

Region 14

The American Iris Society

Minutes of Region 14 Spring General Meeting
Modesto, Ca
Saturday, April 25, 2010

By: Phyllis Wilburn, Regional Secretary

Present:

- Executive Committee and General Committee members: RVP Jeanne Plank, ARVP and Judges Training Chair Kathy Braaten, Treasurer Helen Franklin, Secretary Phyllis Wilburn, Director Betty Ford, Director Barbara Pesek, Director Gordon Nicholson, Immediate Past RVP Lynn Williams, Finance Chair Rick Williams, Trophies and Awards Chairs David and Anna Cadd, Internet/Electronic Services Chair Kitty Loberg, Youth Lorraine Nicholson.
- Affiliate Presidents: Carol Dahout, CBRIS; Helen Franklin, JM Gibson; Kathy Braaten, SFIS; Anna Cadd, SRIS; Billie Shea VP High Desert IS; Jeanne Richter, Sydney B. Mitchell IS, Bill Fink for SFIS,

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 am , April 25, 2010 by Jeanne Plank, Regional Vice President (RVP). Since minutes from the January 2010 Budget Meeting had been printed in the Region 14 Bulletin, Winter Edition, they were not read.. No corrections to the published minutes were requested.

Helen Franklin, Treasurer reported on the state of the budget.

Jeanne Plank read a thank you card from the E. Roy Epperson family for the donation made to the AIS General Fund by Region 14 in Dr. Epperson's memory.

Bulletin:

Kitty Loberg, Internet Services Chair, described the implementation of the transition to an electronic Bulletin as agreed to at yesterday's R14 Board Meeting. Kitty and John Jones will work together on the first implementation. In addition affiliates are encouraged to appoint someone in their group to make periodic reports on their activities to the Bulletin editor, Mary Lee Fortner. RVP Plank noted there is now a feature in the Bulletin devoted to memorial notices for members who have passed away. A memorial donation to the region is not necessary to place a deceased member's name in such a column.

Finance:

Rick Williams, Finance Chair, thanked the donors of the baskets and silent auction items that will be used in fundraising at this meeting. He described the raffle and the silent auction process, and said that both would end at tonight's banquet.

Guest Iris Distribution:

Guest Iris Chair, Lynn Williams reported that digging of the guest irises would commence about first week of July. She encourages all affiliates to participate in the distribution of the rhizomes, but several have indicated that they will not. A discussion was held about the glut of guest iris rhizomes that frequently follow spring regionals, and about the past use of the north and south auctions. Jeanne indicated that a committee would be formed to discuss this issue in depth and present recommendations for the Board's consideration.

Historian:

RVP Plank announced with regret that Marlene Wiley has resigned as Historian, and that Jean Richter, Bonnie Petheram, and Gesine Lohr have been asked to serve as a "historian committee" and to investigate a central location for storing R14 historic materials and to obtain a current inventory of these materials.

Internet Services:

Kitty Loberg described the electronic mail forum called "Region 14 Discuss." The "Discuss" group includes board members, committee members and all affiliate presidents. Any message posted to the group goes to all members of the group. One of its important uses will be for voting on region matters between meetings. There is still an issue about determining what constitutes a quorum in this format, but it is being worked out.

Judges Training:

Kathy Braaten reported that we now have 30 student judges with 1 to 3 moving to apprentice this year. There are 5 apprentices and 1-2 will move to Garden Judge this year. There are a total of 21 garden/exhibition judges, 15 master judges, and 6 emeritus judges in Region 14. Kathy circulated Activity Reports with the caveat that they must be back to Kathy and the RVP by June 1, 2010. There have been six training sessions this season so far, with two sessions coming up during this Regional by Bruce Filardi and Heather Pryor.

The Board discussed the issue of getting judges for shows, and it was agreed that affiliates would ask no more than 3 judges before January 1 of the year of the show. After that, they can ask for more. This is to give affiliates who do not have their schedules set until later in the year, a fair chance to get judges for their shows. Although many would like to have six judges for a show, it is not always possible. Kathy will keep a calendar of when judges are scheduled. It is up to each judge to keep Kathy informed so she may help affiliates who are looking for a judge.

Membership:

Mary Ann Horton, Membership chair, was not present but she sent a report which RVP Plank read. The most important item is that Region 14 has 425 members and is the largest of the regions in total membership.

Science/Youth/Scholarship:

RVP Plank indicated that she is working on an idea to unite these three categories to promote better use of the money that is budgeted for these three important services.

Youth:

Chair Lorraine Nicholson announced that she would like to be provided with the names of any youth members who are participating in R14 shows.

Ballots:

Anna Cadd described the awards that are possible for the guest irises at this regional when we visit the gardens. She described how the voting is done and the color-coding on the plant labels, and asked that everyone turn their ballots in to her either at the last garden or very soon after returning to the hotel.

Anna also handed out a report on the blind judging that was done at Santa Rosa, which indicates that there is merit in covering the plant labels during judging.

Announcements:

RVP Plank closed the meeting by announcing that there would be a drawing for an iris planted in a decorative pot to be awarded to someone who remembered to bring name badge-holder from previous conventions to be recycled. She also gave a pitch for encouraging the use of irises in decorative planters as an appeal to people who live in smaller places. She also indicated that there is a potential for adding a category of irises growing in decorative planters to our shows.

Adjourn:

Lynn Williams moved, and Rick Williams seconded that the meeting be adjourned. It was adjourned by RVP Jeanne Plank at 9:00 am.