

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

Oct 14, 2023, Aptos, CA: In-Person Meeting hosted by Monterey Bay Iris Society

FINAL- Received members approval at Spring Regional Board & Business Meeting, Apr. 19-20, 2024, Auburn, CA

Budget Meeting: Following the previous night's Reblooming Iris Show, Judges Training on Reblooming Iris (1.5 hrs.), with Riley Probst and the opening of the silent auction bidding, the Budget Meeting scheduled for 8:30am was called to order at 8:53am by Regional Vice President Carolyn Hoover. The proposed budget was distributed.

Treasurer Helen Franklin proposed that the Region cover the Registration expenses of the Regional Board. The RVP is already covered. The additional subsidy would cover the Secretary, Treasurer and Co-Fundraising Chairs. Lynn Williams made a motion to approve; John Honnette seconded. Unanimous vote followed. Motion carried.

A proposal was introduced to purchase a large scanner for electronically archiving scrapbook materials for historical preservation. The Initial cost would be \$600. Motion to approve by Bryce Williamson; seconded by John Honnette. Unanimous vote followed. Motion carried.

Phyllis Wilburn proposed that a seed money loan up to \$1,000 be available to affiliates when sponsoring events such as Regional Meetings to help cover venue deposits and up-front costs. Some clubs don't have resources to launch events. After discussion, Phyllis moved to approve; seconded by Lynn Williams. Motion carried.

The amount budgeted for Sales tax expense has become insufficient. \$25.00 has been in the annual budget, but the actual expense in 2023 was \$147.00. Lynn Williams made a motion to approve an increase to \$200; seconded by Mary Ann Horton. Tax allotment will be increased to \$200 in the budget. Motion carried.

The \$50 internet expense is not enough to cover internet fees and professional service. A motion was made by Lynn Williams to approve the proposed \$250 budget allocation. Dan Williams seconded. Motion carried.

Scholarships: it was reported that one scholarship recipient had not cashed the scholarship check, so those funds will be counted back into the funds allocated for scholarships. Clubs have been donating to the fund.

Projected income from iris fundraisers was increased: ~~in particular, adding projection of~~ \$250 income for Fall Regional for beardless iris; Spring was increased by \$500 due to iris fundraising success.

A clarification was made: R14 Affiliate dues are \$4 per member sent to the Region, and per each Regional Meeting attendee, the sponsoring club sends \$3 out of the registrations to Region 14.

Treasurer Helen Franklin reported the amounts in the Bank of America accounts, proposing that monies above what is budgeted be moved into interest-bearing Certificates of Deposit in three varying time intervals with the shortest being most available in an urgent situation. Discussion followed on penalties versus interest income. For the smallest, shortest CD, the penalty for early withdrawal would be approximately ¼ of 1 percent. After discussion and direction that Helen will research the best options and banks, a motion was made by Lynn Williams that Helen will follow up to complete purchasing of the 3 CDs; seconded by Phyllis Wilburn. By vote of the Board and members, Region 14 authorizes Helen Franklin to purchase Certificates of Deposit at whatever bank offers the best option for Region 14, based on Helen's due diligence in research.

The budget revisions increase expenses from \$10,205 to \$10,655, and budgeted revenue increases from \$7,150 to \$7,900, thereby increasing total revenue over expense by \$3,100.

A motion was made by Lynn Williams to approve the new budget, seconded by Phyllis Wilburn. Budget approved. Budget meeting adjourned at 9:36 am.

Region 14 Fall Regional Board & Business Meeting Call to Order, Welcome and Roll Call: Following the Budget Meeting, Regional Vice President Carolyn Hoover called the 10:15 am Board & General Meeting to order at 10:20 am at the Aptos Grange. (Hereafter, Region 14 may be abbreviated 'R14' and Iris Societies may be abbreviated 'IS').

