

Fall Regional October 17, 2015

Visalia, California

Mary Sindicic, Secretary

## **General Meeting Minutes**

The General Meeting was called to Order by RVP John Pesek at 8:30 a.m. John thanked the James M. Gibson Iris Society for hosting the Fall Regional.

John Pesek asked for a moment of silence in memory of David Cadd who dedicated his life to his wife Anna and irises, who passed away this year. David always came to John and asked what he could do to help and John was very happy that David and Anna got the Gaulter Award for service to Region 14. Gordan and Lorraine Nicholson always gave David and Anna pomegranates at the Fall Regional which they grow at their ranch and will be at the silent auction area for everyone to take a pomegranate in memory of David and John thanked Gordan and Lorraine for offering the pomegranates in honor of David.

Roll call was taken of the affiliates present, and a Sign-In Sheet was circulated. Fifty-three members signed in.

RVP Pesek asked for approval of the 2015 Spring Regional minutes as published in the Bulletin. Lorraine Nicholson made a motion to approve the minutes. Rudy Ciuca seconded the motion. Motion approved.

### **Officer reports**

**Judges Training:** Phyllis Wilburn reported that we have completed another judges training season, which is counted from August 1 to July 31 each year. Starting on August 1 all new training will be counted in the 2015-16 year. It also marks the transition of some students (AKA candidates) to Apprentice Judge and some apprentice Judges to Garden/Exhibition Judge.

Advanced to Master Judge: Kathy Braaten

Advanced to Apprentice: Cindy Eastman and Jane Jordan

Advanced to AIS G/E Judge: Philippa Alves, Rudy Ciuca, Carolyn Craft, Marilyn Kaplan, and Terry Toney

Of course, as bureaucracy will have it, these changes must be recommended to the AIS Board by our RVP, and approved by the AIS Board of Directors in the Fall. We are confident, however, that they will all be approved and it is not too early to congratulate them for their accomplishments. It will be a welcome change to have a few more judges when Spring rolls around and all the shows will be taking place and judges will be needed for them.

Phyllis handed out/or mailed individual reports of the training record for the year to all Students, Apprentices, and Judges. This will reflect all the training recorded in my system, and show how many hours are needed in the coming year to maintain eligibility. It also represents the hours that she has reported to AIS for each of the Apprentices and Judges. It is an opportunity for you to compare your records with hers and let her know of any discrepancies. Please email or call her (before 9:00 pm) if there is any problem.

Phyllis also had available paper copies of the slightly revised Guidelines for Region 14 Judges Training. As you probably know the guidelines in the Judges Training Manual are a baseline, and Region 14 has requirements that are stricter. Please keep a copy for your reference. The other thing she handed out was a copy of the Roster of Judges for 2015/16. You will need this to plan your upcoming shows, in order to get judges. Both these documents were emailed to the board and Affiliate Presidents, and will be available on the Region 14 Web site.

Thanks for another great year of Judges Training. Phyllis was especially pleased at the folks mentioned above who have devoted their time and effort to working toward being AIS Judges. But, even more, want to thank those many judges who take the time and effort to tutor students and Apprentices, and share their knowledge with them. It is this sharing of knowledge that makes for better judges. She hopes that you will all continue to judge shows, visit gardens, visit shows, give trainings, grow iris and attend out Regional Meetings.

In light of the efforts that Judges make to help Apprentices and Students achieve their goals, it usually goes unnoticed by the Region members. However, in the tradition of awarding the Star Award to the Judge who has made extraordinary effort to help others, she awarded this year's Star to Jean Richter.

Phyllis will be passing on the wand to Alleah Haley who will be taking over the position of Judges Training and she will be there to help her and she knows that she will do a great job.

22 Garden/Exhibition Judges, 17 Master Judges, 3 Emeritus Judges, 8 Apprentices

**Secretary Report:** Mary Sindicic didn't have anything to report but since this would be her last minutes she shared how nice it was to work with everyone and put faces with names.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer, Helen Franklin handed out and went over the items listed in the Treasurer's Report from 1/1/15 – 12/31/15. Checking ending balance \$11,371.67, Savings ending balance \$22,640.26, Savings for New Clubs ending balance \$1,860.89, Total Assets \$35,872.82.

