

Minutes of the American Iris Society Region 14 Board & Spring Regional Business Meeting

(Revised and Approved; taken by volunteer Patricia Eisenberg*)

May 2, 2022 Online via Zoom

Call to Order: Regional Vice President, recently-elected Carolyn Hoover, called the Meeting to order at 6:46 pm after a delay waiting for Zoom attendees.

Carolyn called for a Moment of Silence to remember those whom Region 14 has lost since the Fall Meeting including Jeanne Clay Plank, former AIS president and Region 14 RVP; John Jones, AIS Iris Registrar and Region 14 member, and Jack Wilburn, husband of Phyllis Wilburn, former RVP of Region 14.

Minutes Approval: The first Agenda item for this Spring Regional Business Meeting was the Approval of the Fall 2021 Meeting Minutes submitted by former Region 14 Secretary Jane Jordan. Motion to approve: Carol Cullen; seconded: Dan Williams. Approved unanimously. No revisions or corrections. (Hereafter, Region 14 may be abbreviated 'R14').

Officer Reports:

Judges Training Chair and Assistant RVP, Carol Cullen: From the Fall Meeting through 4/28/2022, 14 AIS R14 Judges participated in 4 Classes and 4 Garden Trainings, totaling 95 training hours. For significant class resources go to AISRegion14.org to *Region14AIS/Events/* for dropdowns for Judges Training and Class details. Jean Richter and Ann Pike have been posting upcoming trainings. There are five more this year. National AIS Convention Class attendee info is sent to each person's home region; Carol is provided with hours totals and exams. Judges training class attendees should keep their own records.

ACTION Item: Complete the **Judges Activity Reports** by June 1st, listing the classes that were attended. If Carol sees an omission, it will be added. Carol will contact the attendee.

New AIS Judges Classification of **Artistic Judges** has the chance for a time of being grandfathered in for those with extensive training and experience in floral design. To become an Artistic Judge contact Carol.

Regarding the 'Annual Judges Award of Recognition for Achieving the **Most Training Hours**,' there are no more acrylic Star Awards (\$69 purchase, engraving and shipping). After discussing alternatives or certificates, Dan Williams made a motion that the Award recipient would be recognized by R14 with a \$65 Gift Certificate for purchasing iris, seconded by Patricia Eisenberg; motion carried. A question was asked on the frequency required by AIS or R14 for 'Awards & Ballots' class. Carol clarified that frequency is not specified: 'Awards & Ballots' is mandatory for JT Apprentices in the 3rd year of Training.

Anna Cadd pointed out the **1-on-1 Show Training** for Judges Training students is not the same as the Apprentice Judge apprenticing an Iris Show under the tutelage of a specific Judge: Show Training is how a Show is put together, the nuts and bolts--the what and why--of a Show. For apprenticing, it is about the iris, judging procedure and debriefing a Show with a guiding Judge.

Carol cautioned that permission paperwork is required from the JT Chair, Iris Show Chairs and Judges involved in advance of student Show training and **Show Apprenticing**. Continuing with her report, Carol summarized that there are about 50 AIS Judges in R14 and a few judges about to retire.

Treasurer, Bonnie Petheram: absent, possibly joining later. Carolyn Hoover explained that the Region's Annual Budget Meeting is always held at the Fall Meeting. The Spring R14 Treasurer Report was printed in the Spring 2022 'Bulletin'. Carolyn reported the income from the \$4/person affiliate dues paid so far by SFIS, SIS and

CBRIS, and donation amounts from Clara B. Rees IS in memory of Jack Alvis, Pat Hawkins and Jeanne Clay Plank. The \$600 in Scholarship Fund club donations generated a brief exchange of ideas regarding amounts and numbers of scholarships that could be awarded to applicants, tabled until later.

ACTION Item: Requests for mid-July Treasurer reminders to clubs who have not paid their July 1st member count dues.

Based upon the \$225.32 expended in "Trophy Expenses," discussion ensued on award trophies and whether they are meaningful, or if "keeper" awards should be substituted. Hybridizers offered feedback that awards are very special to recipients. No change in trophy processes.

The updated Treasurer Report will be in the Fall Bulletin as usual.

'Bulletin' Editor, Stephanie Jennings: absent. No report. ACTION: Everyone was reminded that the Fall Bulletin submittal deadline is August 1.

