

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY REGION 2 ANNUAL FALL MEETING
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
HELD IN HONEOYE FALLS, N.Y. – OCTOBER 5, 2019 AT 9:00 AM

1. Call to order

Regional Vice President (RVP) Kathryn Mohr presiding. Meeting called to order at 9:00 am. Those in attendance were thanked for coming. Jody Nolin, AIS President was welcomed.

2. Roll call: Officers, Affiliate Chairpersons. Committee Chairs

Kathryn Mohr – RVP and President

Carolyn Schaffner – Assistant RVP and Vice President

Vaughn Sayles - Treasurer

Kate Brewitt – Secretary, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster

Neil Houghton – Greater Rochester Iris Society, representative for Cara Hutchings

Terry Laurin – Ontario Iris Society (ONIS) President

Marilee Farry – Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS) President

Wendy Roller - Judges Training Chair

Other Attendees

EJ Mattson, Betty Schnellinger, Jody Nolin - AIS President

Absent and Excused

Linda Knipper – Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS) President, Cara Hutchings – Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS) President, Dorothy Stiefel – Archives, Pat Salhoff – Awards & Exhibitions co-chair

3. Additions/corrections to the minutes of Oct. 20, 2018 board meeting

Motion by Vaughn Sayles to accept the 2018 Board Meeting minutes as circulated. Motion passed.

Motion by Terry Laurin to amend the minutes for the General Meeting of October 21, 2017 to correctly reflect that the Bylaw Change was to Article VIII and not Article VII as published.

Motion passed.

4. Treasurer's Report and 2020 Budget

Vaughn Sayles reported that the Region is in good shape financially. Looking ahead to 2020, Vaughn recommended an increase in the budget by \$25 over 2019 due to an increase in iHost website hosting fees. A total operating budget for 2020 of \$1,715.00 was proposed.

It was requested that Kate Brewitt investigate costs of different hosting sites.

Motion by Neil Houghton to accept the Treasurer's report and proposed 2020 Budget.

Motion passed.

5. Committee Reports:

Archives – Dorothy Stiefel had nothing to report

Awards & Exhibitions – Kathryn Mohr reported that Pat Salhoff was appointed as co-chair for this committee. She would like to appoint an additional co-chair.

Bylaws – Kathryn Mohr reported that Dorothy Stiefel has resigned as committee chair. Carolyn Schaffner has agreed to become the new committee chair.

Judges Training – Wendy Roller reported that all Judges in the region have completed their three-year judges training requirements. There are ten Active Masters; seven Retired Masters and nine Garden/Exhibition judges plus one Apprentice judge.

Membership – Vaughn Sayles reported that in addition to the four affiliate memberships and the four organizational memberships there are 98 members of the American Iris Society who reside in Region 2. AIS Region 2 welcomed four new members this year.

Newsletter – Kate Brewitt reported that two editions came out on time in 2019. Recommendation made to adopt the new AIS privacy policy regarding physical addresses in either print or online publications.

Motion by Neil Houghton to use American Iris Society physical address authorization and release form. Motion passed.

All Board members who wish to have their physical addresses published should submit their signed form to the editor/webmaster, Kate Brewitt.

Youth – Kathryn Mohr reported that Joanne Maier has stepped down as Youth Committee chair. The position remains open.

Webmaster – Kate Brewitt reported that the website averages 1400 visits per month. Hosting fee increases were discussed in the budget.

6. Affiliate Reports

WNYIS – Marilee Farry reported that it was agreed the group would continue year by year. In 2019 there was a large effort to recruit new members. They also changed the venue for their meetings. Their show was relatively small. Annette is preparing their 19/20 budget. Officers for the 2019/2020 year are: President – Marilee Farry, Vice-President – Maria Gerbracht, Treasurer – Annette Kuhn, Secretary – David Bahre.

ONIS – Terry Laurin reported that the ONIS annual meeting is Sunday October 27 at the President's home in Aurora with lunch afterwards at a local Aurora restaurant. Lunch is paid for by ONIS for those who attend.

GRIS – Neil Houghton reported that membership continues to be an issue. There are plans to review. Use of the 'square' as a payment option has increased sales. A change in venue for their sale to a nursery also resulted in increased sales. They are looking for a new venue for 2020 show. Marilee thanked Neil for providing WNYIS with the leftovers from their rhizome sale.

CHIS – Kathryn Mohr reported that there are plenty of workers. They hope to implement a process of training others into new positions in the event of a need for a back-up.

7. New Business

2020 Budget - Vaughn Sayles previously reported the proposed 2020 budget with his Treasurer's Report.

Nominating Committee - Carolyn Schaffner proposed the following slate of Officers,

Kathryn Mohr – Regional Vice President (RVP)

Carolyn Schaffner – Assistant RVP

Vaughn Sayles – Treasurer

Secretary position to remain open.

There were no nominations from the floor.

Motion by Marilee Farry to present the proposed slate of officers to General membership. Motion passed.

2020 Region 2 Awards Rotation and Show Dates – Kathryn Mohr led the discussion for the selection of the 2020 show dates and Region 2 awards. The results are as follows,
ONIS – June 7 (tentative) – The Ruth V. Blenis Award
CHIS – June 1 – The Ethel Anson S. Peckham Award for Historic Iris
GRIS – June 7 – The William McGarvey Beardless Iris Award
WNYIS – June 6 (tentative) – The Magdalen Award

Future Regional Meetings – There was a discussion regarding the future of Region 2 meetings. Since none of the affiliates are able to host a meeting different options, such as teleconference calls and video calls, were discussed. Jody Nolin stated the AIS uses ZOOM.com, a recorded video call which is free for 40 minutes. Jody will look into the possibility of Region 2 using the AIS' ZOOM account.

Neil Houghton passed out an article on conference call etiquette.

Motion by Carolyn Schaffner to allow Region 2 to hold electronic meetings. Motion passed.

Kathryn appointed Carolyn Schaffner as committee chair to work on the required bylaw changes to allow Region 2 to hold electronic meetings. Carolyn will select the other committee members.

Kathryn appointed a committee to explore teleconference and videoconference options available so Region 2 can hold electronic meetings in the future; Neil Houghton - committee chair, Carolyn Schaffner and Marilee Farry.

Kathryn suggested that a Spring meeting may be necessary to pass the bylaw changes before next year's annual meeting. A meeting place in central New York state was recommended.

8. Additional Business

Terry Laurin reported that the Canadian Iris Society (CIS) and its affiliate, the Southern Ontario Iris Society (SOIS), are disbanding. CIS will communicate to its members that ONIS is offering a one-year free e-membership to those interested.

9. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am.