**Editor:** Bulletin Editor, Shirley Trio reported that they have now put out four issues and it has been a long tough haul all except for one person were inexperienced started blindly not knowing where to go but she felt that they pulled it together. As of today she has about six people on her staff Jean Richter, Gesine Lohr, Riley Probst, Bonnie Petheram, Alleah Haley, and as of today possibly a new advertising person who is thinking it over, and thanked Mikey Lango for the pictures. Everyone has worked very hard and is working on advertising and have some advertisers. They are considering dropping an issue and not sure if they need to do that. There are four issues per year now and it takes a lot of work and time they have missed a few things but always make it up in the next issue. They have made the deadlines and think they are the first to make the deadlines every single time.

Patricia Eisenberg shared that their club High Desert Iris Society had some difficulty being included in the newsletters three newsletters running and suggested that Region 14 could support a separate email that could be dedicated to whoever is the editor so that all the communications regarding photos, captions, submissions, corrections, etc could all be on one email. Shirley said that they are working on a dedicated email address she is in the process of changing over to a new server and will have a dedicated email.

Phyllis Wilburn would like to see the Bulletin limited to twenty five pages so that it would be easier to open. Shirley responded that she and Tom Karwin talked and one of his problems he had was he couldn't get articles so that was one reasons the bulletin was shorter. Shirley offered to print and send out the Bulletin to members who aren't online. Gesine Lohr shared that some people have suggested that the bulletin be shorter but since the bulletin is not printed it can be variable lengths and since Shirley has offered to print and mail out the bulletin to members who aren't online and Region 14 reimburses club presidents for printing copies of the bulletin for members if they send it out themselves this should not be a problem. Also when you send something to the editor, don't assume they received it. It's always a good practice after a period of time to send another if you have not heard back to make sure they received it. Gesine has been a little surprised at the level of angst around the bulletin and she would like to encourage everyone focus on what trying to do have fun trying to share our love of iris and are all volunteers and let's work together to make our region one that is friendly, supportive, and positive. Riley Probst wanted to say two things about the bulletin. One is he thinks it's a great bulletin and thinks Shirley is doing a really great job and second that he doesn't think we should put any size limit on the bulletin the more news and articles we have in it will appeal to a broader range of people and that is exactly what we have here a broader range of people we don't have just one or two people. He is a former RVP and as former RVP during his three year term he went through three editors and it is very painful and he thinks everyone in the room should encourage

the present editorial staff to stay on as long as they possibly will because it not easy to find people to replace them. John brought up that in our Standing Rules in 3 C 5 it states that (It is the responsibility of the affiliate presidents to distribute hard copies of the Region 14 Bulletin to members without computer access) so it is not Shirley's responsibility it is the affiliate presidents responsibility to get it to the few people that don't have computer access.

**Directors:** Carolyn Craft from Central Region was not able to visit all of the clubs which she had planned to do but she really came across some interesting things she wanted to bring up. There are some very active clubs and some that are not. She belongs to Monterey Bay and Clara B. Reese and one of the things she is noticing in those clubs is that food plays a big part. At Monterey Bay Brenda and Larissa put on a huge St. Patrick's Day feast that everybody waits for. Last night they had a meeting at a Pizza Party since some of them are here so they weren't going to go all out but food is a huge part of that society. They are a very busy iris society their rhizome sales top anyone's because they are small and wonderful but they also take out an ad. When they have a rhizome sale people are lined up hours ahead of time around the block and they sell out their sale starts at 9:00 am and they are sold by 11:00 am. The sharing of ideas among the clubs should be a big help to all of us. Clara B. Reese is very active and very busy and one of the things that they just did last month is they had a panel discussion but rather than have the oldies who know everything be the panel they invited some members who have been around a couple of years to get up and talk about something so they had four people on the panel only one who was an oldie but the others were really new at getting all the information and they gave them an assignment. Each came and presented on a beardless iris and it was a wonderful way to get new members involved. Carolyn thought it may be something we should think about sharing ideas and how to get members more active.

