



American Iris Society
Region 21 Affiliate

August 1, 2015
Sioux Falls, SD

Minutes of the General Meeting

In attendance:

Becky Barney	Brett Barney	Mike Becker
Sue Becker	Dean Douglas	Charles Hemmer
Mrs. Charles Hemmer	Marjorie Jansen	Deborah Johnson
Kristen Jurik	Arnold Koekkoek	Carolyn Koekkoek
Leroy Meininger	Pam Messer	Wayne Messer
Gene Newburn	Kelly Norris	Dorothy VerHey
Gary White	Bruce Wilkie	Linda Wilkie

Minutes: Brett Barney read the minutes of the Region 21 Fall 2014 General Meeting. Mike Becker moved to accept the minutes as read. Arnold Koekkoek seconded, and the motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Pam Messer delivered the treasurer's report. Gary White moved to accept the report, Kelly Norris seconded, and the motion passed.

Committee Reports

Iris Purchase: Chair Ron Charles was not in attendance. Gary White gave an overview of the irises to be auctioned following the evening dinner and distributed catalogs to those interested.

Awards and Honors: Linda Wilkie announced that Bob Flick's service award will be delivered to him, as he was not in attendance. She has received from the committee no recommendations for a service award for this year. She also noted that Sarah Green of the Lincoln and Greater Omaha Iris Societies is this year's first runner-up for the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement.

Judges Training: Carolyn Lingenfelter was ill and unable to attend, so there was no report. Gary White noted that the group had discussed various ideas for increasing interest and training opportunities in the ad hoc, open-forum meeting conducted earlier in the day and that we should try to follow up on these to bolster the judges training activities in our region.

Library: Marjorie Jansen reported that there has been no borrowing during the past year and noted that she has continued to receive the newsletter of the Lincoln Iris Society. Gary White said that he still intends to check for duplicate checklists in material he has and donate them to the library. He also recommended that the library purchase Kevin Vaughn's new book, *Beardless Irises: A Plant for Every Garden Situation*. Linda Wilkie directed Pam Messer to put in a purchase order for it.

Publication: Wayne Messer noted that the Region 21 website has a new address (<http://aisregion21.org>). There have been over 1,100 views since the move and 19 posts during the past year. This spring, in a series of posts under the heading "Where's in Bloom," members from around the region reported on the timing of bloom for particular cultivars in their own gardens. He would like to do a similar series for rebloomers. Linda Wilkie encouraged everyone to send him bloom information, as region-specific data can be valuable for a wide variety of people. She also asked that local affiliates send copies of their newsletters to Wayne.

Linda Wilkie said that progress in resurrecting the regional newsletter is still stalled. The board has discussed various strategies for resolving this problem. One of these is to distribute something brief with the directory, which is ready and is to be distributed both electronically and by post. Information to be included with it might be meeting minutes; the financial report; lists of committees, chairs, officers, and affiliates; and notices of upcoming events. The board has also discussed tasking the second-year director with doing the newsletter or having the RVP message fill the role formerly filled by the newsletter. Kelly Norris noted that distributing something brief with the directory will necessarily be a short-term solution. Pam Messer moved to create a standing rule that the second-year director will be responsible for producing the newsletter. There was some discussion about the desired frequency of the newsletter, with Linda Wilkie noting that it had historically been published twice a year, once after the fall meeting to communicate to members the business conducted at that meeting and once in advance of the spring meeting to publicize that meeting. Upon voting, the motion passed.

Historical: Bob Flick was not in attendance, so there was no report.

Old Business

Plan for Future Regional Meetings: The location and form of the regional meetings was discussed in open forum earlier in the day, and Kelly Norris, who had led the discussion, recapped the outcomes of that meeting. He made a motion to amend the bylaws to shift responsibility for planning regional meetings to the executive board. During the discussion which followed, Linda Wilkie raised the question of whether people would generally favor settling on a central location for all of the meetings and whether we could all agree on what "central location" means. Kelly Norris suggested that such issues would be best put to the

members in a survey. In response to Charles Hemmer's suggestion that the RVP appoint a committee to draft a proposal for the members' consideration, Wilkie responded that that's how it would be done. Kelly Norris volunteered to act as lead author; Gary White and Arnold Koekkoek will assist.

