

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

May 12, 2023, Oakhurst, CA: In-Person Meeting hosted by Yosemite Iris Society
(FINAL- member approval at Board & Fall Regional Business Meeting, Oct. 14, 2023, Aptos, CA)

Region 14 Fall Regional Board & Business Meeting Call to Order, Welcome and Roll Call: Following the 7 pm Budget Meeting, Regional Vice President Carolyn Hoover called the 7:45 pm Board & General Meeting to order at 7:48 pm at the Oakhurst Community Center. (Hereafter, Region 14 may be abbreviated 'R14' and Iris Societies may be abbreviated 'IS').

Carolyn welcomed attendees on behalf of host Yosemite Iris Society to the 2023 Spring Regional, "Bees, Butterflies, and Beauty," and announced that more than 85 people had registered to attend, some of whom would be arriving later or the next day. Roll Call was taken by Affiliates; 14 out of 15 Affiliates had Members present:

James M. Gibson IS:	5
Fresno IS:	4
San Joaquin IS:	1
Yosemite IS:	5
Santa Rosa IS:	4
Mt. Diablo IS:	3
Monterey Bay IS:	4
Clara B. Reese IS:	8
Sacramento IS:	6
Sydney B. Mitchell IS:	1
Shasta IS:	3
Leo T. Clark IS:	1
Sierra Foothills IS:	9
High Desert IS:	8
Las Vegas IS:	0

Approval of Minutes: 2022 Fall Regional 14 Meeting - A correction from \$9,000 to \$900 for the Sydney B. Mitchell IS fundraising. Motion by Bill Fink to approve as corrected; second: Lynn Williams. Minutes approved.

Officer Reports:

Judges Training Chair and Assistant RVP, Carol Cullen: 47 Judges, most of any AIS Region, include 4 Emeritus Judges, 14 Master Judges, 27 Garden/Exhibition Judges; 10 retired Judges. R14 has 2 apprentices. Carol Cullen reported there have been 4 in person trainings and good participation for Zoom meetings for trainings: 2 garden presentations (one of which was in Las Vegas), and 2 in-person class trainings, one of which was in Yosemite in November with Bryce Williamson, and one by Jean Richter, and another by Howie Dash, both hosted by Sydney B. Mitchell IS—fewer than the previous year due to weather. Only five Region 14 Judges attended training at the National Convention in Dallas from Bonnie Nichols. Carol reminded Judges to send in Activity Reports timely and to let her know if trainings are planned. Get approvals. Judges Training details will be posted on AISRegion14.org in *Region 14 Events*. JT attendees should keep records (hours, presenters, location and topics).

Secretary- Patricia Eisenberg: No additional report other than Minutes.

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 April 2023's ending balance

of \$35,780.11, with less income and more expenses than the previous year, requiring use of reserves in the amount of \$2,115.59.

Editor- Stephanie Jennings: Stephanie thanked contributors for content for the Region 'Bulletin'. A concern is that some clubs never submit a report. She hopes to talk with them. This is how we communicate and record our history. The next deadline is August 1st.

Director Reports: Sample highlights of unique activities and events reported are mentioned here. Clubs have been asked to send reports to the RVP. They are encouraged to also send them and photos to the Bulletin Editor to more thoroughly record club news of people, iris, special activities and educational outreaches, meeting schedules (also found on R14's website), speakers, iris shows, fundraising and celebrations.

Central Area Director- (2021-2023) Jeff Bennett: Jeff's notables for clubs in his Central Area are increased online meetings and online rhizome and potted iris sales. Mt. Diablo IS focused on iris around the world: for example, Japanese iris in context of species history, Japanese culture and lore. Jeff described the resilience of the Mt. Diablo IS after another theft at Dry Creek Iris Garden. (Kathy Oldham later added that MDIS held a virtual iris show for the 4th year, not AIS-sanctioned, but effective and educational, for cut or uncut or out of season iris. Club members are promoting love of iris in their communities by filling open community positions and introducing ideas for gardens, celebrations and activities. Fundraisers in the Benicia area brought in nearly \$4,000. Clara B. Reese held its first Show in 4 years with an amazing 19 Artistic entries! Proceeds from 2-gallon potted iris was \$1,343. In Monterey Bay IS, Joe Ghio's well-awarded border bearded iris 'Boy Genius' won best in show.