Carolyn Hoover from Southern Region reported Fresno is going to have Steve Schreiner at the Fresno Iris Society general meeting on the first Monday in November. The Region is very busy and has potting parties and have about 800 irises potted up for their sale. Riley Probst shared the James Gibson Iris Society had the biggest event in several years today the Fall Regional.

Rudy Ciuca from Northern Region wanted to talk about trip to the AISNational in Portland. They went to a meeting to talk about the youth program and as you all know he is not anti CIP (Classroom Iris Program) but he feels they are going to have to find another way of getting more kids involved in the iris program without using their names and addresses. He handed out a form and talked about a program that doesn't involve the restrictions of CIP and was met with some resistance from Cheryl Deaton National Chair for the Youth Program. After much discussion he is waiting for a decision sometime in November but doesn't look for anything positive to happen since Cheryl Deaton is against anything like this they want to do but that is OK because Rudy and Joe will continue their iris program with students regardless because they feel it is so important and believes that the society will not survive without the recruitment of young people.

Jeanne Clay Plank Immediate Past RVP had nothing to report.

**Finance/Fundraising chair:** Carolyn Craft talked about how the raffle of the baskets would work at the Regional and the silent auction items. Virginia Kaiser donated a lot of her iris memorabilia for the silent auction which was very appreciated.

**Honorary Awards:** Chairperson was not present but a committee member Kathy Braaten talked about the honorary award this year. It is the Larry Gaulter Award and it is a life time achievement award for Region 14 contributions and there was someone that was nominated this year. He has been in Region 14 for many years and dedicated service to the Region with enthusiastic support. He was President of the Mount Diablo and Sydney B Mitchell Iris Society, Chaired many Fall Regional's, Treasurer for Mount Diablo and Sydney B Mitchell Iris Society's, won many awards for hybridizing, and did the Region 14 Bulletin for seven years. The award went to Bob Canning. Bob is tireless, and promotes interest in the culture and improvement of genus iris and the wellbeing of Region 14 and its affiliates. Bob was not present so she asked Jo Balch if he would accept the award for Bob and will be awarded at the potluck dinner at the Mount Diablo Iris Society meeting in November.

**Historian:** Jean Richter does not have a whole lot to report her latest project was gifted to her from Jeanne Clay Plank she had a collection of photographs that were mostly from the 1996 AIS Convention that was held in Sacramento. Most of them didn't indicate who were in the pictures so they have had a jolly time emailing back and forth trying to figure out who they were and feels they have a good handle on quite a few of them now. They didn't make it into the last bulletin but she is hoping to have a spread of the pictures in the upcoming bulletin. She welcomes donations and if you have anything historic to the Region send it her way.

**Electronics:** Ann Pike was not present.

**Membership:** Mary Ann Horton was not present but John Pesek reported that we have 584 members including 200 Youth making Region 14 number one in AIS. The number two is Region 4 and third is Region 17 and fourth is Region 7.

High Desert Iris Society has accepted 10 new members to their club totaling 33 paid members.

**Scholarship:** Position open and Phyllis asked everyone to think about applying for the position and contact her if you are interested and she will share what the position entails.