Kelly Norris noted that the 2016 spring regional meeting will be held on May 20th and 21st in Des Moines and that tour gardens will include all of those slated for the 2017 AIS Convention. A noted hybridizer will deliver a keynote speech. Linda Wilkie noted that the fall 2016 meeting will be hosted by Siouxland Iris Society in Sioux Falls. No firm date had been decided upon. After a brief discussion, it was decided to tentatively schedule the meeting for August 12th and 13th.

AIS Fall 2015 Board Meeting: Planning for the AIS fall board meeting this year on November 6th and 7th in Omaha is proceeding well. Invitations have not yet gone out, but regional members are welcome to attend. It was noted that anyone who plans to attend the banquet, however, will need to register.

New Business

First-Year Director: Linda Wilkie reminded those in attendance of the current directors: Ron Charles (1st yr.); Dorothy VerHey (2nd yr.); and Ianthe Shadeegg (3rd yr.). She asked for nominations from the floor for a new first-year Director. After some discussion, she nominated Kris Jurik, who accepted the nomination. The body voted in favor.

AIS Fall 2015 Board Meeting It was noted that the Lincoln and Omaha affiliates had voted to donate money to help defray the costs associated with AIS board members' travel to the fall meeting. Pam Messer moved that Region 21 donate a matching amount. Kris Jurik seconded the motion, which passed on a vote.

Report from the 2015 AIS National Convention: Linda Wilkie noted that a new section was created for novelty irises and that the current dues for that section are very low. She also noted that dues for AIS membership were raised across the board. Also, the rules governing judges were amended to allow once again allow show panels to comprise one retired judge. Pam Messer asked who maintains the list of retired judges; Linda Wilkie responded that the AIS does this.

Ellyson Cup: Gary White reviewed the significance of the Ellyson Cup, which is awarded each year to the Region 21 hybridizer who receives the highest number of honorable mention votes in AIS voting. He encouraged hybridizers in our region to shoot for this honor.

Linda Wilkie noted that she has not yet received any symposium ballots and encouraged members to download the ballot and vote by the end of August, which is the deadline.

Report on Plans for 2017 AIS National Convention: Kelly Norris outlined the current state of preparations for the convention. Guest beardless irises have been received, and guest bearded irises are currently coming in. There will be five gardens on the tour. The schedule and structure have been modified a bit to create a 5-day (rather than 6-day) convention, which will start on a Tuesday rather than the usual Monday. He noted that many sections have moved away from having their meetings at the national convention and hopes that other sections can be persuaded to give up their Wednesday timeslots. As at the Fresno AIS Convention in 2004, there will be a welcome reception rather than an opening banquet. This will take place at the Des Moines Botanical Garden. The planning committee has been working to provide options for free-time during the convention (and to provide free-time as an option). Garden tours will take place on Thursday and Friday. On Saturday morning there will be a mini-symposium, featuring an array of iris experts, which will be open to the public. Alternatively, convention goers can choose to visit the Des Moines Downtown Farmers' Market, one of the biggest and most popular in the country, during that time. On Saturday afternoon, there will be an auction of the guest plants that attendees have just seen on the garden tours. This auction will provide revenue to AIS and provide the region a good way of disposing of the guest irises that have to be dug and disposed of in any case. The theme of the convention will be "Rhythm on the Prairie," a phrase in part intended to honor Agnes Whiting, whose most famous iris introduction was Blue Rhythm. The convention will feature some element of tribute to Whiting, though the planning committee has not yet solidified what that will be.

There being no further business, Brett Barney moved to adjourn the meeting. Becky Barney seconded, and the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted
Brett Barney, Secretary