Carolyn welcomed attendees on behalf of host Monterey Bay Iris Society to the 2023 Fall Regional: "Iris by the Sea," and announced that 68* people had registered to attend. Roll Call was taken by Affiliates; 14 out of 15 Affiliates had Members present:

James M. Gibson IS:	4
Fresno IS:	2
San Joaquin IS:	1
Yosemite IS:	7
Santa Rosa IS:	5
Mt. Diablo IS:	9
Monterey Bay IS:	11
Clara B. Reese IS:	11
Sacramento IS:	10
Sydney B. Mitchell IS:	4
Shasta IS:	3
Leo T. Clark IS:	1
Sierra Foothills IS:	11
High Desert IS:	3
Las Vegas IS:	0

- Affiliate totals come to 82; some attendees belong to multiple clubs.

Officer Reports:

Judges Training Chair and Assistant RVP, Carol Cullen: Region 14 held 14 well-attended Classroom and Garden trainings. R14 Judges attended trainings at the National AIS Dallas Convention, the Annual Region 15 Trek and the Portland Region 13 Meeting. R14 has 46 AIS Judges: Apprentice, G/E, Master, Emeritus and 9 Retired Judges. One Apprentice dropped, and 3 new Student Judges joined: Gretchen Lassiter and Holly Singleton, both from Shasta IS, and Ruth Ostroff from Sacramento IS. Phillipa Alvis requested retired status and was thanked for her years of service. One Apprentice will likely advance to G/E and one Student to Apprentice. Anyone interested in becoming an Artistic Judge may contact Carol. Several are working toward Artistic Judge status. At the 2022 Fall Regional, the Annual Award of Recognition for the Judge with the most training hours was changed from the engraved star to a \$65 certificate to the winner's choice of hybridizer or garden. This year, Dan Williams is honored with this certificate, completing 16 hours' training between 8/1/22 and 7/31/23. Congratulations, Dan! Carol thanked Judges for timely submittal of Annual Judges' Activity Reports.

Secretary- Patricia Eisenberg: Approval of Minutes: 2023 Spring Regional 14 Meeting - One correction on fundraising revenue (\$9,000 to \$900) in the Central Director report of Mt. Diablo. Motion by Dan Williams to approve as corrected; second: Jim Cummins. Approved.

Treasurer-Helen Franklin: The Budget Meeting provided details and made budget adjustments. Helen distributed her Report, stating the January 2022 opening balance of \$37,895.70, and June 2023's ending balance of \$38,596.18, with income and expense changes from the previous year, requiring use of \$2,055 in reserves. Current balance: \$39,556.04. Treasurer's report was voted upon, approved in the Budget Session earlier.

Editor- Stephanie Jennings: No report. Carolyn reminded everyone that the next deadline is February 1st.

Area Director Reports: Clubs have been asked to send reports to their Area Directors before Regional. Area Directors need to send their compiled reports to the RVP, the Bulletin Editor and the Secretary, featuring highlights of unique activities and events. Photos for the Bulletin are encouraged to more thoroughly record club news of people, iris, activities, educational outreaches, meeting schedules (also on R14's website), speakers, iris shows, fundraising and celebrations.

Central Area Director- Jeff Bennett (2021-2023): Jeff's notables for clubs in the Central Area:

Sydney B. Mitchell IS: In-person meetings are reinstated. The July online beardless iris auction was successful. An online January judges training is planned; details to be determined.

Clara B. Reese IS: A picnic was held. The club put on an iris auction at Yamagami. CBRIS is updating its website.

Monterey Bay IS: Meets 3rd Friday, monthly, at the Aptos Grange, featuring a speaker, meal and iris door prizes. They held a successful fundraiser again this year. Focus was hosting this "Iris by the Sea" Regional Meeting! Sherry Austin introduced her 'Glitter Gulch'.

Mt. Diablo IS: Held a fundraiser auction in a member's garden. Participated in the Peddlers Faire in Benicia, earning \$1,100. The club also entered the August Nile Antique Fair at which one person donated \$700 for rhizomes. They post fundraising rhizomes on the 'Iris Lovers' website. MDIS has earned \$10,000 in fundraising iris. They held an education session with Bryce Williamson on iris color patterns. Meetings are now 2nd Sundays monthly in San Ramon—working well. Focusing on Instagram, the club has 70 followers.

Jeff pointed out that his term is ending. (A successor discussion will be later on the Agenda).