**Science:** Open

**Trophies & Awards:** Bill Fink, Awards Chair, made the 2015 Spring Regional Awards presentation.

**Knopf Cup** – (Seedling not yet introduced) won by Bill Tyson

**Cotillion Bowl** – won by Joe Ghio “What a Beauty”

**Clara B. Reese Cup** - won by John Painter for “Teasing Tiger”

**Jim Gibson Cup** - won by John Painter for “Jazz Berry”

**Out of Region Award** – a tie won by Jim Hedgecock for “Jim’s Gem” & by Linda Miller for “seedling 1610”

**Hager-DuBose Cup** – a tie won by Linda Miller for “seedling 1610” & by Joe Ghio for “Border Skirmish”

**Youth:** Lorraine Nicholson, Youth Chair, reported that Youth can be nothing but good with the help of her CIP leaders Rudy has done a great job. We are up to 200 youth members and of that 121 Youth are in CIP, and have just picked up 18 more youth. Rudy had two printouts one is the report that was presented in Portland and the other one is “Recruitment for Survival”. They also have the possibility of getting a Girl Scout Troop with the help of Nola which would be her group. Lorraine cannot say enough about youth and sorry that Cheryl Denton from AIS is not on board with California’s views but knows she has her rules and regulations that she has to follow but she feels change are good. The price of a Youth membership has been \$5.00 and \$8.00 they have upped it to \$8.00 and \$12.00.

**Old Business:** AIS has agreed to host the 2019 AIS Convention and the chair is Shirley Trio. Shirley said since we are still 3 ½ to 4 years out there is not a whole lot she can do but what she has done so far she has six gardens in place five are definite and she is still waiting on one. She began by telling us the criteria they used to choose the gardens and where they are. Jim and Irene Cummins is in Scotts Valley, Rudy and Joe the C&L Gardens is up in the Sonoma area, Mary Ann Horton is in the Loomis area most of you have been to these gardens, new and beautiful garden Fran and Russ Shields in Elk Grove, and lastly Filoli Garden in Woodside which most of you are familiar with that garden which she is still working on and time will tell. The way the gardens were selected she visited every one of them and John Pesek visited some of them and they were selected for their location because we can't have long bus rides and their size large enough to plant 1000+ irises. Another criteria that she used was not only was the place large enough and big enough for parking but the knowledge of the host of the gardens. The experience of the host had they been doing it long enough to have a good knowledge of what they were doing. She wanted to make sure there was a back-up for every garden so for the Jim and Irene Cummins garden the Monterey Bay Iris Society has agreed to be their back-up. For the East Bay Regional garden back-up is Clara B Reese, Sydney B Mitchell, & Mount Diablo Iris Society. The C & L Garden back-up is Santa Rosa

Iris Society. Mary Ann Horton Iris Garden back-up is Sacramento Iris Society and Sierra Foothills Iris Society. For the Shields Garden back-up Sacramento Iris Society and Filoli Garden will take care of their back-up. There is one optional iris garden tour Joe Ghio has agreed to put his ranch garden in Corralitos and Monterey Bay Iris Society has agreed to back him up. She has quite a few people working on the 2019 AIS Convention so everything should go well. In the six gardens Shirley said that each garden has agreed to accept up to 1000 iris but they may only get 800. There will only be probably two master plantings that will have everything and she doesn't know what those gardens will be yet. Riley Probst is the Guest Iris Chair and the committee has decided not to accept Louisiana's, MTB's, and STB's and Riley gave a slide presentation of the six gardens. Kitty suggested that we put a limit on the hybridizers on how many varieties that we accept to 20-25 and the hybridizers pay the postage if they want their iris shipped back. Riley agreed with many things that Kitty said he will make sure that if the hybridizers want the iris back they will have to pay the postage. He really doesn't think we have to restrict the hybridizers at this point in time they need to meet determine how much garden space the gardens have and how many iris they can hold and then try to figure out how many we will get and put some limits on it if we don't have enough space. John Pesek said he agrees with Riley that it is premature to put restrictions on it now. Kitty made a motion to have a policy for the upcoming 2019 AIS Convention that hybridizers be restricted to sending no more than 25 varieties. Lorraine Nicholson seconded it. 6 Yes and 32 No Motion did not pass.

Bill Fink proposed a change to the Standing Rules regarding the Jim Gibson Cup to change f. 1. and f. 5. to read:

1. To be awarded to plicate, fancy plicata, luminata, broken color iris or visual plicata seen blooming at the Spring Regional.

5. Should there be questions as to whether the seedling or variety is eligible for the award, the chief executive officer of the Region present at the Regional shall poll the members of the Executive Committee at the meeting and their decision will be final.

Riley Probst made a motion and Helen Franklin seconded it. Motion was carried.

