

NEWSLETTER

The days are getting longer... always an

encouraging sign for gardeners! We hope you have all 'overwintered' well and are looking forward to iris adventures.

The Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS) has plans for our annual regional meeting well in hand. It promises to be a rewarding time with hybridizer Chad Harris of Washington providing a program and judges' training. We are excited at the prospect of providing an excellent speaker from 'way across the country! Please block off your calendars **now** for this meeting Oct. 9-10!

Congratulations to Region 2 photographers who have carried off numerous awards in the 2016 AIS Photo Contest. Check out *Irises*, Winter 2017 to view Brenda Fox's winning landscape iris photo and youth member Cora Roller's winning art effects photo of 'Irish Moss.' You can also see Cora's winning landscape photo of member Borglum's Iris Garden!

FROM YOUR RVP

Speaking of youth, welcome to our new Youth

Chairperson, Joanne Maier, of the Capitol-Hudson Iris Society! We are so pleased to have a volunteer for this important position.

You will see a brief article on a bylaws amendment. We propose using e-mail and/or telephone conference calls to conduct official business when something of importance comes up between our annual meetings. If approved, this will be a supplement to our annual business meetings, and is not intended to supercede them. AIS has been doing this successfully now for several years.

The AIS National Convention is in Des Moines, Iowa this year. I hope some of you will attend! It is really a fun time, with beautiful gardens to visit, iris people from all over to associate with, and interesting, informative and enjoyable programs. There is still time to register!

Good gardening,

Doro



New York



Ontario



Quebec

Table of Contents



*Iris,
the
Rainbow
of the
Garden*

3	Region 2 Officials
4	2017 Region 2 Annual Meeting Preliminary Information
5	Come early to Rochester and stay longer!
6	2016 AIS and Region 2 Symposium Results
8	Judith Tucholski-Zon, Former Region 2 RVP, Retires
8	Judges Training, Wendy Roller
10	Awards and Exhibitions, Kathryn Mohr
11	Membership, Neil Houghton
12	Newsletter, Betty Schnellinger
13	Treasurer's Report, Vaughn Sayles
16	Capital Hudson Iris Society
17	Hudson Valley Iris and Daylily Society
17	Greater Rochester Iris Society
18	Ontario Iris Society
10	Western New York Iris Society
20	2016 Region 2 Fall Meeting, Vaughn Sayles
22	Also at the Annual Meeting
23	Wirz-Rettig Award, Maria Gerbracht
24	AIS Photo Contest Winners from Region 2
24	In Memory of Ronald James, Jan Smith
26	AIS Region 2 Annual Fall Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
28	AIS Region 2 Annual General Membership Meeting Minutes
32	Proposed Bylaws Amendment
33	Memories from the 2016 AIS Region 2 Meeting
33	The Official Photograph, Jodi McMenamin, of STEP, at the White House

The Newsletter of Region 2 of the American Iris Society is published twice a year and is e-mailed free to all members of the American Iris Society residing in Region 2 (New York State, Ontario, and Quebec.) Members without email may receive a paper copy by mail upon request. It is the member's responsibility to advise of e-mail changes and to submit a written request for paper copies to the editor. Permission is granted to reproduce articles, **with proper attribution**, unless otherwise noted.

DEADLINES: March Issue February 15
September Issue August 15

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Region 2 of the American Iris Society

Officers

President & RVP	Dorothy Stiefel 260 Michigan Hollow Road, Spencer NY 14883	Irisacher@aol.com	(607) 589-7465
Vice President	Kathryn Mohr 19 Roslyn Dr, Ballston Lake NY 12019-9748	kemohrke@aol.com	(518) 952-4995
Secretary	Kate Brewitt 120 Glass Drive, Aurora ON L4G 2E8 Canada	Kbrewitt@rogers.com	(905) 841-9676
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Archives	Dorothy Stiefel (See President)	Irisacher@aol.com	(607) 589-7465
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Webmaster	Kate Brewitt 120 Glass Drive, Aurora ON L4G 2E8 Canada	Kbrewitt@rogers.com	(905) 841-9676

