

## Historic Iris Preservation Society

### Minutes of August 28, 2018

**I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Cathy Egerer at 9:04pm EST, 6:04pm Pacific ST.

**II. Roll Call:** Madeline West

Present: Cathy Egerer, Dave Prichard, Madeline West, Judy Keisling, Gary White, Shaub Dunkley, Wendy Scott, Kate Brewitt, Judy Eckhoff, Judy Schneider, Nancy McDonald, Doug Paschall. (12)

Absent: Alice Laughlin, Delane Langton, Janet Smith, Linda Baumgartner, Lori Lensch-Marcotte, Charlie Carver, Susan Flow, Paul Gossett, Laetitia Munro. (9)

**III. Additions/Changes to Agenda:** None.

**IV. Approval of the previous Meeting Minutes:** Previously approved and posted online.

**V. Treasurer's report:** Judy Keisling reported income as of the end of 8/27/18.

5/11/18-8/27/18 Income: \$26,238.57 and Expenses: \$8911.09. Net profit \$17,327.48  
Current Total Assets: \$63,388.16

**VI. President's report:**

- 1) Charlie Carver has tendered his resignation as ID Chairman, which was accepted with regrets and thanks for his hard work.
- 2) There is a submission form online for sending in ID requests with photos. When requests come in, the ID Committee handles the requests. The ID Chair may forward the requests to other people with expertise in different classes of irises. These can be people from other AIS Sections and iris growers. We will look for a new ID Chair.
- 3) 2019 Budget: anyone on the Board who would like to be on the Budget Committee, let Cathy know.

**III. Old Business:**

**a. Membership Committee Chairperson: Judy Eckhoff**

We have 825 members with 59 memberships expired in February and none have renewed as yet. 200 memberships will expire the end of August. We gained 65 new members in July and 8 new members in August, all from the timely rhizome sale. Of the 200 expirations, 20 do not have e-mails. We will send e-mail reminders and send a reminder in the mail to the 20 without an e-mail. When new members join

they are assigned an expiration date: either Feb or August depending on when they joined. That way reminders are sent out 2 times a year. Usually renewals come in with 3 year memberships.

**b. Rhizome Sale – Judy Schneider**

The sale continues to grow. Our sales figures for the past three years were:

2016 -\$15,109.00

2017 -\$16,224.00

2018 -\$19,260.00

Over 500 more rhizomes were sold on the first day, with 233 invoices. Bulk box sales were down, sales were bundled and we spent \$300.00 less on postage. Gross for 2018 - \$20,504.00, Net -\$16,214.77 making \$2420.43 more than 2017.

Shipping: Remember to tape your packages well for next year. Headquarters for incoming irises was changed from Nancy's kitchen to Cathy's garage. Cathy, Judy, and Nancy had a teleconference about five days after the sale to discuss their efforts. The timing will be tweaked and the gap of time between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> round will change for next year.

After the sale, Cathy got an e-mail from the Iris Society of Minnesota offering to gift some historic irises to HIPS. They have about 20 varieties and about 100 rhizomes. If anyone has space to plant these until the 2019 sale, let Cathy know.

**c. Guardian Gardens / Cultivar Preservation**

Doug Paschall reported the Guardian Gardens had "a wild year" with interest from Europe, Australia, Canada, and USA following articles in two popular gardening blogs last October. Doug received hundreds of emails from interested gardeners, and the GG network is much larger than last year, with approximately 200 members. Charlie Carver downsized his garden and sent hundreds of historic irises to Doug, who potted them for now. Another rescue of a Missouri collection brought 100 cultivars for GG. Nancy and Cathy did an impromptu rescue of a Cook-Williamson collection in Indiana. The rescue program is being promoted and HIPS can expect more requests. This is a transitional time for GG and Doug will be getting more clerical help. He has several interested volunteers. The Monticello and Montpelier Iris projects are on hold.

Doug's son did a presentation that included the Guardian Gardens at the Morris Arboretum recently and generated much interest. Nancy had a shareout of 75 GG cultivars from her garden; there were 40 responses, 35 from new GG gardeners (many younger gardeners).

**d. Bylaws, Previously tabled:** Proposal to send the amended bylaws to the membership for approval, from the Board. Motion: Dave Prichard moved, Judy Schneider

seconded that the Board send the proposed bylaws to the membership for a vote, including it in the Fall issue of ROOTS. Motion passed.

#### IV. **New Business:**

a. Cathy Egerer proposed that HIPS establish a Breeder Collections Program. The National Collections (NC) program will focus on larger, “core class” collections (all MTBs, for example) and these collections will need to meet a minimum of 100 cultivars to qualify for NC status. A Breeder Collections program would complement the NC program and allow gardeners to collect and preserve irises by their favorite hybridizers **without having to meet a minimum.**

Gardeners would be encouraged to collect ALL the remaining introductions by their chosen breeder(s), including moderns, as those will eventually become historic. If one iris in the collection is historic, it would qualify for the program. Duplicate collections would be encouraged for better preservation. Larger collections (i.e. Schreiners) might be subdivided into decades. We may add some special collections, such as medal winners.

We would ask members in the program to submit lists of what is in their collections. This would not start until the end of next year (2019). We will need to find a Collections Administrator to compile the data. The parameters of the program can be worked out over the winter and announced in the Spring issue of ROOTS.

The Board discussed the possibilities of such a program and overall, felt it was a positive step for HIPS.

Motion: Shaub Dunkley, seconded by Doug Paschall, that HIPS establish a Breeder Collection Program with a Program Administrator (who will not be a voting member of the Board) to be determined. As some Board members had left the meeting, there were 10 yes votes and 0 no votes, which was not a quorum. The motion will be sent to the Board listserve for a vote.

b. Cathy reminded everyone of the Board Elections next Spring, and we should be thinking about that now. We will elect a new President as Cathy’s term limit will be up. All four Officers and two Directors will be on the ballot.

The meeting adjourned at 10:22pm EST – 7:22pm Pacific ST.

Respectfully submitted,  
Madeline West, HIPS Secretary