

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

October 8, 2022, Chico, CA: In-Person Meeting

(FINAL – received member approval at 2023 Board & Spring Regional Business Meeting May 19, 2023)

Region 14 Fall Regional Board & Business Meeting Call to Order: Following a lengthy Budget Meeting and a needed break, Regional Vice President Carolyn Hoover called the 10 am Board & General Meeting to order at 10:50 am. (Hereafter, Region 14 may be abbreviated 'R14' and Iris Societies may be abbreviated 'IS').

Officer Reports:

Judges Training Chair and Assistant RVP, Carol Cullen: We have 46 Judges that include 4 emeritus judges, 13 Master Judges, 29 Garden/Exhibition Judges; and 12 retired Judges; 1 Master Judge Joanne Jones, has requested retired status and 1 G/E judge has requested to be dropped. There are 2 requests for advancement: Jeff Bennett and Elaine Fisher to G/E. There have been 10 trainings. Let Carol know if you have trainings in your areas. Mary Ann Horton's garden may be used; on one day there were 30 trainings in Mary Ann's garden. Get permissions and information can be posted. The most JT hours, winning the **Star Award, Anna Cadd** had 14 hours of training! (Going forward, the winner will receive an iris gift certificate for the value we have been spending on the Star trophies). In Santa Rosa, two trainings were provided by Lynn Williams and Kitty Loberg. For significant class resources go to AISRegion14.org to *Region 14 Events* for dropdowns for Judges Training and Class details. Carolyn Hoover said Yosemite IS will host a JT on November 12 with Bryce Williamson. Carol reminded everyone that Judges training class attendees should keep their own records. Carol thanked everyone for returning Activity Reports in a timely manner.

Secretary, Patricia Eisenberg: Following corrections on James M. Gibson, not Jim, and meeting dates of James M. Gibson IS for 3rd Thursdays, not Tues., and clarification on SFIS and SIS co-hosting the Spring 2024 Regional, April 19-21, 2024, featuring displays in the gardens of Ruth Ostroff, Mary Ann Horton and Cindy Eastman, a motion was made by Kathy Braaten to approve as corrected; second: Carol Cullen. Minutes approved.

Treasurer, Bonnie Petheram: absent. The Budget Meeting provided details and made budget adjustments. Current balance: \$37,873.74. Actual expenses: \$4054.58; actual revenue: \$4,723. Projected 2023 revenue: \$6,950; projected 2023 expenses: \$9,925. Projected shortfall: \$2,975. The updated Treasurer Report is normally in the Fall Bulletin.

'Bulletin' Editor, Stephanie Jennings: absent. No report. Last Bulletin published Aug. 19. Sent a 'thank you' that Jean Richter and Ann Pike are posting items timely on the new, easier website. ACTION: Spring Bulletin submittal deadline is Feb. 1. More photos and articles needed. Jeff Bennet made the point that March and October might be better because clubs are so busy in September with garden digging and planting. Future consideration.

Area Directors Reports: Carolyn Hoover prefaced the Reports with ACTION Item for all three Directors to send her their Reports from their Areas at the conclusion of the Meeting, and Affiliates need to submit their activities and photos for the R14 'Bulletin'. The Spring Regional Minutes were 5 pages long; we will be more brief, using the 'Bulletin' to announce and record activities. Besides fundraisers, shows and holiday parties, brief highlights:

Central Director, Jeff Bennett reported on: **Clara B. Rees IS:** Meeting at West Valley Library. Hybrid meeting using Zoom. Sold iris for favors for a bridal shower. **Sydney B. Mitchell IS:** Online fundraising totaling \$900. Visit www.bayareairis.org to see activities. Ken Walker's 'Iris Across the World' showed where various species come from, a wonderful visual. **Mt. Diablo IS:** QR codes were used; online Irish Show with People's Choice Awards. Participated in the Benicia Peddlers Fair, bringing in \$4,500. Sold grab bags of unnamed iris. **Monterey Bay IS:** 70 members!

Southern Director, Helen Franklin reported on: **Fresno IS: James M. Gibson IS** has 20 members. Riley Probst was the rhizome auctioneer, bringing in \$750. **Las Vegas IS:** Uses Nevada Garden Club Center. Discusses different types of iris at each meeting. **San Joaquin IS:** Building up from 10 members, sharing iris with new members. **Yosemite IS: 2023 Spring Regional Hosts:** Fri. - Sun., May 12-14, based at **Oakhurst Community Center;** Iris Show Friday. "Bees, Butterflies and Beauty." Saturday tours to Gonzalez garden (new) and Kanarowski garden will precede catered Awards Dinner. In-garden Judges Trainings on Sunday. The Coarsegold, Mariposa, Oakhurst area features over 1,200 Airbnb lodgings, more affordable than hotels or motels; attendees should book lodging asap. Hosted two JT trainings, and one more coming up. Guest speaker: Doug Kanarowski.