Affiliate Chairpersons

CHIS Capital-Hudson Iris Society	Linda Knipper 15 Wiltshire Way, Schenectady NY 12309	linda.montanaro@gmail.com	(518) 377-4987
GRIS Greater Rochester Iris Society	Cara Hutchings 1996 N Clinton Avenue, Rochester NY 14621	Thehutchings@mac.com	(585) 266-0302
HVIDS Hudson Valley Iris & Daylily Society	Jim Robinowitz 10 Baldwin Road, Poughkeepsie NY 12603	Jmrobinowitz@hotmail.com	(845) 454-6415
ONIS Ontario Iris Society	Terrance Laurin 120 Glass Drive, Aurora ON L4G 2E8 Canada	Tlaurin@rogers.com	(905) 841-9676
SOIS Southern Ontario Iris Society	Ed Jowett 1960 Sideroad 15, RR 2 Tottenham ON L0G 1W0 Canada	jowettfarm@copper.net	(905) 936-9941
WNYIS Western New York Iris Society	Carolyn Schaffner 464 Crescent Avenue, Buffalo NY 14214-1914	drsnooks@twc.com	(716) 837-2285

**Save
the Dates**

AIS Region 2 Annual Fall Meeting OCTOBER 20 and 21, 2017

Hosted by Greater Rochester Iris Society

GRIS is proud to announce our special guest Chad Harris, of Mount Pleasant Iris Farm, in Washougal, WA.

Chad is one of the nation's best known hybridizers of Japanese iris and pseudata iris among other varieties.

His talk, "Water Lovers of Asia" looks at iris ensata, iris laevigata, and the new species-X, "pseudata." He will also offer judges training for iris ensata (Japanese), to which all attendees are invited.

Learn more about Chad and Mount Pleasant Farm at <http://mtpleasantiris.com>



Photo from Mount Pleasant website



All events take place at the

Hampton Inn and Suites Rochester Victor
7637 Pittsford-Victor Road, Victor NY 14564
(Thruway Exit 45, Rochester)

Phone: 585-924-4400.

Room rates: \$119 the night of the 20th, with reservations due by September 20, 2017.

Be sure to mention "Region 2 of the American Iris Society for this rate!"

Only minutes from the Eastview Mall and the Erie Canal, the hotel offers free hot breakfast, free high-speed internet, free coffee and tea in the lobby, and local shuttle.

Come early to Rochester and stay longer!

by Cara Hutchings, GRIS President

While you are visiting the Rochester region for this year's Region 2 meeting, here are a few things to do if you want to spend some extra time in our area:

Being the home of Kodak, we have a gem in George Eastman's home and garden, 900 East Ave. There is an ever-changing photo exhibit in the gallery, and the house itself is a beautiful example of late 19th-early 20th century architecture.

<https://www.eastman.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/georgeeastmanmuseum>

There is also the Strong National Museum of Play, 1 Manhattan Square Dr. If you think play is kid's stuff, think again! There is something for everyone, lots to see and do, and my favorite is seeing all the dolls, furniture and other items Margaret Woodbury Strong collected during her travels all over the world!

<http://www.museumofplay.org>

If shopping is your thing, the hotel where the meeting is taking place is minutes from Eastview Mall, an upscale shopping mecca with unique stores and restaurants.



You are not far from the Finger Lakes in Rochester, with great wineries, antique shops and restaurants to be found around every one of the lakes. If you go to [fingerlakes.org](http://www.fingerlakes.org), there are plenty of sites and maps to be found!

<http://www.fingerlakes.org>

And one of the crowning jewels of Rochester is Highland Park, located in the heart of the city. An Olmstead-designer park, it is home to the spring Lilac Festival. While we won't be there in the spring, there is a beautiful Louisiana Iris garden located just down a path from the Lamberton Conservatory.

<http://www.cityofrochester.gov/highlandpark/>



*If these don't pique your interest,
just let us native Rochesterians know.
We have lots more to recommend!*



← 'Dusky Challenger'

(Schreiner, R. 1986)

Number One in Region 2 and in the entire American Iris Society, *again!* This iris is a frequent symposium winner due to its reliable garden performance in various locations and its appeal on the show bench.

2016 TALL BEARDED IRIS SYMPOSIUM

REGION 2 FAVORITE TEN IRISES



3. 'Thornbird' ↑

(Monty Byers, R. 1988)

In 1997, 'Thornbird' became the first novelty "space age" iris to be awarded the Dykes Medal. See a list and photos of all the Dykes medal winners, at <https://tinyurl.com/DykesMedalWinners>

Many thanks to Terry Lauren of the AIS Encyclopedia for this list and most of the photos in this article.