Southern Area Director- (2022-2024) Helen Franklin: Helen related that Fresno IS has 60 members, a successful show in April and their rhizome fundraiser will be in August. Riley Probst was the guest speaker May 2nd. The James M. Gibson IS with 24 members, participated in the Porterville Spring Festival. San Joaquin Iris Society's 8 members meet in private homes. Yosemite IS is pleased to be hosting this Regional and featuring Sandy Mann as one of the Judges Training presenters. Helen also said that she finally met long-time R14 website chair Ann Pike in Las Cruces at the 2022 National.

Northern Area Director- (2022-2025) Dan Williams: Dan described the lengthy winter and weather delays in iris bloom for Northern Nevada's High Desert Iris Society. Its late season iris show on a 3-year rotating cycle was a boost for the loads of blooms brought to the show by 3 members from Winnemucca in north central Nevada, which was judged by Barbara and Ted Hawkins of Ceres, CA. HDIS has applied for its 501(c)(3) non-profit status. Chico's Leo T. Clark Iris Society had a successful potted iris fundraiser with 135 pots selling in a little over an hour. Blooms 3-4 weeks later than normal affected their show with fewer entries but nice selections. Members will visit Rob Marshall's Forest Ranch gardens in May. Sacramento IS invited Jeff Bennett to speak on Dry Creek Iris Garden, affected by flooding and theft. Bill Fink gave a Garden Judges's training at Horton Iris Garden. Members are opening their gardens for visits. SIS and Sierra Foothills IS will co-host the Spring 2024 Regional. Santa Rosa IS meets in person, offering food and education programs at Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center. A highlight was a presentation by Anna Cadd and Jeff Davis on transporting and staging iris for shows. Jeff Davis won Best Artistic Design and Artistic Sweepstakes Award at their Show. Members depend on their newsletter edited by Anna Marie Hermansen, sent electronically. Shasta IS holds fundraisers to fund a scholarship at Shasta College. As a small club they were not able to have a 2023 iris show so they had an in-home show hosted by member Gretchen Lassiter, helping 2 judging students learn while having fun. Sierra Foothills IS held its holiday potluck in November, awarding the Bertha Brownlee Founder Award to charter members Bob & Marilyn Baker, two long-standing, hard-working members with many years of service. SFIS is holding member garden tours and has been planning the Spring regional with SIS. A 4-club June garden picnic is planned at Cindy Eastman's Grass Valley home.

Immediate Past RVP; Nominating Committee Chair - Jean Richter: No report at this time.

Standing Committees:

Honorary Awards Chair - Kathy Oldham (Committee: Aleta Kerr, Tiffany Rush, Carol Dahout): Kathy thanked Shirley Trio for a list of past awardees chosen for the Larry Gaulter Lifetime Achievement Award. See the criteria for nominees in the R14 Standing Rules. August 1st is the nominating deadline. No nominees yet.

Fund Raising Co-Chairs - Patricia Eisenberg, Resource Development; Marilyn Kaplan, Fundraising Events:

Marilyn explained that fundraising is just getting underway; we have high hopes for this in-person silent auction, basket drawing and iris auction with iris donations by Riley Probst and potted iris by several donors. Patricia reviewed our non-profit status briefly and how to care for it, filing annual officers names and the annual postcard with the IRS, protecting it in the event of audits. Use correct vocabulary: fundraiser, not sale. Suggested donation, not price or cost. Signage about iris for sale also must show "tax included." Do not let your club present itself as if it were a retail or online store. Keep the mission and non-profit purpose clear: education, public gardens, scholarships, outreach events, etc. Maintain a good Facebook or online presence with club newsletters, photos of activities and links to AIS and other appropriate sites. Send photos to Ann Pike and Jean Richter for the R14 website. Help members and donors understand what they are part of and why they should participate in iris club and region projects. Some philanthropic foundations, family trusts and corporate giving programs to nonprofits offer matching funds; they quantify volunteer hours in dollars; many non-profits measure success of events by listings of visitors and volunteer hours. The club secretary can keep the lists with monthly records for when there's a need. It will help grant writing efforts. Carolyn and Patricia will collaborate and send out a sample form.