Northern Director, Dan Williams reported on: **High Desert IS** Iris Show was held midweek with another non-profit's fundraiser of 400 attendees. California clubs brought many iris to save our Show suffering from weather, but they won all the awards! Pushing toward becoming a 501(c)(3). **Leo T. Clark IS** lost two members to long-term illness, both Board members. Working with Shasta IS for Fall Regional. **Sacramento IS** Record number of Artistic Entries. Hoping AIS focus on Artistic Judges will promote Artistics. Shepard Garden & Art Center, Sacramento. 5 garden diggings; potted 400 iris for future fundraisers. Trend: high demand. Co-sponsoring 2024 Spring Regional. Former RVP, Jean Richter, guest iris chair. **Santa Rosa IS** very active group, Zoom shifted to in-person. 1st Show in 4 years, with potted iris fundraiser and added 4 new members. Members help each other dig for rhizome fundraisers, offering 335 varieties. Presentation on how seed banks work and doomsday preservation of germplasm. Newsletter helps 34 members and others stay connected. **Shasta IS** Show judged by Carol Cullen. Meet in homes. Fundraiser goal is to offer a \$500 scholarship to a Shasta College student. **Sierra Foothills IS** Cindy Eastman and SFIS hosted a 4-club picnic with HDIS, SIS and SRIS. Co-hosting 2024 Spring Regional in 2024 with SIS.

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

Standing Committee Chairs – Reports:

Honorary Awards Committee, Kathy Oldham: Thanked the Committee for their work. Kathy presented the Larry Gaulter Lifetime Achievement Award for Region 14 service to Riley Probst whose extensive service has made a great difference Region 14 including presentations, public gardens, promoting bearded and beardless iris, fundraising, judging iris shows and more.

Fundraising Committee, Patricia Eisenberg & Marilyn Kaplan: Patricia thanked Marilyn Kaplan, Fundraising Events, and Bonnie Petheram, Treasurer; (Committee position R14 Event Coordinator, remains open). Marilyn's efforts brought in \$973 in drawings, and silent auctions and rhizome offerings. We need to protect Region and Club non-profit status. Two grant funders noticed our 501(c)(3) has not been maintained; steps are being taken to rectify our Region filings. Review of non-profit vocabulary including using "fundraiser" instead of "sale" and "suggested donation" instead of "price" or "cost." Also, "tax included" needs to be written under all pricing signs and banners. Grant apps are in process with requests for Dry Creek Iris Garden, R14 youth programs, historical preservation and scholarship fund.

Historian Committee, Jean Richter: absent.

Website, Ann Pike: absent.

Membership, Shirley Trio: Shirley reported 371 members in R14, most in the nation. Includes 97 renewals and 32 lifetime memberships.

Science, Riley Probst: We need basic, not complex, project ideas. High temps and iris observations: heat stress delayed or prevented rebloomer bloom. Send observations to Riley. Some members are tracking on Excel sheets. Phyllis asked if people would chart iris bloom at Spring Regional to correlate with weather.

Trophies, Bill Fink: Carol Hornette is the 2022 recipient of the Riley and Shirley Probst Award started in 2010 for winners of the Regional Fall Rebloomer Show. Carol also did so much work to hold a sanctioned fall Rebloomer Show in the Southern Area and sharing knowledge of iris. Beautiful silver vase. Not given in some years when a show is not possible or does not have enough attendees or blooms. Bill Fink thanked those who helped with transporting trophies. Bill announced all the Regional Awards Winners and they were listed in the Fall 'Bulletin.'
ACTION Item: We need to vote in Spring to incorporate the Riley & Shirley Trio Probst Award into the Standing Rules. Riley announced that the Symposium is always in the January AIS 'Bulletin.'

Region 14 Trophies for award-winning iris over the past year:

- **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.
- **Jim 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.

Youth, Carolyn Hoover: Carolyn Hoover shared youth work, Watsuma, Awanee and having 55 new students, 5th through 8th graders. Has info to share for youth. Contact her. Ackerman Essay deadline is March 21st. Coloring Contest open. Generous prizes available.

Scholarship, Lee Dickey: Scholarship details were given at the Budget Meeting.

Old Business: 2022 Spring Regional: Carolyn Hoover thanked Jeff Bennett for the 2022 Spring Regional at Dry Creek in the East Bay Regional Park System in Union City. Jeff shared financials: They had budgeted \$5,950 to cover everything. Actuals: \$5,355 total revenue; Park supplied \$2,800 in tables, music, furnishings and banners; \$206 was given to the Region in per-person portions of the registrations, resulting in Sydney B. Mitchell IS and Mt. Diablo IS receiving \$3,800. 65 people attended. Riley Probst and Steve Poole gave garden trainings.

2022 Chico Fall Regional: Carolyn thanked Leo T. Clark IS and Shasta IS for hosting and Carol Cullen, chair: Attendees enjoyed Friday night's speaker, AIS president Andi Rivarola on Fall rebloomers. After lunch, Anna Cadd will present a Judges Training (1.5 hrs.) on Artistic iris entries.

Upcoming Region Meetings & Announcements:

- Yosemite Iris Society will host **2023 Spring Regional:** Fri. - Sun., May 12-14, 2023.
- Sacramento Iris Society will host **2024 Spring Regional:** Fri. - Sun., April 19-21, 2024.

***New Business: Events Coordinator for Region 14,** position open.

Region 14 Spring Regional Business Meeting was **adjourned** at 12:20 pm.

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

Patricia Eisenberg, Secretary, AIS Region 14
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