4. 'Yaquina Blue'

(Schreiners, R. 1992)



2. 'Stairway to Heaven' ↑

(Larry Lauer, R. 1992)



5. 'Champagne Elegance'

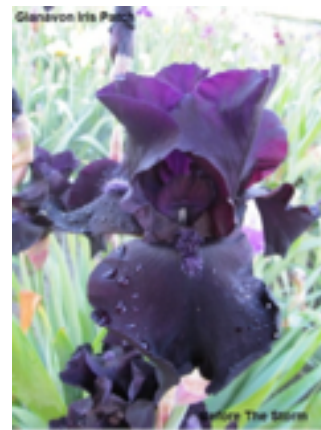
(O. David Niswonger, R. 1986)



6. 'Everything Plus'
(O. Niswonger, R. 1988)



7. 'Titan's Glory'
(Schreiners, R. 1981)



8. 'Before the Storm'
(Sterling Innerst,
R. 1988)



9. 'Beverly Sills'
(Hager, R. 1988)



10. 'Clarence'
(Lloyd Zurbrigg, R. 1990)

'Clarence' is one of the few reblooming irises that are somewhat reliable in our northern latitudes. 'Immortality', not on the list, is another.

AIS	Region 2	Cultivar	Hybridizer
1	1	Dusky Challenger	Schreiner
2	*	That's All Folks	Maryott
3	51	Gypsy Lord	Keppel
4	17	Queen's Circle	Kerr
5	13	Celebration Song	Schreiner
6	15	Florentine Silk	Keppel
7	26	Jesse's Song	Williamson
8	33	Drama Queen	Keppel
9	2	Stairway to Heaven	Lauer
10	14	Conjuration	Byers
11	3	Thornbird	Byers
* Not in the top 100 for Region 2			

The charts compare symposium standings in Region 2 with AIS standings. In general, Region 2 favorites are the cultivars which have grown well for us in our climates.

AIS	Region 2	Cultivar	Hybridizer
44	4	Yaquina Blue	Schreiner
36	5	Champagne Elegance	Niswonger
72	6	Everything Plus	Niswonger
38	7	Titan's Glory	Schreiner
26	8	Before the Storm	Innerst
19	9	Beverly Sills	Hager
40	10	Clarence	Zurbrigg



JUDITH TUCHOLSKI-ZON, FORMER REGION 2 RVP, RELOCATES

Region 2 bids a *very* fond farewell to AIS Master Judge and superlative iris promoter Judith Tucholski-Zon. Judy has truly been one of the main forces driving WNYIS for many years.

As a talented member of the Federated Garden Clubs, Eighth District, she generously shared her experience and design skills to the great benefit of Region 2 irisarians.

We will miss Judy, her leadership, her skills, and her cheerful approach to life. We wish her and her husband, Bob, a wonderful and restful retirement with nearby family in their new home in Illinois.

...by Dorothy Stiefel

Judges Training

Wendy Roller, Chairperson

REGION 2 OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY – JUDGES and STUDENT JUDGES Status Roster – as of January 1, 2017

<u>Active Master</u>	<u>Retired Master</u>	<u>Garden / Exhibition</u>
David Baehre Joanne Bassett Chuck Chapman Maria Gerbracht Raymond Ives Donna James Eugene Koschara Mildred Koschara Donna J. Lowry Maureen Mark Gloria McMillen Wendy K. Roller Mary Jane Shanley Dorothy Stiefel	Daniel P. McMillen James McMillen Carolyn Schaffner Helen B. Schueler Kathleen Shadrack Shirley A. Varmette Ken Viner	Kate Brewitt John Colley Marilee Farry John W. Heimke Terrance Laurin E.J. Mattson Vaughn Sayles Janette Smith Mary J. Urist
	<u>Candidate for Judgeship</u>	
	Suzanne Perry	<u>Apprentice Judge</u>
		Jinny Missons

Please note that some changes occurred in the Region 2 Judges and Student Judges Roster as of January 1, 2017:

- Judith Tucholski-Zon, an AIS Master Judge, has moved out of Region 2. Judy has served the American Iris Society as a judge since 1997 and was granted Master Judge status in 2011.

- Carolyn Schaffner has requested AIS Retired Master Judge status. Carolyn, who lives in Buffalo, New York, has served the American Iris Society as a Garden / Exhibition judge and a Master Judge since 1993.
- Robert and Ann Granatier, who live in Brantford, Ontario, Canada, have decided to step down from their AIS judging responsibilities. We thank Robert and Ann for having served as AIS Garden / Exhibition judges. Robert served as a judge from 2012 – 2016 and Ann served as a judge from 2011 – 2016.
- Nancy Kennedy, who lives in Paris, Ontario, Canada, has decided to step down from her AIS judging responsibilities. We thank Nancy for having served as an AIS Garden / Exhibition Judge from 2014 – 2016.
- Betty Schnellinger has withdrawn from the AIS judges training program. Betty, who lives in Corfu, New York, completed 39.5 hours of training after becoming a Candidate for Judgeship in 2011 and an Apprentice Judge in 2014. We thank Betty for her interest in the AIS judges training program.