**New Business:** Helen Franklin, Treasurer, stated the 2016 Budget would remain pretty much the same as last year's funding, there will be additions to the budget because of the 2016 regional which she doesn't have included in it. After much discussion Youth Committee was increased from \$1500.00 to \$2000.00 and Bulletin-Publishing from \$200.00 to \$300.00.

Gordon Nicholson called for a motion to amend the Standing Rules to read:

1. D. (5) The RVP will respectfully request of each affiliate, on an annual basis, a minimum of \$4.00 per member based upon the Affiliate's current membership roster for the purpose of supporting the operation of Region 14. The date of July 1, was accepted as the date to transfer money from the affiliate to the Region.

After much discussion Gordon Nicholson made a motion. Bill Fink seconded it. 18 Yes and 17 No Motion passed.

Nola Prevost updated info on the 2016 Spring Regional budget they will be charging \$120.00 per person for registration and are expecting 70 attendees so expenses would be \$8024.00 there would be a net income of \$376.00. Helen Franklin will add to the proposed budget.

John Pesek asked for a motion and Shirley Trio made a motion to adopt the Budget 2016 with the adjustments as presented and was seconded by Riley Probst. Motion carried.

John Pesek reported that Betty Ford for the Honorary Awards Committee is her last year of service and it is pleasure to appoint Marilyn Kaplan as the newest member of the Honorary Awards Committee which means that Sandy Man is now senior and moves up to chair and the other two members are Kathy and Jean.

John Pesek said we need a new Southern Director and thanked Carolyn Hoover for her service. The Southern area consists of Yosemite, San Joaquin, Fresno, and Las Vegas. Kathy Braaten nominated Terry Toney from Fresno and

Lorraine Nicholson seconded it. Tiffany Rush nominated Riley Probst and was seconded by Brenda Wood. After much discussion a vote was taken and the majority of votes were for Terry Toney. Terry Toney will be the new Southern Director

John reported the nominating committee has recommended Phyllis Wilburn for RVP and Alleah Haley for assistant RVP.

Gordon Nicholson made a motion to accept the recommendation of the nominating committee and was seconded by Jeanne Clay Plank. Motion carried.

**Announcements:**

2017 Region 14 Spring Regional will be hosted by the Sacramento Iris Society and the Sierra Foothills Iris Society. Kathy Braaten reported their committee is in place and have received the guest irises and are planted she believes there were 140. There are two gardens the Horton Garden in Loomis and the Shields Garden in Elk Grove.

2016 Spring Regional will be held Nola's Iris Garden. Nola Prevost invites everyone to Spring Regional in San Jose. It will be held at the Beverly Heritage Hotel in Milpitas. The registration will be at the hotel and there is a great guest room off the lobby where the flower show and silent auction will be. Social evening will be at the pool and patio area. Saturday morning will start off with breakfast on your own and with the meeting in the morning. At 11:30 a.m. board the buses and head up to the ranch and gardens where there will be a luncheon and time to view the guest irises and judges training. They have five acres of irises planted it's a 43 acre cattle ranch and there is a lot to see and do at the ranch you will not be bored. They will have a Dykes Medal display garden there to see. Following lunch there will be a judges training and then return to the hotel for the banquet. After the banquet we will adjourn from the restaurant up to meeting room where there will be a wonderful presentation by Steve Schreiner and awards and dessert. Registration is set at \$120.00 per person, Room rate is \$115.00 (single or double occupancy), \$135.00 (triple occupancy), or \$155.00 (quad occupancy), plus all applicable taxes, per night.

Judges training will be in the garden with Kitty and also on Sunday on Spurias by Eric Hansen.

Phyllis Wilburn awarded John Pesek with his outgoing RVP pin from AIS and two gift certificates for \$100.00 one from Schreiner's and the other \$100.00 gift certificate from the House of Prime Rib. Phyllis thanked John for being such a calm and collected RVP for three years and doing such a great job. John thanked all the Officers, Committee Chairs, Presidents of each Affiliate, and a big thank you to Barbara his wife and said he couldn't have done it without all of their help.

Meeting adjourned 12:30 pm.