ACTION Item: **Area Director Reports:** Carolyn Hoover prefaced the Reports with a request to all three Directors to send her their Reports from their Areas at the conclusion of the Meeting. (IS will stand for "Iris Society").

- 1) Central Director, Jeff Bennett: **Clara B. Rees IS:** Held its 1st in-person meeting in 2 years; mini Iris Show held at a Covid-cautious venue. Viewed available iris webinars. Had a good presentation on their club namesake. Potted Sale success at \$10 donation each. 58 members attended the Saratoga Blossom Festival. City of San Jose's 3 trails lead to a public iris garden, education held for garden volunteers. **Sydney B. Mitchell IS:** No in-person meetings. Using Zoom. Rhizome Fundraiser scheduled for July 22nd. They held a virtual Iris Show via BayAreaIris.org. **Mt. Diablo IS** has held two in-person meetings, and produced its Iris Show April 8-9, in Livermore with potted iris fundraiser offerings for \$15 each, 3 for \$40, 5 for \$50, and brought in \$2,500, stapling a red ribbon to pots so host Alden Lane Nursery knew which were from MDIS. The show offered a section for English boxes for the first time, offering a club award. Leadership issues need to be addressed after 2 recently elected board members resigned. For the upcoming Benicia rhizome fundraiser 8/13, members saw a retailer in Pleasant Hill selling iris in 4" pots for \$10, so they will try it. **Monterey Bay IS** held its Iris Show April 23 and presented a buds-in-vase demo.
- 2) Southern Director, Helen Franklin: **Fresno IS**, 30 members, held a Holiday gift exchange and enjoyed guest speakers at meetings on: koi ponds, Rick Tasco on aril iris, Bonnie Nichols on novelty iris and on artistic design. Planned: potluck and auction July 9th; iris drawing giveaways in October, and game night in November. **James M. Gibson IS** had its Iris Show planned for 4/23, but City of Porterville cancelled it. JGIS holds monthly potluck meetings on third Tuesdays. **Las Vegas IS:** Their Iris Show had 27 exhibitors with a first-time exhibitor winning Best Specimen of Show and Silver Medal. Jean Paul and Dorlene Waite attended the Las Cruces National AIS Convention. LVIS is giving a donation in lieu of a basket for R14 fundraiser at the Regional's in-garden day at Dry Creek Iris Garden, Union City. **San Joaquin IS** had no meetings during COVID but will meet soon in person. Members miss long-time member Gordon Nicholson who died last year, husband of Lorraine Nicholson. Sandy Mann attended Las Cruces National. **Yosemite IS:** Two members attended the AIS National in Las Cruces. 16 new members bring membership to 42. YIS held its Iris Show April 23: 112 entries from 11 exhibitors, some came from Fresno and Porterville. The Show also offered a section for English boxes. Katie Myers-Hancock, show chair, won Best Specimen of Show. YIS will host **2023 Spring Regional:** Fri. - Sun., May 12-14, based at Oakhurst Community Center; Iris Show Friday. Saturday tours to the Gonzalez garden

(new) and the Kanarowski garden will precede the Awards Dinner. In-garden Judges Trainings will be Sunday. The Coarsegold, Mariposa, Oakhurst area features over 1,200 Airbnb-type lodgings, more affordable than hotels and motels; attendees need to book lodging asap.