Southern Area Director- Helen Franklin (2022-2024): Helen had to leave; Carolyn Hoover shared the SA report:

Fresno IS: With membership at 40, 7 pm meetings are 1st Tuesdays monthly, 8 months of the year. Activity info is on the FIS website. In March Don Fennell presented on prepping iris for shows. In April, Jennifer Waite instructed attendees on artistic arrangements for iris shows. The April Iris Show was held at the Sierra Vista Mall. Riley Probst talked in May on Rebloomers in the garden, and FIS member Doug Kanarowski presented in Dallas at the AIS Convention. In August, the Rhizome Fundraiser was held at Redeemer Lutheran Church near the FIS meeting site.

James M. Gibson IS: Meetings: 4th Thursdays, January through June, and October in Porterville, CA. They have 26 members. In August, they held a 2-day Farmers Market Fundraiser, earning \$800, even in blazing heat. In September, they had another fundraiser, door prizes and BBQ, raising \$872. They have a Christmas party planned for Dec. 9.

Las Vegas IS: 20 members. Meetings are monthly: Lorenzi Park Garden Center, 3333 W. Washington Ave.

San Joaquin IS: The 8 members meet at each other's homes. They helped dig at Doug Kanarowski's Mariposa Iris garden after Spring Regional.

Yosemite IS: Noon meetings, 2nd Saturdays, monthly, Oakhurst Library, except Dec., Jan., July and August. 51 members! They potted over 500 iris donated by Rick Tasco for fundraising. Events: an October 2-hour Judges Training on Arils and Arilbreds with Rick Tasco. November: Louisiana Iris program by Carolyn Hoover at Pearson's. December: a fundraiser at Bootstompers Hall in Mariposa and the YIS Christmas Party in Oakhurst. 2024 YIS Iris Show: Saturday, April 27, 2024.

Northern Area Director- Dan Williams (2022-2025): Dan's reporting included the following:

High Desert IS: Iris Show had 13 entrants showing 82 stalks and 5 artistic entries, judged by Ted and Barbara Hawkins from Ceres, CA. HDIS held a seminar at Greenhouse Garden Center in Carson City, NV, and its Annual Symposium in the afternoon on Iris Show Day. HDIS received IRS determination as a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Monthly meetings are in members' homes except December. Membership grew to 40; event participation increased markedly through social media due to member Patty Johnston's training sessions.

Leo T. Clark IS: Held a very successful potted iris fundraiser. Rhizomes dug from member gardens will fill 450 pots, a record! LTCIS is looking for a meeting place.

Sacramento IS: Members enjoyed the July 4-club BBQ at Cindy Eastman's Grass Valley home, with Sierra Foothills, Leo T. Clark, and High Desert Iris Societies. There were 2 dig-and-label events in July, one at Phyllis Wilburn's, the other at Horton Iris Garden followed by a rhizome fundraiser, a potting party and a dig for door prize iris in August and a September member Auction or remaining iris. SIS participated in the Shepherd Garden and Art Center Plant & Artists Sale focusing on potted iris.

Santa Rosa IS: To everyone's joy, Alleah Haley attended the Members Picnic from Asheboro, NC, to reconnect. September's fundraiser took in \$2,000 more than in 2022. Prepping for the 2025 Spring Regional, SRIS held a September plant-and-label party at Luther Burbank Arts and Garden Center, with many guest irises donated by club members and hybridizers. The second garden hosting guest iris is that of Diana and Don Ford in Hopland, containing thousands of Diana's seedlings and award-winning irises.

Shasta IS: No report.

Sierra Foothills IS: Members meet last Tuesdays of most months, 6:30 pm: Rose Room, Auburn Civic Center. SFIS held the 4-Club Picnic at Cindy Eastman's and assisted with rhizome digs for a fundraiser in July and a very successful potted iris fundraiser in September at Weiss Brothers Nursery in Grass Valley. A holiday dinner is planned for October. SFIS and SIS are focused on co-sponsoring Spring 2024 R14 Meeting in Auburn, based at the Holiday Inn (at I-80 and Hwy 49), April 19020, with guest irises at Ruth Ostroff's in Rio Vista and Horton Iris Garden in Loomis.

