

AIS Region 14
Spring Regional May 8, 2021
Online via Zoom

Minutes of the Business Meeting

Jane Jordan, Secretary

Regional Vice President, Jean Richter called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

Jean asked for any correction to the minutes from the 2020 Fall Regional. Phyllis Wilburn noted that she had been on the Region Board for 9 years, not 8 as written in the minutes. Stephanie Jennings moved that the minutes be approved with the above correction. Carol Cullen seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Judges Training Chair, Carol Cullen reported that Judges Activity Reports have been mailed. The reports are due June 1, 2021 and should be sent to both the JT Chair and the RVP. Region 14 judges have earned 290 hours of online classroom and garden training since August 1, 2020. Carol thanked the judges who provided garden training and 1:1 training for apprentices and students. AIS Training Chair, Bonnie Nichols, sent a letter to all judges announcing that an additional year has been granted to complete the requirements to maintain judge's status, including a grace period of a year for apprentices and students to complete their requirements. The AIS Board is working to complete the "new" revised Handbook for Judges by late summer. There will be training sessions scheduled to update everyone on the changes.

Secretary, Jane Jordan, reported that there was no online board activity since the Fall Regional.

Treasurer, Bonnie Petheram, reported that the Checking account has a balance of \$35,961.38 and the Paypal account has \$1,937.82. The Region is still overspending. But, there was less spending due to the pandemic. The sale of the Dry Creek Rhizomes brought in around \$5,600. Jeff Bennett thanked Bonnie and Jean for shipping all the Dry Creek rhizomes to the buyers. Carol Cullen thanked Bonnie for all her work on this Regional. Shirley Trio-Probst moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Lynn Williams seconded. The motion was passed.

Editor, Stephanie Jennings, reported that the Spring Bulletin was published on February 28, 2021. The next deadline for articles for the Fall Bulletin is July 1, 2021. She noted that the last two Bulletins have not been posted on the Region 14 website. She recommended that additional help be found to maintain the website.

Central Director, Jeff Bennett, reported on the activities of Clara B. Rees, Monterey Bay, Sydney B. Mitchell, and Mount Diablo Iris Societies. All societies are having virtual shows in various forms. The meetings have been online or not at all.

Southern Director, Linda Hood, sent a report for the Yosemite Iris Society and the James M. Gibson Iris Society. Terry Toney reported on the Fresno Iris Society.

Northern Director, Cindy Eastman, was not present and sent no report. Carol Cullen reported for Leo T. Clark Iris Society. Kathy Braaten reported for Sierra Foothills Iris Society. Phyllis Wilburn reported for the Sacramento Iris Society. Jeff Davis reported for Santa Rosa Iris Society. Patricia Eisenberg reported for the High Desert Iris Society.

Honorary Awards Chair, Linda Hood, was not present and sent no report.

Fundraising Co-Chairs, Marilyn Kaplan reported that 8 “Shoe Boxes” were created from donations. The boxes are at Bluebird Haven Iris Garden. Raffle tickets are for sale. Some of the online auction items were sold at the judges’ Trainings at Riley and Shirley’s and Mary Ann Horton’s. The sales netted \$300.

Fundraising Co-Chair, Patricia Eisenberg, proposed that she engage in grant writing as part of the fundraising effort. Patricia entertained a motion that the Finance/Fundraising Committee be renamed the Funding Committee. There would be a Fundraising Chair, a Program Resource Development Chair, and a Regional Event Coordinator Chair. The website would need to be upgraded to support this effort. Lynn Williams so moved, Shirley Trio-Probst seconded. The motion was passed.

Historian, Jean Richter, reported that she is reviewing a donation of historical items from Philippa Alvis.

Past RVP, Phyllis Wilburn, commented that Region 14 received good coverage in the AIS Centennial Bulletins.

Internet Chair, Ann Pike, was not present and sent no report. There were concerns raised that the last two Region 14 Bulletins have not been uploaded to the website. Jean will approach Ann to offer to have Kitty Loberg assist with keeping the website current.

Membership Chair, Shirley Trio-Probst, reported that she is new to the job and has not received updated information from the national membership chair who is also new to the job. There are currently 303 AIS members in the region, 52 judges, 15 affiliates, and 2 botanical gardens. Shirley suggested that each affiliate have a drawing for a free AIS membership for the non-members twice a year. The memberships would come out of the Membership Chair’s budget. Also, Shirley will ask AIS to donate 2 free memberships.

Scholarship Chair, Lee Dickey, was not present and sent no report. Jean Richter announced that there was only one applicant. Remote schooling hampered the application process. Affiliates are asked to prepare a list of schools in the region for next year.

Science Chair, Riley Probst, reported that he received no questions to research. Please send Riley your questions.

Trophies and Awards Chair, Bill Fink, sent a report stating that there were no garden awards for 2019 because of the National nor for 2020 because of the pandemic. There will be awards for 2021 from the Bluebird Haven guest iris garden. Phyllis Wilburn raised the issue of bringing the big, heavy trophies to the regionals. AIS no longer transports their trophies to the National Conventions. The issue of whether to transport the trophies will be revisited in the Fall.

Youth Chair, Carolyn Hoover, reported that there are 27 youth members. It has been difficult to meet with youth since the schools have been closed for the last year because of the pandemic. As soon as the schools are open, there will be an effort to increase the youth membership. She noted that 4th and 5th graders are the best ages. Shirley Trio added that the AIS youth membership needs to be updated.

Old Business

Fall 2021 Regional, Carol Dahout of Clara B. Rees Iris Society will check with Gamble Gardens for availability.

Spring 2022 Regional. Jeff Bennett of Mount Diablo Iris Society said the event is planned for April 30. The beds are very dry. We need rain.

Fall 2022 Regional, a host is needed.

Spring 2023 Regional, a host is needed. The guest iris need to be planted by next fall.

New Business

Phyllis Wilburn as guest iris chair for the Spring Regional at Bluebird Haven announced that the dig dates for the guest iris are July 31 and August 1. She will contact the affiliate presidents asking if their club wants to participate in the dig and if they want to purchase any iris. The rhizomes are \$1 each payable to Region 14. There is an agreement with the hybridizers that we not sell any of these iris on the internet.

Phyllis Wilburn as past RVP headed the nominating committee for the next RVP and ARVP. The committee includes Phyllis Wilburn, Chair, the 3 directors –Linda Hood, Cindy Eastman, and Jeff Bennett, plus Anna Cadd as a judge, Sandra Saelens as a Club President, and Mikey Lango as a member-at-large. Phyllis announced that the committee nominates Carolyn Hoover as Regional Vice President and Carol Cullen as Assistant RVP and Judges' Chair. The nominations will be voted on at the Fall Regional in October.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.