Region 2 mourns the passing of two of its American Iris Society accredited judges during the past year:

- Diane Crandall, who lived in Mexico, New York, was an active member of the former Empire State Society, AIS Region 2, and the former Central New York Iris Society. Diane served as an AIS Garden / Exhibition Judge from 2000 – 2011.
- Ronald James, who lived in Hannibal, New York, was an active member of the former Empire State Iris Society, AIS Region 2, and the former Central New York Iris Society. Ron became a garden / exhibition judge in 2003 and was elevated to the status of Master Judge in 2015.

SPRING 2017 JUDGES TRAINING COURSES IN REGION 2

One judges training opportunity is currently in the planning stages for the 2017 iris bloom season. Please remember to bring the American Iris Society Handbook for Judges and Show Officials, Seventh Edition, 2007, with you when attending all courses.

Louisiana and Japanese Irises (2 hour in-garden credit) Saturday, July 8, 2017 – 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

This course will be sponsored by the Western New York Iris Society. The session will be presented by AIS Master Judge Joanne Bassett in her lovely country garden located at 11837 Parker Road in East Aurora, New York 14052. Since some of the Louisiana irises are growing in a wet area, Joanne advises that you bring your boots. Light refreshments will be provided after the test and then the Western New York Iris Society will have its regular meeting. Please let Joanne know by June 30th if you are planning to attend the course (e-mail her at jbassett43@gmail.com or telephone her at (716) 652-2569. *(If the 2017 bloom season is unusually early, the back-up date for the course will be Saturday, July 1st.)*

PLEASE NOTE: *Judges training sessions must be approved in advance by the Region 2 Judges Training Chairperson. Please let Wendy Roller know of any additional judges training sessions being proposed with the region during the year 2017. The deadline to have information included in the May mailing to the judges is April 15, 2017.*

Exhibitions and Awards

Kathryn Mohr

2016 Exhibition Report

Date	Affiliate	Best Specimen	Presenter	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal
May 21	HVIDS	IB 'Rimaround'	Susan Rivard	Frank Sorbello	Faith Larson
June 4	WNYIS	Spec X 'Sushi'	David Baehre	David Baehre	Judith Tucholski-Zon
June 4	CHIS	Historic 'Gold Imperial'	Kathryn Mohr	Virginia Dorwaldt	Euthemia Matsoukas
June 5	ONIS	MTB 'Stitched in Blue'	Ron Walker	Terry Laurin	Kate Brewitt
June 5	GRIS	'Lion's Share'	Dorothy Stiefel	Dorothy Stiefel	Wendy Roller
June 15	SOIS	SHOW CANCELED			

Youth Award:

Date	Affiliate	Best Specimen	Presenter
June 5	ONIS	TB 'Stairway to Heaven'	Abaigeal Missons

Region 2 Awards:

Award	Affiliate	Specimen	Presenter
Magdalen	GRIS	MTB 'Speckled Spring'	Dorothy Stiefel
Peckham	WNYIS	Historic Sib 'Lydia Winter'	Judy Tucholski-Zon
McGarvey	CHIS	Sib 'Seneca Butterfly'	Virginia Dorwaldt

Others:

Artistic Division	GRIS	Best Design of Show	Donna Lowry
Artistic Division	WNYIS	Best Design of Show	Annette Kuhn
Educational Division	WNYIS	Bronze Medal: Preparing Iris for Show Bench Judging	Joanne Bassett

Local Awards:

Award	Specimen	Presenter
Jerry Murphy Memorial Award for Best Yellow or Orange Iris	'Corn Harvest'	Frank Sorbello
Kathryn E. Mohr Award for Best Historic Iris	'Gold Imperial'	Kathryn Mohr
CHIS Founders Award for Most Blue Ribbons won by a Novice		Meredith Van Vorst

Membership

Neil Houghton

Last year's "Membership Challenge" gained us 15 new members! In this day of shrinking participation which is all too familiar to us, "that ain't chicken feed," as Mom used to say. Well maybe Mom didn't say "ain't."

The Results:

Western NY 5
Greater Rochester 5
Ontario 3
Hudson Valley 2

Excellent work. Congratulations to all!