- 3) Northern Director, Dan Williams: Due to **High Desert IS** venue issues this Spring, its Iris Show will be a one-day show, Thurs., May 5, at Reno's Atlantis Hotel Casino, themed "Mothers Most Special," alongside another nonprofit's large fundraiser. Rhizome fundraising will be at Moana Nursery late July. **Leo T. Clark IS**, Chico area, lost member Becky McCarthy who died recently. It rained for the April Iris Show, but the club welcomed 15 exhibitors and 18 more entries over last year, selling out of 1-gallon potted iris in 3 hours with record proceeds. Now in a permanent meeting place, Chico Veterans Hall, LTCIS will be meeting monthly on first Saturdays at 1 pm. Co-sponsoring the R14 Fall Regional with Shasta IS, Oct. 7-8. **Sacramento IS** gained 13 new members from its Show, Apr.23-24, at which they registered 103 entries and record artistic entries. Potted iris sold out from the accompanying fundraiser; Sierra Foothills came to the rescue by bringing SFIS potted iris. SIS digs are scheduled to prep July fundraisers. **Santa Rosa IS** mourns the loss of Jeanne and Bob Plank this year, so involved with AIS and R14. SRIS plans its dig at Luther Burbank Center, weeding monthly when meeting second Mondays at noon. They enjoyed presentations: Anna Cadd on beardless iris; color in the garden, companion plants for iris, mock judging of staged iris, and a Zoom with masks decorated as particular iris and others guessing the variety. SRIS gained 3 new members. Upcoming: May 7-8 Show with a potted iris fundraiser and open gardens. **Shasta IS** enjoyed large turnout for its Show, and will co-sponsor the Oct. 7-8 R14 Fall Regional with Chico's LTCIS. **Sierra Foothills IS**, celebrating its 25th Anniversary, meets monthly in Lakeside Meeting Room at Auburn's Richardson Park, 6:30-8:30pm, last Tuesdays. The potted iris fundraiser, July 23-24, will be in the air-conditioned Lakeside Mtg. Room.

Nominating Committee, Immediate Past RVP, Jean Richter: No report.

Standing Committee Chairs – Reports:

Honorary Awards Committee, Terry Toney: absent. No report.

Fundraising Committee, Patricia Eisenberg: Patricia thanked Marilyn Kaplan, fundraiser events, and Bonnie Petheram, treasurer; (the other Committee position, Region 14 event coordinator, remains unfilled). In the pandemic, work focused on obtaining prizes, driving and staffing Bluebird Haven's auction, digs, trainings, yard sales, prize deliveries and Fall Regional's Zoom rhizome auction, earning \$758, erasing 2019's remaining convention deficit, but sacrificed traction on R14's program resource development. Many philanthropies postponed grant-making, or gave to pandemic causes. Work will target funders and shape requests for Dry Creek Iris Garden, R14 youth programs, historical preservation and scholarship fund.

Historian Committee, Jean Richter: returned to the meeting. Bryce Williamson is digitizing a gigantic amount of material for preservation, curating, repairing damage and carefully disassembling materials from the scrapbooks to digitize them.

Website, Ann Pike: absent. Website Report given by Jean Richter who is working with Ann Pike to update the R14 website and keep it timely. Anyone seeing a need to update or change info, let them both know.

Membership, Shirley Trio: Shirley reported that Pam Messer, AIS Membership Chair, received many memberships during the 'One Year Free' Special going on through June, 2022. Jeff Bennet commented that the Public Iris Garden at Dry Creek offered a membership table one full day recently. Dan Williams added that the AIS Sections, such as Dwarf Iris Society, Tall Bearded Iris Society, etc., also have deals with signing up for a Section membership.

Regional Events Coordinator – open position

Scholarship, Lee Dickey: Lee reported four strong applicants for the Region’s annual \$1,000 scholarship normally gifted to one applicant. After discussion due to additional gifts to the Scholarship Fund, currently holding \$2,100, several motions were made, seconded, amended and re-made as many members voiced ideas, pushing the concept of more than one recipient in different amounts based on certain strengths on the applications, including plans such as \$1,500 for one and \$600 for a runner-up. After a Bylaw review and further discussion and amendments on number of recipients and amounts, Jeff Bennett moved to grant four scholarships-- one each for \$1,000, \$500, and two for \$300 each; Jean Richter seconded. Vote was taken; motion approved, none opposed. Recipients and amounts will be: Jessica Vanden Beukel, \$1,000; Elizabeth Mello, \$500; Crystal Chacon Lara, \$300, and Kamala Tippa, \$300.

Science, Riley Probst: absent. No report.

Trophies, Bill Fink: Bill related that he has all the trophies. He will bring them to Chico’s Fall Regional venue.

Youth, Carolyn Hoover: Carolyn described the rebuild process for the youth programs which fell from 150 to 50 students during the pandemic. Reaching out includes FFA groups who love animals and plants and the importance of reaching college students so we don’t lose people between high school and mid-life.

Old Business:

Hosts: Carolyn Hoover announced that Fall 2023 and Fall 2024 still need Regional Meeting hosts. She will reach out to Las Vegas IS.

