to place in Encyclopedia library. If you can volunteer, please contact Bob Pries

5. Image Coordinator – Janis Shackelford

A digital report was posted. For information only.

6. Registrar – Janis Shackelford

A digital report was posted. For information only.

Some registrations from Australia, a few from Ukraine.

Hybridizers need to notify Janis when they introduce their irises. The 2024 R&I is available from the AIS storefront.

7. Judges Handbook – Claire Schneider

A digital report was posted.

The most significant changes to the *Handbook for Judges* were to align the in-person and virtual show chapters, reordering the points in Chapters 4 and 6 with the virtual chapters 4A and 4B. An entire new edition is in the planning stage because of all the changes that have been made to the *Handbook for Judges* since 2021. Claire will bring this up for Board approval at the next meeting.

8. World of Irises blog – Heather Haley

A digital report was posted. For information only.

A lot of visitors are going to the AIS Blog but not to the newest post. The loss of the Feed Burner in 2021 led to a steep decline in visits to the newest posts. Currently, there are eight options to replace the Feed Burner. These are being evaluated. She is trying to recruit new authors for the Blog. Interesting iris stories would make for fantastic Blog posts.

9. Sections & Cooperating Societies – Robert Treadway

A digital report was posted. For information only.

UPDATES & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10. Symposium – Howard Dash

A digital report was posted.

A special committee met to determine if we will have the Symposium this year. In the past, the Symposium ballot was in the spring issue of the *Bulletin*. Last year, there were 200 replies to the ballot that had been in the *Bulletin*. The year that the Symposium was not in the *Bulletin*, there were 100 replies.

The committee came up with three possibilities:

- 1) continue the Symposium as it stands now. Riley was asked about the possibility of reducing the number of HMs by 25% (from 504 to 258). He presented two versions which are copy ready.
- 2) create a new popularity poll in the fall to replace the spring Symposium. It will be an open-ended poll in Google Forms and will involve the different iris classes.

- 3) to do both this year, with the Tall Bearded Symposium in the reduced format and the popularity poll on the Fall. The committee can work on the poll and have it ready. Then have the membership decide which one they want to continue in the future.

DISCUSSION:

The TB Symposium has been going on for 80 years now. Heather Haley shared a prototype of an online ballot that could be used for the Symposium. An electronic ballot that is emailed and tallied automatically will save the RVPs a lot of work and the results would be almost instantaneous. An electronic ballot would allow sorting the results by geographical regions or states or by whatever method you want.

To better design the Symposium, we should know its purpose. A suggestion was to investigate how difficult and costly it would be to connect it to the Online Integrated System.

POLL of the voting Board members:

How many want to see the TB Symposium to continue with the 258 irises this year?
11 said no, 5 said yes.

Motion 4: To suspend the Tall Bearded Iris Symposium for 2025.

Motion by Harriet Robinson, seconded by Linda Wilke. Motion carried.

POLL of the voting Board members:

Do we want to have a popularity poll this Fall?

All said yes.

Motion 5: To have an electronic popularity poll this Fall.

Motion by Harriet Robinson, seconded by Beth Train. Motion carried

11. Exhibition Supplies – Nick Stewart

A digital report was posted. For information only.

NEW BUSINESS

12. Approve an RVP – Howard Dash

Motion 6: To approve Gary Slagle as Region 3 RVP.

Motion made by Jill Bonino, seconded by Douglas Chyz. Motion carried.

This is effective immediately.

13. Iris Of The Year- Doug Chyz

A digital report was posted. For information only.

The question is should AIS do a certificate? send a frameable copy of the press release? The Dykes Medal winner is the Iris of the Year. A certificate is not necessary.

14. Remembering Friends - Doug Chyz

A digital report was posted.

Jim Morris does a great job with “Remembering Friends”, a column in the *Bulletin*. Currently there is a 10-year holding period on making public the passing of AIS people. Remembrances are posted in the *Bulletin*, which is sent to AIS members, and not available to the public. The question is, should AIS consider allowing the remembrances to be immediately added to the associated pages in the AIS Encyclopedia, open to the public, instead of holding them for ten years?

DISCUSSION:

Caution should be exercised about posting information about deceased members in the open internet. The 10-year hold puts it out of the view of internet identity scavengers. The answer is no.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Webinars – Gary White

No new webinars in the next two months but working on a few for the summer. The last three webinars are now on the AIS YouTube Channel. There are 41 completed webinars to date since July 2020.

The next AIS Zoom Board Meeting will be March 26, 2025 at 5 pm PST

The AIS Spring Board Meeting will be April 23, 2025 at 5 pm PDT, a Zoom meeting.

ADJOURN at 8:00 pm PST.

In attendance (38)

VOTING OFFICERS

Howie Dash (23) – 1st VP, RVP Counselor, Audit Chair

Lorene Crone (7) – 2nd VP, RVP 7, Judges Chair, Electronic Services

Claire Schneider (15) - AIS Secretary, Judges Handbook Chair

Jill Bonino (15) – AIS Treasurer, Foundation Treasurer

Andi Rivarola (15) – immediate past president, Convention Liaison (temporary),
Social Media Chair, Strategic Planning Chair, Membership Development
Committee Chair, Bulletin Editorial Board (BEB) Chair,
2026 AIS Convention co-chair

OTHER OFFICERS (non-voting)

John Ludi (13) – Publication Sales Director

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

DIRECTORS

Beth Train (15) – Director, Recording Secretary, RVP 15

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

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

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

Josh Winzer (22) – Director, AIS treasurer asst.

Margaret Kelly (9) – Director

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

Robert Treadway (22) – Director, Section & Cooperating Society Liaison

Scarlett Ayres (23) – Director

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

Harriet Robinson (1) – Director, RVP Representative, RVP 1

Linda Wilkie (21) - Director, Advertising, Electronic Services

Other guests to Zoom meetings

Anita Moran (4) - RVP 4

Anna Cadd (14) - Spuria Iris Society VP

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

Bryan Earl (12) – RVP 12

Carol Cullen (14) - Region 14 JT Chair

Christine Dickinson (14)

Delane Langton (11) 2025 Convention Co-chair

Gary White (21) - Finance, Webinars, 2026 AIS Conv co-chair

Jody Nolin (6) - Affiliate Chair

Jeannette Graham (11) - RVP 11

Kate Brewitt (2)

Katherin Smith (22) – RVP 22

Olga Batalov (15) – Exhibition Schedules

Phyllis Wilburn (14)

Ken Duke (5)

Tina Muller (11)

Riley Probst (14) – TB Symposium

Wayne Messer (21) - News & Notes

Veronica Johnson- AIS Counsel

Respectfully submitted by Beth Train, Recording Secretary