

## Region 21 Meeting August 26, 2023

### General Business Meeting

Gary White called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm in the absence of current RVP Mike Becker. Our condolences go to Mike with the loss of his mother. The meeting was organized by Mike and Sue Becker, members of Siouxland Iris Society at Stoney Creek Inn & Conference Center in Sioux City, IA.

Gary White read the minutes of the August 2022 meeting. During the reading he pointed out a correction needed on the location of the AIS library from Portland, OR to Molalla, OR. Motion to accept the meeting with the correction was made by Pam Messer. Seconded by Natalia Bjorklund. Motion carried.

Since the fall 2022 meeting, Mike Becker appointed David Warren as treasurer. David reported that an account was opened at Chase bank. Balance of \$10,000 in savings and \$10,120.42 in checking. Getting the account set up was a multi-person job involving David and Gary White. Moving forward, we will be able to change the signer or authorization on the account as needed. Sue Witt moved to accept the treasurer's report. Seconded by Deb Johnson. Motion carried.

#### **Old Business:**

None heard

#### **New Business:**

2024 Spring Regional Meeting, May 24-25. (Report given by Sue Witt of the Heart of Iowa Iris Growers HOIIG). The Country Inn & Suites in Clive IA will be the hotel. The theme of the weekend is "Iris through the eyes of hybridizers and judges". Judges Training will be given by Beverly Hoyt. Gardens on the tour will be Brad Collins and Howell's Landscaping Plant & Nursery. The Saturday evening speaker will be Wanda Lunn on Historic Iris. A silent auction is also planned for Saturday evening. Iris items of quality are being accepted for the silent auction.

2025 Spring Regional Meeting, May 23-24. Presentation given by Lois Girton. This Region 21 meeting is also a triennial convention for the AIS section, Society for Siberian Irises (SSI). Lois Girton is a long-time member of SSI and a newer member of HOIIG. At the time of the 2025 meeting, our own Region 21 member Gary White will be president of SSI. There will be 2 gardens with 68 guest iris (Chris & Tom Jurik and the Iowa Arboretum). Many guest iris have been received with the majority being Siberian. The plan at this time is to have Friday evening social in the Jurik's garden. Saturday morning will be the Lois Girton garden which has a private collection of Siberians, peonies and conifers. Lois also shared that she has a large collection of A. P. Saunders peonies. Lunch, tour, garden judging and possibly a speaker will be at the Iowa Arboretum. Besides the guest iris at the arboretum there is a collection of 27 cultivars of bearded iris by hybridizer Agnes Whiting that may be blooming. The banquet location is TBD. The hotel and conference center is TBD. For conventions Lois and Chris have been involved with in the past (peony, hosta, lily etc) they have had good luck with the Gateway Hotel & Conference Center. Buses are not being planned. At the end of the presentation Jenny Cich sought clarification that the HOIIG was doing back to back spring regional meetings. The HOIIG is hosting the 2024 Region 21 spring meeting, but not the 2025 spring meeting. Lively discussion ensued involving seed funds for the 2025 event, transportation etc. Gary reviewed some past figures on attendance and cost for SSI meetings as well as Region 21 spring meetings. The assumption is that attendance will be greater than a standard Region 21 spring meeting and many folks will not have their own transportation. A suggestion was made that Reg

21 financially support the combined Regional/Section meeting. Natalia Bjorklund moved that Region 21 treasurer be able to provide up to \$1,500 in support. Second by Sue Witt. Motion passed. Lois Girton indicated this would likely be for down-payments for bus, hotel and other big ticket meeting expenses. Further discussion regarding Region 21 recouping the support money included a possible handling of auction money that outstanding bills be paid first and the balance of the funds be split between Region 21 and SSI. No motion was made.

Fall Reg 21 meeting for 2024. At this time no groups have officially offered to take on the responsibility. Pam Messer reviewed the previous intent to have the fall meeting always at a central location, but that to do this it needed to be held in the same place for 2 consecutive years. The facility for this meeting was quite nice and a suggestion was made to have it in 2024 in the same location, however no motion was made. Pam Messer moved that the 2024 fall Reg 21 meeting be held at Mahoney State Park and Lodge as the first choice, with 2<sup>nd</sup> choice pending. Seconded by Sue Witt. Motion passed. Kami Brinkerhoff has a call into the lodge as preliminary check on prices and availability and will forward that on to Mike Becker who volunteered to line up the 2024 meeting. (During this topic Mike and Sue Becker were able to join the meeting as participants.)

Fall Reg 21 meeting for 2025- Pam Messer moved that the 2025 fall Reg 21 meeting to be held at Mahoney State Park and Lodge as the first choice, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> choice falling to wherever the 2024 Fall Reg 21 meeting is held. Second by Deb Johnson. Motion passed.

#### AIS news/events- Gary White

2024 convention Portland OR in June, combined meeting with the Society for Japanese Iris

2025 convention Billings, MT, June 2-7

2026 convention New Jersey/New York City area with 4 committed gardens

2027 convention Oklahoma City, OK

#### Judges Training- Wayne Messer.

Activity reports need to be turned in as soon as possible.

#### Ellyson Cup- Gary White

Region 21 needs to get the *Johanne and Craig Ellyson Memorial Traveling Trophy* out of storage and cleaned up and/or restored for presentation. This region specific award goes to the Region 21 cultivar with the most Honorable Mention votes. We likely have a recipient with all the hybridizing efforts of the Toth family. Mike Becker indicated he has the trophy and will look into seeing what could be done to refurbish it.

#### Elections- 3<sup>rd</sup> year director Deb Johnson

David Warren is nominated as treasurer for Region 21. Second by Mike Becker. Motion carried.

No nominees for the 1<sup>st</sup> year director. Call for a volunteer was made. Jenny Cich volunteered to be first year director (this doubles as a motion). Second by Sue Witt. Motion carried.

Assistant RVP remains open without a nominee. Pam Messer volunteered to fill the vacancy with the caveat that she not move on to RVP. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sue Witt. Motion passed.

This election fills all open officer and executive board positions.

Current officers of AIS Region 21 are:

Michael Becker as RVP

Pam Messer as Assistant RVP

David Warren as Treasurer  
Gary White as Secretary  
Wayne Messer as Immediate Past RVP

The Board of Directors post-election are:  
Linda Wilkie, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Director  
Heidi Brase, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Director  
Jenny Cich, 1<sup>st</sup> Year Director

Hearing no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mike Becker at 3:45 pm. Second by Sue Witt. Motion passed.

Minutes taken by Jenny Cich (substituting for Gary White)

5:08 pm; meeting reopened for business by Gary White with the support of RVP Mike Becker.

David Warren reviewed the speaker honorarium.

Standing Rules indicate it is \$100 and is meant as a token of appreciation to our speaker. This is in addition to the Region covering travel and lodging expenses. David Warren moved to increase the honorarium to \$150 retroactive to include speaker from the spring 2023 meeting. Second by Sue Witt. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Region 21 Distinguished Service Award nominations for 2023:

Betty Hemmer nominated Dorothy Ver Hey.

Gary White nominated Wayne and Pam Messer.

All are long time members who have taken on many roles and responsibilities within the region and at the local level. They are tireless promoters of iris and the society.

Mike Becker moved that all three nominations be accepted for the award. Second by Deb Johnson.

Motion passed unanimously.

Hearing no other business, the re-opened meeting adjourned 5:13 pm.

Minutes taken by Jenny Cich (substituting for Gary White)