

HIPS Board Meeting Minutes (At AIS Convention) - May 19, 2015 (Approved)

Meeting called to order at 12:09 p.m. by President Gary White.

Introductions were made by those attending the meeting.

Gary White mentioned the HIPS display table that had been set up in the meeting room lobby (table items provided by Cathy Egerer).

Gary White announced that the Board had already had an annual board teleconference meeting on May 12. At that teleconference, they already approved minutes of the last meeting and the treasurer's report. He further mentioned that section board meetings are going away in future AIS conventions starting with 2017, as a cost-cutting measure. The new meeting format will be a combination of the first two convention days (section board meetings and section general meetings/presentations) into one day. HIPS will have teleconferences for board meetings in the future, but will still have general meetings at the convention.

Judy Keisling gave the treasurer's report for calendar year 2014. This year, due to timing peculiarities, we had three issues of ROOTS payments in one year (there are usually two per year), which resulted in a net loss over the year. The reserve fund for life memberships has been building up, and is now around \$9,000.00. At the May 12 teleconference, it was decided that we would move 25% of that reserve total into our general operating fund. In future years, 5% of the original total will be moved into general fund, which would zero out the fund in 20 years. Money put into the fund from new life memberships will also have 5% moved into general fund. We are also in the process of putting together a budget for HIPS – a budget committee has been formed, and chairs have been asked for estimated expenses. Going forward, the plan is to have a reserve of approximately one year's expenses.

Gary White presented the membership report from Judy Eckhoff: as of May 2015 we have 724 members (making HIPS the largest section in AIS). 62 members will be dropped soon if they do not renew. We have printed 1000 new invitation to join brochures; PR chair Cathy Egerer is working on increasing HIPS membership. Her unofficial goal is 1000 members. Lucy Burton mentioned that it would be nice if directors had list of members in their area. Gary White responded that Judy Eckhoff can send directors a list of members organized by state, and he will ask Judy Eckhoff to send that to new Northeast director Dorothy Stiefel.

Gary White presented an update on motions since our December board teleconference: a motion to raise membership dues to: single annual: \$13, single triennial: \$33, dual annual: \$15, dual triennial: \$39, youth: \$5, overseas: single annual \$20, single triennial \$52, dual annual \$22, dual triennial \$58 was passed. A motion was offered to discontinue life memberships, but declared void because it would require a bylaws change. A motion was made and passed to raise prices for life memberships to \$225 (single) and \$250 (dual) effective 7/1/2015. A motion to accept the appointment of web developers was passed. A motion was made and passed to confirm Laetitia Munro as webmaster. A motion was made and passed to confirm David Prichard as commercial source chair. A motion was made and passed to grant botanical gardens e-membership status if they wish to develop historic iris collections.

Nancy McDonald submitted a written editor's report prior to the meeting.

No old business was brought for discussion.

Directors' reports:

Northeast: Lucy Burton dealt with a query on old family iris (have been grown by the family since 1852) – she sent information on how to register an iris with AIS.

North Central: Barbara Jackson did not have much to report – she has handled queries from all over Canada. She helped source historic iris from a Canadian grower, fielded ID queries, made referrals, and assisted in locating family iris.

Northwest: Rita Butler stated that she is still learning her position's duties. She remarked that people send her lists of what historic iris they're growing, and asked to whom these should be sent? Gary White replied that these lists should be sent to Databank Chair Brett Barney. Rita is still trying to ID her iris also.

Southeast: Shaub Dunkley sent a written report. He contacted Judy Eckhoff to have her send a list of which members are in his area. He and Judy Schneider are collaborating with zone 8-9 irisarians to determine which iris grow well in these areas.

South Central: Judy Schneider stated that no one has contacted her directly yet. She has Janice Thompson's historic iris stock, and is working on getting IDs for them, as well as getting her iris in shape for a HIPS display garden. She has also been helping the Fort Worth Iris Society with ID issues in their Dykes Medal winners bed.

Gesine Lohr remarked that it would be great if directors could contact club presidents in their area, and offer to give slideshows on historic iris. Gary White noted that we're in the process of updating officer position descriptions to get everyone on the same page, and give officers guidance.

Southwest: Winona Stevenson stated that she is also still learning her position's duties, and has not yet been contacted from anyone in her area.