As someone newly infected by the iris bug, I listen to all the years of wisdom from my fellow AIS members with a certain wistfulness. I bemoan the fact that I didn't get started earlier. This makes it clear to me why reaching out to get new members, especially a new generation, is an imperative.

We voted at last year's region 2 meeting to extend this challenge one more year. Remember that the summary of the program is as follows:

- 1) NEW members to AIS pay 1/3, local affiliates pay 1/3, and Region 2 pays 1/3 of cost of membership in AIS (full single annual, e-membership, youth, etc.)
- 2) A dual membership will be reimbursed 1/3 a single membership, but this will count as 2 members.
- 3) The affiliate with the largest number of new members will be reimbursed the 1/3 paid by the affiliate by Region 2
- 4) Memberships must be recorded with AIS by Sept. 30, 2017. *
*locals should review AIS membership through me to be sure that new members are recorded correctly.

While I believe, as do most board members, that this is an important way to fulfill our obligation to promote membership in AIS, participation is voluntary. Presidents, **please let me know by March 30 if your local is participating** so that I can compose an announcement as I did last year. It will include local contact information.

While we gained those 15 new members we still had a net LOSS of 3 members (2 memberships).

End of 2015: 137 memberships, 153 members
End of 2016: 135 memberships, 150 members

The bottom line is that despite our efforts we are swimming upstream. If there are ideas from locals that have not already been shared, share them. If there are some that you have not yet tried, try them. Here are some of those that were shared:

- 1) Distribute your newsletter widely and always include a reminder about AIS membership.
- 2) Hand out materials at all shows, sales and public events. Include AIS brochures.
- 3) Advertise your meetings. Send a press release featuring programs and speakers. Share meeting dates with other gardening groups. Promote AIS membership at your meetings.
- 4) Contact local schools and youth organizations. Work with them to promote iris culture and include (where appropriate) a mention of the AIS. Bring some copies of the journal and membership forms.

Thanks for your work on promoting membership. Keep it up and let's bring in even more memberships in 2017!

Neil Houghton
Neil.houghton@me.com

Join the AIS!

http://www.irises.org/About_AIS/Membership_Info/AIS_Membership.html



irises.org

Learn where to get your irises and how to grow them.

Meet the folks in your area who are already members and who would be delighted to meet you and help you.

Read the gorgeous AIS bulletin ***Irises***, now edited by **Jane Milliman** of Region 2, and issued four times a year in full color with tons of pictures and loads of interesting information about irises, the people who hybridize them, those who grow them, and lots more.

We all know Jane from her *Upstate New York Gardeners Journal*.

Newsletter Report

Betty Schnellinger, Editor

Thanks to everyone for your reports, articles, and photos. Special thanks to Dorothy Stiefel. Without her considerable assistance and support, this issue might never have made to your eyes.

Starting with this issue, our Region 2 Newsletter will be going out to all AIS RVPs in addition to the usual AIS officials and all the Region 2 members we can find—thanks to Neil for that information.

Don't forget to keep up with the latest news and a wealth of pertinent regional information on the Region 2 website: <http://aisregion2.org>, run by Kate Brewitt.

Treasurer's Report

Vaughn Sayles

Hope everyone has a good year in 2017. Region 2 did well financially in 2016 thanks to Affiliate Contributions, the Silent Auction, donations from CNYIS disbandment, WNYIS in memory of James G. Burke and the HVIDS raffle. An additional savings was once again realized when RVP Dorothy Stiefel declined to accept reimbursement for the registration fee for the 2016 AIS Convention. A heartfelt thank you to all those who made this possible.

Here is the Region 2 Treasurer's Report for 2016.

Vaughn, AIS Region 2 Treasurer

REGION 2 OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY									
Treasurer's Report -- December 31, 2016									
Balances					1/1/2016				12/31/2016
	Checking Account				\$2,610.35				\$2,853.45
	Savings Account				\$3,617.65				\$3,619.44
	Reserve (STIS until 10/20/17)				-\$1,485.61				-\$1,485.61
	Certificate of Deposit				\$3,576.81				\$3,585.77
	Total Unencumbered Assets				\$8,319.20				\$8,573.05
	Total Assets				\$9,804.81				\$10,058.66
Revenue received 2016									
	Affiliate Contributions						received		\$1,185.00
	CHIS						\$300.00		
	CNYIS - disbandment						\$310.00		
	GRIS						\$150.00		
	HVIDS						\$75.00		
	ONIS						\$50.00		
	WNYIS - in memory of James G. Burke						\$100.00		
	WNYIS						\$200.00		
	totals						\$1,185.00		
	Interest Income								\$10.75
	Savings Account						\$1.79		
	Certificate of Deposit						\$8.96		
	totals						\$10.75		
	Region 2 Fall Meeting								\$421.00
	Silent Auction						\$386.00		
	HVIDS - raffle						\$35.00		
	totals						\$421.00		
Total Revenue received 2016									\$1,616.75
					Budgeted		Expended		Balance