Historian Committee Chair-Jean Richter: No report at this time.

Electronic Services Chair- Ann Pike: No report at this time.

Membership Chair- Shirley Trio: Shirley reported 432 R14 members, most of any Region. New members are asking more about rebloomers. We do not have a way of knowing which clubs new AIS members belong to. Often new club members are not AIS members. We want to encourage them to join both.

Scholarship Chair- Lee Dickey: Lee announced 3 R14 scholarship applications from 'A' students from Redwood City, Red Bluff and Fresno. The Scholarship budgets per person were reviewed. We also need additional contact info; in the past, when students move away from home or change college living situations, we lose contact and cannot deliver the scholarship. Discussion followed about a secure way to deliver the scholarship, being sure the student truly attends college. Helen Franklin suggested that the student show proof of acceptance. After more discussion, the conclusion was that the scholarships would be sent to the intended institutions' registrars or scholarship offices to apply when the students attend.

Science Chair - Riley Probst: Please send science questions to Riley. Riley shared observations that the prolonged winter weather this year, two to three times the normal rainfall, created various microclimates affecting height of bloomstalks, timing of blooms and possibly other characteristics. People have been keeping charts on bloom and other observations. Riley asked if others would share their data with him.

Trophies & Awards Chair- Bill Fink: The 'Shirley Trio & Riley Probst Cup' started in 2010 for winners of the Regional Fall Rebloomer Show, needs to be entered and described in the Standing Rules, Awards and Ballots, which Phyllis Wilburn pointed out is a duty of the Secretary. It is a beautiful silver vase only given when a fall show is possible with enough attendees and blooms. **ACTION** Item: Vote next Regional Meeting to approve the Riley & Shirley Trio Reblooming Iris Cup, to be entered into the Region 14 Standing Rules as an award to be given each year to the Best in Show at the Reblooming Iris Show held at Region 14's Fall Regional Meeting.

Youth Chair- Carolyn Hoover: Carolyn related that the youth program CIP (Classroom Iris Program) at Wasuma School, Ahwahnee, CA, had 66 AIS students in the 2022-23 school year, (mostly 4th and 5th graders). They now have learned how to plant and grow irises. They also had lessons in Bryce Williamson's iris color patterns program. They participated in the AIS Ackerman Essay Contest, including Carolyn's 9th grade granddaughter. Each winner receives a current 2023 iris for entering, plus \$100 cash (1st place) from AIS. All AIS youth of Region

14 also received a potted TB iris for their birthdays donated by Carolyn Hoover and Bee Haven Iris Garden of Coarsegold, CA.

Report of the 2022 Fall Regional Chair, Carol Cullen, Leo T. Clark Iris Society/Shasta Iris Society: Carol encouraged other clubs not to be afraid of hosting a Regional meeting. Chico's Fall 2022 Meeting of 80 attendees took 10 months to prepare.

Hosts of Spring Regional 2023: Yosemite Iris Society-May 12,13,14,2023 In Oakhurst/Mariposa, Chair, C. Hoover: Stephanie Jennings and the R14 Bulletin and the Region website were very helpful. Carolyn thanked Guy Hoover for working on the Region Booklet.

Host of Fall Regional 2023, Oct. 13-14, 2023: Monterey Bay Iris Society, Chair, Craig Tarr: The 2023 Fall Regional will be held on Friday-Saturday, October 13-14 in Aptos, California. Registration and schedule will be on the R14 website.

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

Need an Affiliate to host the Fall 2024 Regional.

Need an Affiliate to host the Spring Regional 2025. Must plant Guest Irises by Sept. 2023.

Other Old Business: None

New Business

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).

After discussing the next day's tours, motion to **adjourn** was made by Lynn Williams; second by Mikey Lango. Adjourned at 9:23 pm.

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

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