Archives: Gesine Lohr stated that she doesn't have a written report yet. She has responded to 35 queries this year. She is in the process of getting better boxes for archive items. She brought up some of Glenn Corlew's materials to donate to the AIS library. Gesine noted that Mike Unser had returned much but not all of the archives material she had lent to him during his time as webmaster; she believes Mike wanted to scan some of the retained materials. She also gave an outgoing editor report, and stated that she met two publication deadlines for the most recent ROOTS issues but was still removed from her position. Gary White responded that previous issues of ROOTS were late, and that at a previous board meeting he stated that when he found someone who could get ROOTS out on time, he would appoint that person as editor; Gary said this was printed in a past issue of ROOTS. He then appointed Nancy McDonald. Gary admonished Gesine for being late with archives reports. Gesine responded that she disagreed with the factual accuracy of several of Gary's statements. Darlene Cook asked when would a current list of archives be available. Gesine responded that she is still working on a detailed list.

Commercial sources: David Prichard did not submit a report, as he was recently appointed.

Cultivar preservation: Douglass Paschall sent a written report. The Guardian Gardens program is being set up. Judy Schneider mentioned that Doug and Laetitia are doing a garden rescue and have more than they can absorb, and are looking for gardens to take iris. Rita Butler mentioned that the Carla Lankow iris collection was sent to the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Databank: Brett Barney sent a written report. As of 2014 he has data from 68 gardens, and half of the cultivars are listed in only one garden. Nearly all the cultivars in the databank are tall bearded iris. Please send in lists of the iris you grow to him.

Display gardens: Kate Brewitt sent a written report. There are currently 34 gardens in the program. Three new gardens were added, and six were dropped.

Awards: Paul Gossett sent in a written report. Awards will be given out at Thursday's general meeting.

International: Gary White stated that he is working on setting up a committee for international matters. Current international chair Darlene Cook reported that import/export rules make things difficult for growers outside the U.S.

Bob Pries announced that the 2020 AIS convention is the 100th anniversary of the AIS – he hopes that HIPS will be involved.

Public relations: Cathy Egerer sent a written report. She has made contact with public gardens. Her major goal is increasing membership.

Rhizome sale: no written report was received from Janice Thompson, but she participated in the May 12 teleconference. Some varieties donated to the sale will only appear on the web site's sale list, due to her receiving donation lists after ROOTS went to the printer.

Slides: the Karrs sent a written report – they have a lot of outdated slides, and are digitizing some of them. Many are in poor condition. Perhaps someone could pick out the rare/important ones for preservation? A committee was formed at the May 12 teleconference to look into this.

ID: this position is still open. Gary White reported that he is working on getting a group of people to fill this role. He already has Siberian and dwarf iris experts lined up. Michael Unser will help with this process.

Webmaster: Laetitia Munro sent a lengthy written report. The HIPS web site is being both rebuilt and moved to a new server. It will be some time before the new site is up and running.

Nominating committee: the committee submitted the following slate for nomination:

President: Cathy Egerer

Vice President: David Prichard

Secretary: Linda Bell

Treasurer: Judy Keisling

Northeast Director: Dorothy Stiefel

North Central Director: Delane Langton

Gary White thanked the nominating committee: Janice Thompson, Paul Gossett, and Judy Schneider.

Rita Butler stated that there was not enough advance notice and information regarding the May 12 teleconference. A week's notice was not enough. Gary White responded that the first teleconference had a month's notice. He is hoping to do quarterly teleconferences. Gesine Lohr stated that she hopes a better teleconference host can be found, as there have been many technical problems with the current one.

Lucy Burton brought up what she termed as an old subject: what do we call those varieties that are "too new to be historic;" we need another name for "newer" historic iris. Gary White noted that this has been discussed in the past (some years ago a committee was formed and a survey of the membership taken, but the committee did not reach consensus on the issue). Gary stated that eventually something will happen, but we're not there yet.

An audience member asked if the new brochure is online. Gary White stated that it should be on the new web site. Hopefully the new brochures will stay current for a while. Michael Unser pointed out that one can email Cathy Egerer for the electronic file of the brochure.

Gary White announced that the HIPS general meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on May 21 in the Clackamas Room; the program will be given by Charlie Carver, using pictures provided by Michael Unser.

Meeting adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Richter
Outgoing Secretary