

REGION 2 OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY
MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
October 11, 2023, at 7:00 pm via Zoom

1. Call to order

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm with Cara Hutchings, RVP, presiding.

2. Attendance

Cara Hutchings - Regional Vice President (RVP), Greater Rochester Society (GRIS) President, and Acting Membership Chair

Kathryn Mohr - Assistant RVP and Capital Hudson Iris Society (CHIS) Acting President

Ben Morris – Secretary

Terry Laurin - Ontario Iris Society (ONIS) President

Wendy Roller – Judges’ Training Chair

Kate Brewitt - Newsletter Editor & Webmaster

Additional Attendee(s) - Joanne Bassett (WNYIS)

Absent - Ida Blasak - Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS) President, Neil Houghton – Technology Consultant, Annette Kuhn – Treasurer.

3. Additions/Corrections to the minutes of the August 9, 2023, and September 13, 2023, Board meetings.

Cara Hutchings, RVP, declared the August minutes approved as circulated and the September minutes approved as corrected.

4. Officer Reports

RVP Report – Cara Hutchings agrees to remain RVP for 2024 and anticipates attending the 2024 AIS National Convention.

Treasurer – Ben Morris presented in Annette Kuhn’s absence.

As of September 30, 2023, there was \$8,186.63 in unencumbered funds in the checking account and \$1,022.80 in US Treasury I-bond. Total assets equal \$9,209.43, compared with a total of \$9,337.59 at the end of 2022.

Finance Committee - Audit of Region’s financial records will be done for the Annual Meeting.

Secretary Report - Motions since 2022 General Meeting

At the November 30, 2022, meeting the Board carried a motion to amend the wording of each Region 2 award to include: “any recipient may opt to receive a certificate in lieu of the award”.

At the January 11, 2023, meeting the Board carried a motion to invest \$1,000.00 of Region 2 funds in an I bond; investment to be reviewed in 1 year to consider continuation.

At the April 19, 2023, meeting the Board carried a motion to send a \$100 donation to the 2023 AIS National Convention organizing host, Iris Society of Dallas.

Clarification on who should submit committee reports at the General Meeting was requested. It was confirmed that the minutes of September 13, 2023, stated that only affiliate presidents

were exempt from providing a report at the General Meeting if there had been no changes since the fall newsletter. It was requested that board and committee reporting obligations be clearly outlined in a document for future reference.

5. Committee Reports

Archives – Ben Morris presented in Dorothy Stiefel’s absence.

The Archive is now located in Ben’s residence. The contents of each box have been cataloged.

Awards & Exhibitions – Cara Hutchings (Acting Committee Chair)

The issue of when (and how) to present the physical awards at a Zoom meeting was raised. It was decided awards would be presented at the General Meeting. It was also clarified that the motion regarding the issuance of certificates in lieu of awards apply to Region 2 awards only, not to AIS medals. Kathryn agreed to change the wording in all Region 2 award descriptions to include the option of selecting a certificate in lieu of an award; Kathryn will do this prior to stepping down from this position.

An inquiry about the continued funding of the Wirz-Rettig Japanese Iris award was made. It was decided to table this item until the November Board meeting.

Judges’ Training – Wendy Roller, Committee Chair

Wendy confirmed there would be no changes to the judging status of any Region 2 judge, and all would be approved for 2024.

It was confirmed that the following judges will be considered for certification as Artistic Design Judges as of 2024, David Baehre, Joanne Bassett, Marilee Farry, Maria Gerbracht, and Donna Lowry. Annette Kuhn will be eligible for certification once she finishes her Apprentice Judge requirements.

Membership – Cara Hutchings. Acting Committee Chair

As of October 1, Region 2 has 86 members, a decrease of 38 members (49 non-renewals and 11 new members) since the 2022 General Meeting. Thirty-six people took advantage of the 2022 membership drive with six renewing.

Newsletter – Kate Brewitt, Editor

Two newsletters were published in 2023. Each edition is archived in the Ben R. Hager-Sidney DuBose Memorial Iris Library, part of the AIS Iris Encyclopedia (WIKI). Kate has also upload to the WIKI all affiliate newsletters she has in her possession.

Technology Consultant – Cara Hutchings presented in Neil Houghton’s absence.

Neil is stepping down as committee chair however will remain available for consultation.

Webmaster – Kate Brewitt

Hosting fees for 2023 will total \$190.19. Monthly site visits averaged 1936 unique visits per month. CHIS affiliate page returned as the top viewed page with the newsletter page coming in second. The shows and sales pages did not trend higher than seventh place. June, July, and August were the most active months. There have been no views of the FAQ page since August.

Affiliate Updates

CHIS – Kathryn Mohr – Acting President

Positive feedback was received to a suggested exhibit in conjunction with the Hosta Society in 2024. The idea of sharing officers between the iris, daylily, and hosta societies for 2024 is under consideration.

GRIS – Cara Hutchings – President

At the October 8, 2023, GRIS meeting, Neil Houghton announced he is stepping down as GRIS Vice President. Alex Solla will assume the role with Cara Hutchings continuing as President and Nathan Hutchings as Secretary and Treasurer.

ONIS – Kate Brewitt - Secretary

ONIS will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, October 22, 2023. Events of 2023 will be reviewed, and plans will be made for 2024 events.

WNYIS – Joanne Bassett presented in Ida Blasak's absence.

At the October 8, 2023, WNYIS meeting a calendar of WNYIS events/meetings/etc. through June 2024, was provided.

Nominating Committee – Kathryn Mohr, Committee Chair

The following slate of officers was presented,

Cara Hutchings as Regional Vice President, Annette Kuhn as Treasurer, and Ben Morris as Secretary. No candidate was found to fill the position of Assistant Region Vice President (ARVP). After discussing the ramifications this may present, the Board agreed this position would remain open for 2024 unless a candidate can be found.

Motion made by Kate to accept the 2024 slate of officers as presented by the Nominating Committee. Motion carried.

6. Unfinished Business

It was suggested the Region 2 bylaws be updated to include policies for Zoom meetings. This will be a future Board meeting agenda item.

7. New Business

2024 Budget – Kate Brewitt presented in Annette Kuhn's absence.

Two changes were made to the 2024 budget; the Archive allowance is increased to \$900.00, and the Treasurer's allowance is reduced to \$10.00. The 2024 budget is revised to \$3,015.00.

Motion made by Wendy to accept the budget as submitted for full consideration at the General Meeting. Motion carried.

2024 Region 2 Awards Rotation & Show Dates

GRIS – Selected the Ruth V. Blenis Award (Tall Bearded iris). Tentative date, June 2, 2024. Uncertain if there will be a show or an exhibition.

WNYIS – Tentatively selected the Magdalen Award (Median iris). Date of show will be June 1, 2024. To be confirmed by WNYIS President.

ONIS – Selected the William McGarvey Beardless Iris Award. Possible show dates are June 2 or 9, 2024.

CHIS – Passed on award selection as no official show anticipated in 2024. May have an exhibition.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.