2022 Spring Regional: Dry Creek Garden Day Summary, Jeff Bennett, Chair: Jeff summarized the Union City’s cooler spring, late and light bloom, many guest iris being in the ground less than a year. 67 people registered with 65 attending. Riley Probst gave garden training on medians. Steve Poole gave garden training on Tall Bearded and a judges training on Louisianas. Jeff listed the vote results for trophy- and award-winning iris:

- **Knopf Cup**, Best seedling by R14 hybridizer: 814D, TB, Bryce Williamson.
- **Clara B. Reese Cup**, Best introduced by a R14 hybridizer: ‘Commedia Dell’Arte’, TB, Bryce Williamson, 2022.
- **James M. Gibson Cup**, Best plicata, fancy plicata, luminata, broken color, visual plicata: ‘Serenade To Music’, TB, Bryce Williamson, 2022.
- **Out of Region-** Best iris by a hybridizer not in R14: ‘Arctic Chill’, TB, Keith Keppel, 2020.
- **Hager-DuBose Cup**, Best bearded other than tall: ‘Shampoo’, IB, Virginia Messick, 1975.
- **Melrose Cup**, Best beardless: ‘Cajun Sunrise’, LA, Joseph Mertzweiler, 1993.

(Awards will be also listed in the Region 14 ‘Bulletin’ in Fall 2022). Event receipts, still being tallied, are \$1,500-\$2,000 for Sydney B. Mitchell IS and Mt. Diablo IS-- healthy for the sponsor clubs because Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Park of the East Bay Regional Parks paid for tents, signage, tables and chairs resulting in the clubs being able to benefit from proceeds. Jeff suggested that other clubs sponsoring future regional meetings would conservatively aim for covering 50 attendees even if it makes registration more expensive, but expenses would be covered.

2022 Fall Regional: Leo T. Clark IS and Shasta IS; Carol Cullen, Chair: Chico’s Fall Regional Meeting venue is a recently refurbished hotel, DoubleTree by Hilton; lunch will be provided; Friday night’s speaker is AIS president Andi Rivarola on Fall rebloomers. Anna Cadd will present a Judges Training (1.5 hrs.) on Artistic iris entries.

Upcoming Region Meetings, Carolyn Hoover:

- Yosemite Iris Society will host **2023 Spring Regional**: Fri. - Sun., May 12-14, 2023.
- No host yet for Fall 2023. Date to be determined. Las Vegas could be a possibility.
- Sacramento Iris Society and Sierra Foothills Iris Society will co-host **2024 Spring Regional**: Fri. - Sun., April 19-21, 2024, featuring displays in the gardens of Ruth Ostroff, Mary Ann Horton and Cindy Eastman. No host yet for Fall 2024 Fall Regional.

***New Business: Secretary for Region 14**, Carolyn Hoover: Without a Secretary, Patricia Eisenberg was asked to take the Minutes for this R14 meeting as volunteer. After reaching out via email list and to certain individuals, no other members stepped up for the position. Patricia is willing to continue for this year in addition to her role on the fundraising committee. Neither Bylaws nor Standing Rules prevent her from being appointed by the RVP to the Secretary position. Patricia accepted the appointment. From this date of May 2, 2022, the new Region 14 Secretary is Patricia Eisenberg of Reno, NV; the CEO/RVP (regional vice president) remains Carolyn Hoover, of Coarsegold, CA, whose term continues until end of calendar year 2024, and the Assistant RVP remains Carol Cullen of Chico, CA; Bonnie Petheram continues in her role as Region 14 Treasurer.

Events Coordinator for Region 14, Carolyn Hoover: We have no Events Coordinator. The person in this role guides and builds leadership confidence and responsibility for planning and carrying out Regional Meetings and hospitality. An idea came up that maybe the Host Chair of each Regional gathering could become the Events Coordinator and coach the chairperson of the upcoming regional, similar to other transition roles we have in R14 leadership. Discussion. No further action at this time.

Attendance & Adjournment: At any given time through the Zoom meeting, there were about 20 attendees, some signing in late or leaving prior to adjournment.

Region 14 Spring Regional Business Meeting was adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Minutes of the foregoing AIS Region 14 Meeting are hereby respectfully submitted,

Patricia Eisenberg, Secretary, AIS Region 14
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