Central Area Director Successor- (New Term: 2024-2026): Carolyn pointed out the need to fill the Central Director position following the expiration of Jeff Bennett's term end of calendar year 2023. Riley Probst was nominated. Riley expressed willingness. Riley's membership in several clubs will help stay current on Central Area happenings. Carolyn thereby appointed Riley Probst to be the next Central Area Director.

Immediate Past RVP; Nominating Committee Chair - Jean Richter: Not present. In Jean's absence, Carolyn shared Jean's submitted report. A position needs to be filled on the Nominating Committee; Jane Jordan volunteered, and Carolyn thanked her, accepting Jane's willingness for the role. Phyllis Wilburn also serves on the Committee. Jean stated in her report: "I look forward to working with the Nominating Committee to select the next RVP. If you are interested in serving as RVP, please contact me."

Standing Committees:

Fund Raising Co-Chairs - Patricia Eisenberg, Resource Development; Marilyn Kaplan, Fundraising Events: Marilyn thanked everyone, and explained that we should do well with this silent auction, basket drawing and potted iris and we will have a strict closing time on the auction and posted ending time. Patricia summarized that the treasurer's report shows \$2,726 in donations last year, and reviewed protecting our non-profits by keeping the mission clear (see the AIS and R14 websites). Maintain updated Facebook or online presence with correct vocabulary, club newsletters, photos of activities and links to AIS, and other appropriate sites to assist fundraising and grants, since funders check websites and social media. If each Affiliate sends 2 photos to Ann Pike or Jean Richter—and to the Bulletin Editor, we will have 30 photos on the web and in print. Currently there are two entities interested in contributing to R14 scholarship fund and another interested in seeing a public iris garden. Some grant providers offer matching funds, quantifying volunteer hours in dollars and visitor sign-ins. When a count of hours is needed with grant writing efforts, the club secretary and/or treasurer should keep the lists showing members names, type of service and hours given—and event sign-ins --with monthly meeting attendance.

Historian Committee Chair-Jean Richter: Bryce Williamson reported for the Committee that they have large, difficult-to-scan, historic material that to archive like booklets, catalogs and publications--material from Ben Hager and Don Denning from the 1970s and many items for digital and library storage. A scanner for large material will be purchased. The AIS Library is being moved to Coarsegold's Library. Jean is on the AIS Historical

Team. Keith Keppel is helping move material from the AIS Library in Oregon, down to Coarsegold near Yosemite, which Carolyn Hoover is also helping with.

Internet/Electronic/Website Services Chair- Ann Pike: In attendance. Ann reported the WordPress website is frequently updated. Re-design in progress to accommodate photos.

Membership Chair- Shirley Trio: Shirley said she had previously reported 432 R14 members, but now we are just about 380 members. Years of R14 membership for some long-time members, including:

Phil Edinger, 72 years,
Joe Ghio, 68 years,
Bryce Williamson, 60 years,
Rick Tasco, 40 years,
Mary Hess and Anna Cadd, 38 years,
and Lynn Williams, 37 years. Everyone clapped in admiration and congratulations!

Science Chair - Riley Probst: Riley reported no questions to research, nor project proposals submitted. Send in any questions.

Trophies & Awards Chair- Bill Fink: The 'Shirley Trio & Riley Probst Cup' started in 2010 for winners of the Regional Fall Rebloomer Show, and needs to be entered and described in the Standing Rules' Awards and Ballots, VI. After a-f., proposing g.: The Riley & Shirley Probst Perpetual Award Region 14 Fall Best in Show will be awarded. If a complete show, it will be awarded to the Best In Show as evaluated by AIS rules. If just a seedling show, it will be awarded to Best Seedling of Show. It is a beautiful silver vase given to the winner of Best in Show when a fall show is possible with enough attendees and blooms. Bill read the proposed insertion 'G.' A motion was made by Bill Fink to approve the 'Shirley Trio & Riley Probst Cup' entry into the Bylaws & Standing Rules as an Award for Best in Show of the Region 14 Fall Reblooming Iris Show, whether a seedling show or a full iris show; seconded by Riley Probst. Revised Bylaws/Standing Rules need to be sent to Ann Pike for the website. Bill then presented awards for 2023:

