

## **AIS Region 2 General Meeting**

**October 26, 2024, at 11:00 am via Zoom**

### In Attendance

Cara Hutchings - RVP and GRIS Affiliate President

Annette Kuhn - Treasurer, WNYIS member

Kate Brewitt - Interim Secretary, Bylaw Chair, and Webmaster, ONIS member

Kathryn Mohr - CHIS Affiliate President

Terry Laurin - ONIS Affiliate President

Wendy Roller - Judges' Training Chair, GRIS member

Georgette Martin - Membership Chair

Members in Attendance – Dave Baehre (WNYIS), Chuck Chapman, Debi Chowdhury (CHIS),

Absent – Ida Blasak - WNYIS Affiliate President

Meeting called to order by Cara Hutchings, Region 2 RVP, at 11:06 am. There was a quorum present.

Interim Secretary Report – Kate reported that the following motions had been made since the 2023 general meeting on October 28.

1. November 8, 2023 Zoom meeting – Motion to donate \$200, through the AIS Foundation, to the AIS Wiki Fund, in gratitude of Bob Pries' presentation". Motion carried.
2. September 11, 2024 Zoom meeting - Motion to pay Chuck Chapman \$150 for his Zoom presentation on October 26, 2024. Motion carried.
3. September 25, 2024 via email – Motion that Region 2 pay for a 'large meeting' add-on for October's general meeting only if registration numbers exceed the current limit of 100. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report and Budget Approval – Annette reported that assets as of September 30, 2024 were comprised of \$7,679.38 in the checking account and an I-Bond with a redemption value of \$1,069.20 for a total of \$8,748.58. Year-to-date expenses are \$830.31 against a budget of \$3,015,00. The budget for 2025 was set at \$2,934.00.

**Motion by Terry Laurin to approve the 2025 budget as proposed. Motion carried.**

Archives Report – Cara reported that she and Nate will pick up the Archives from Ben Morris' residence on November 3, 2024. It is to be stored at her residence in Rochester until the board decides its future. Cara will provide more information at the November 13, 2024 Zoom meeting.

Awards and Exhibitions – Cara reported that this year's award recipients elected not to receive physical awards or certificates. In future, if the position of Awards and Exhibitions chair remains vacant, affiliate show chairs may be responsible for securing awards earned at their shows.

Bylaws Report – Kate reported that the first draft of the Region 2 bylaws rewrite was presented to the board for review at the Zoom meeting on July 10, 2024. Since then it was decided to put further work on the bylaws on hold until the region finishes rebuilding itself.

Judges' Training Report – Wendy reported that Region 2 currently has on its roster: 8 Active Master judges, 3 Garden/Exhibition judges, 1 Apprentice judge, 5 Accredited AIS Artistic judges, and 11 Retired Master judges. Region 2 accredited judges' names will be submitted at the AIS Board of Director's meeting on November 2, 2024.

Membership Report – Georgette reported that there are currently 79 AIS members in Region 2. This includes four affiliates and four organizational memberships.

Newsletter Update – Cara reported that Leto Solla has agreed to become the new newsletter editor for Region 2.

Webmaster – Kate reported that in June that the number of unique monthly visitors was over 3000 for the first time. Affiliate pages regularly place in the top ten web pages viewed. Update of website program put on hold until rebuilding of region is complete.

## AFFILIATE REPORTS

Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS) – Kathryn reported that at November's meeting there will be a review of the American Hosta Society 2024 Convention. Details of December's meeting are being worked on.

Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS) – Cara reported that the last meeting of 2024 was held in October when Cara gave a presentation on the 2024 AIS National Convention. Schedule for 2025 meetings is ready and will be distributed.

Ontario Iris Society (ONIS) – Terry reported that the ONIS AGM will be held October 27 when the board will make plans for 2025. Also, discussed will be the amount to be donated to Region 2 which will be sent to Annette before the end of 2024.

Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS) – Annette reported that their sale was held jointly with the Hosta and Daylily Societies. Their new brochure was handed out to attendees. After the sale, remaining irises were sold on the internet.

The WNYIS Photo Contest concluded on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Winning photos can be viewed on their website and Facebook page. It was agreed to hold a photo contest again in 2025.

WNYIS continues to hold design demonstrations at most meetings to encourage member participation and to help guests feel more comfortable when creating designs.

## NEW BUSINESS

Show Dates and Region 2 Awards – The 2025 show rotation is WNYIS, ONIS, CHIS and GRIS. Selections were made as follows,

WNYIS - The Ruth V. Blenis Award (best TB) – Saturday, May 31/25

ONIS - The Magdalen Award (best median iris) – Sunday, May 25/25

CHIS – no plans for a show in 2025 at this time.

GRIS – The Ethel Anson S. Peckham Award (best historic iris) – Sunday, May 25/25

Nominating Committee – Cara Hutchings presented the list of nominations approved by the board for the 2024/2025 Officers' positions,

Cara Hutchings – Regional Vice President (RVP), Debi Chowdhury – Assistant RVP, Annette Kuhn – Treasurer, and Kate Brewitt – Secretary

Since there were no nominations from the floor, the nominees were declared elected by acclamation.

Other business – A Zoom meeting is planned for Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 7:00 pm. Cara will discuss committee positions and the 2025 meeting schedule. There will be no meeting in December

Adjournment at 12:11 pm

The meeting was followed by a Zoom presentation from Chuck Chapman on 'Broken Color and Variations'.