

HIPS Board Meeting Minutes - **APPROVED**

January 27, 2021

9:00pm Eastern Daylight Time / 8:00pm Central

I. Call to Order - the meeting was called to order at 9:00 by President Wendy Scott.

II. Roll Call – Present: Wendy Scott, Dave Prichard, Judy Keisling, Cathy Egerer, Alice Laughlin, Delane Langton, Janet Smith, Allyson Whalley, Suzanne Butler, Linda Baumgartner, Lori Vandette, Susan Flow, Gary White, Nancy McDonald, Laetitia Munro, Tammy Skahan. Absent: Nina Morris and Lori Lensch-Marcotte.

III. Additions/Changes to Agenda - none.

IV. Previous meeting minutes – acknowledgement of approval

V. Treasurer’s Report – Judy Keisling presented an end-of-year profit and loss statement for 2020. Our income was \$20,406 and our expenditures were \$12,470. The expenditures did not include the Fall/Winter printing of ROOTS, which will be paid in 2021. Due to the success of the sale of the Classic Irises book, our assets increased by \$7935. Our total assets as of December 31, 2020 were \$79,407.

VI. President’s Report

A. Request for Annual Reports - Wendy reminded everyone to send in an annual report for their activities if they have not already done so. These are posted on the HIPS website.

B. Security Plugin Expenditure - Wendy reported that she approved an expense of \$200 to upgrade our security software for the website. This was needed to install the new Memberpress program.

C. International Representation - Wendy recommended that the Immediate Past President be the contact person on the Board for International members who have concerns or questions. The Board approved this by affirmation.

D. Zoom Account - This board meeting was the first one we tried using our new Zoom account. It seemed to work well. Cathy Egerer will cancel our conference calling account; future meetings will be held via Zoom.

VII. Old Business

A. Committee/Chair updates

1. Membership update – Lori Vandette reported that our current membership stands at approximately 750 members, with 660 US, 26 Canadian, 27 International, and 36 E-members. New members are being added to the website under the Memberpress program. Lori also reported there are 37 Display Gardens, and she is contacting all of the garden owners to see if they wish to continue. We will need to have more Display Gardens signs made; Cathy is checking the pricing.
2. Guardian Gardens update - Nancy McDonald reported there are 200 GG members and Jessica Kelley has started sending out electronic GG newsletters to keep them informed. It is going well.
3. Breeder Collection Program update - Alice Laughlin reported she is contacting all the collection owners to confirm their wish to hold a Breeder Collection. She has a number of things planned for outreach and promotion of the program. Alice suggested her role be called “Breeder Collections Administrator” and there was general agreement it was a good fit. Collection holders will be strongly encouraged to confirm IDs of their irises. Lists of irises may be placed on the website with the member’s permission.

4. Preservation Projects - Tammy Skahan reported on several rescue inquiries in 2020. HIPS became involved in one of them. Tammy suggested she could contact botanic gardens to let them know of our willingness to help should they downsize or revamp their iris collections. Cathy mentioned that HIPS approved offering public gardens with iris collections a complimentary one-year e-membership; she will contact Tammy with details.
5. Archives – Cathy Egerer reported on the catalog and document scanning. We uploaded over 400 items into the AIS Wiki in 2020 and that program will continue. Several HIPS members have helped with the uploading and will continue.
6. Website update - New Membership plugin - Laetitia Munro gave an overview of the progress with our membership upgrade. It is almost finished and Memberpress has been installed. Lori is verifying the records. Additional features are available that we may find useful in the future. We still have work to do to upgrade the entire site.
7. ROOTS - Nancy McDonald reported that the Fall/Winter ROOTS is in the mail, members were enthusiastic about an issue on NOIDs. There was so much material that several articles will be shifted to the Spring, 2021 issue, which will focus on Identification.
8. Policies and Procedures Committee - The committee will begin meeting again shortly. Allyson Whalley will join the committee as a co-chair.
9. HIPS Shop - Update on Shop Offerings / Report on Mahan book sales - Susan Flow reported we have sold a little over half of our stock of the Mahan books. We have shipped over a dozen books to international members. Susan will delete the AIS Bulletins from our shop offerings since they are available in the AIS Encyclopedia and we rarely sell any of them. Gary White noted that the most recent ten years of AIS Bulletins are not in the Encyclopedia, by design, but everything prior to 2010 is available.

VIII. New Business

- A. 2021 Board Elections - Cathy Egerer, Allyson Whalley, and Suzanne Butler will act as our nominating committee. Judy Keisling and Dave Prichard will not be running for office again, and Delane Langton is term limited and will also not run for North Central Director again. He suggested someone who might be interested.
- B. Iris Chronicles - The Iris Chronicles have been digitized; Susan Flow proposed making them available as digital downloads at no cost to members, as a “perk” of membership. The Board approved this by affirmation.
- C. Formation of Web Site Policy Committee - Wendy would like us to establish a Website Policy Committee to lay out policies and procedures for our website going forward. Wendy Scott, Laetitia Munro, Susan Flow, and Tammy Skahan volunteered to work on the committee. All input and suggestions are welcome.
- D. Evaluation of membership fees - The board discussed raising our membership fees, which are no longer covering the printing of ROOTS. Our last fee increase was at least five years ago. Judy Keisling and Nancy McDonald will look at membership fees in other AIS sections and garden organizations, and will make a recommendation to the board.

E. Discussion/Approval of the 2021 budget - Judy Keisling presented a draft budget for 2021. Several amendments were made; Judy requested that other changes be sent to her within two weeks. The revised budget will then be sent to the board for approval.

IX. Other - Gary White reminded the board that the AIS is presenting a series of webinars this winter and several have included information on historic irises. Past webinars may be viewed at on YouTube at www.youtube.com/c/theamericanirissociety. Cathy will send the information to HIPS members in the next e-newsletter. February topics include Discovering and Naming new Species Irises, and Iris Taxonomy. March webinars will be on Pests and Weeds, and How to Use the AIS Encyclopedia. The 2021 AIS Convention in Las Cruces, New Mexico has been moved to 2022. Dallas and Portland have been shifted back one year as well.

Allyson Whalley suggested HIPS consider offering grants to public gardens wishing to establish an iris collection. Board members liked this idea. Details will be worked out.

X. Adjournment - the meeting was adjourned at 10:50pm.