Knopf Cup, Best Seedling, 40-RLC6, Diana Ford, accepted by Anna Cadd, president of SRIS.
Hager-DeBose Memorial Award, Iris other than Tall Bearded, O1 HM2, Luminata.
Clara B. Reese Award, Best Intro pre-2023, Rick Tasco, 'Rosy's Celebration.'
Jim Gibson Award, Best Plicata, 'Dark Storm.'
Out of Region Award to Steve Keller for 'Folklorico.'
Shirley Trio & Riley Probst Cup, Carolyn and John Honnette, Yosemite Iris Society, 2 years in a row, Best in Show for 'Amazing With Grace.'

Scholarship Chair- Lee Dickey: After reporting the scholarship check had never been cashed and the student could not be located, and after much discussion, the scholarships will be sent to the intended institutions' registrars or scholarship offices to apply when the students attend.

Youth Chair- Carolyn Hoover: Carolyn reported 60 youth in Yosemite Iris Society youth programs for 4th-5th graders, Awanee Youth; 61 5th graders, Wasuma School, and 62 Oakhurst School Garden participants. The Honnettes' Bee Haven donate iris for kids for Mother's Day. School students require about \$11 per student for soil, labels and tools. With the largest youth iris program in the US for learning how to plant and grow irises, they also learn how to participate in AIS website youth activities, coloring contests and the Ackerman Essay Contest. All AIS youth of Region 14 also receive a potted TB iris for their birthdays donated by Carolyn Hoover and Bee Haven Iris Garden of Coarsegold, CA.

New Business: Hosts of Spring 2024 Regional: Sacramento and Sierra Foothills Iris Societies, Apr. 19-21, 2024, will feature Gardens of Ruth Ostroff, Mary Ann Horton. The hotel will be the Auburn Holiday Inn with 90 rooms available, located in California's Gold Country; the theme will be "Golden Gathering."

Affiliate to host the Fall 2024 Regional 3rd Week of October: Fresno IS might work. Carolyn will ask Fresno to consider hosting.

Santa Rosa Iris Society, Host of Spring 2025 Regional: Santa Rosa Iris Society is preparing to host, as previously brought up during club updates. Kitty Loberg: Dates are May 2-3, 2025. They received 135 varieties of guest iris now planted at the Luther Burbank Arts and Garden Center and in the garden of Diana and Don Ford in Hopland, about 50 miles from Santa Rosa.

Honorary Awards Chair - Kathy Oldham (Committee: Aleta Kerr, Carol Dahout, Tiffany Rush): Carolyn Hoover thanked Kathy for work on the Larry Gaulter Lifetime Achievement Award. Carol will be the next Special Award Chair in 2024. Kathy described the winner as a 38-year member of Region 14 who had won iris awards and who is a Master Judge since 1977, and had received the 2015 Star Award for most judges training hours. After descriptions of Region 14 service, Kathy announced Shirley Trio as the recipient of the Larry Gaulter Lifetime Achievement Award, which Kathy and Carolyn presented.

AIS Library: The AIS Library will be moved from Oregon to Yosemite Area and is envisioned to be like an iris museum, library of resources and historical collections, while providing meeting space.

AIS Directors: Directors from our Region will be Carolyn Hoover, Jean Richter and Phyllis Wilburn. Jean will be the new AIS Membership Chair.

2023 Dallas Convention attendees shared that the gardens were beautiful with all types of irises blooming at once. Rick Tasco and Doug Kanarowski won awards for Outside of Region: Rick won 1st Place for 'Lucky Dragon', AB OGB (Franklin Cook Cup), and Doug won 1st Runner Up, for his 'Phasers on Stun', TB. Jim Cummins won 1st Runner Up for Best Seedling, (Floyd Zurbrigg-Clarence Mahan Cup) for his seedling: '13-10C' (TB).

Carolyn thanked Monterey Bay Iris Society, and Craig Tarr. Motion to adjourn was made by Dan Williams; seconded by John Honnette. Adjourned at 12:10 pm.

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

Patricia Eisenberg, Secretary, AIS Region 14
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