Expenses (2016)			10/3/2015		12/31/2016	12/31/2016
Archives			\$10.00		\$0.00	\$10.00
Awards			\$300.00		\$166.76	\$133.24
Judges Training			\$50.00		\$9.46	\$40.54
Membership			\$320.00		\$210.33	\$109.67
Newsletter (2 issues)			\$150.00		\$5.74	\$144.26
RVP (miscellaneous)			\$10.00		\$0.00	\$10.00
RVP (AIS Convention Registration)			\$300.00		\$0.00	\$300.00
Treasurer			\$10.00		\$7.26	\$2.74
Secretary			\$10.00		\$0.00	\$10.00
Creative Money			\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
Youth Membership			\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
Fall Meeting			\$800.00		\$800.00	\$0.00
Website			\$175.00		\$163.35	\$11.65
Miscellaneous			\$50.00		\$0.00	\$50.00
Totals			\$2,185.00		\$1,362.90	\$822.10

REGION 2 OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

COMPARISON OF 2016 AND 2017 BUDGETS

Expenses			Budgeted 2016		Budgeted 2017	Budget Changes
Archives			\$10.00		\$10.00	\$0.00
Awards			\$300.00		\$300.00	\$0.00
Judges Training			\$50.00		\$50.00	\$0.00
Membership			\$320.00		\$420.00	\$100.00
Newsletter (2 issues)			\$150.00		\$150.00	\$0.00
RVP (miscellaneous)			\$10.00		\$10.00	\$0.00
RVP (AIS Convention Registration)			\$300.00		\$300.00	\$0.00
Treasurer			\$10.00		\$10.00	\$0.00
Secretary			\$10.00		\$10.00	\$0.00
Creative Money			\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
Youth Membership			\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
Fall Meeting			\$800.00		\$1,000.00	\$200.00
Website			\$175.00		\$175.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous			\$50.00		\$50.00	\$0.00
Totals			\$2,185.00		\$2,485.00	\$300.00

Capital Hudson Iris Society

Chair: Linda Knipper

Secretary: Virginia Dorwaldt

Newsletter editor: Euthemia Matsoukas

Vice Chairs: Dan and Joanne Maier

Treasurer: Don Salhoff

Iris Show Chair: Kathryn Mohr

CHIS had a lovely fall bus trip on Sunday, September 25th, to Tower Hill Botanical Gardens in Boylston, Massachusetts, with a stop on the way back at John O'Brien's Nursery in Granby, Connecticut. In October, Eli Joseph-Hunter and his wife, Briana Davis, who operate Greene Bee Greenhouse in Cornwallville, New York (in Greene County about 30 miles west of Albany), gave a great talk "If Hydrangeas Be the Flower of Summer, Plant On". They also brought lots of plants that members bought with glee and planted right away.

In November we had our Holiday Party (December gets too busy) with special guests, Marty Shafer and Jan Sacks from Joe Pye Weed's Garden in Carlisle, Massachusetts. Having a November party also reduces the chance that we'll get snowed out! We had no meeting in December.

In January 2017, Melanie Mason of North Country Daylilies at Long Lesson Farm, about 20 miles north of Albany, gave a great talk entitled "Change!" where she focused on the progression of daylily hybridization from the 1950s onward.

In February we joined with the Upstate New York Hosta Society (this year's hosts), and the Hudson-Adirondack Daylily Society for our annual Winter Doldrums Party. It's a giant pot-luck with delicious food and a speaker. This year's talk was by Kathy Purdy, "Combat Cabin Fever with Your Garden". Kathy has a garden blog on her website www.coldclimategardening.com. Her well-received presentation on winter gardens focused on things we can do to enhance the monotony and bleakness of our snow-covered gardens in upstate New York.

On March 19th, Bettina Mueller, author of "A Tea Garden in Tivoli" will address the group at our regular meeting in the East Greenbush Community Library.

Future plans include our annual Siberian Iris and Perennial Sale in Delmar, NY on Sunday, May 21st, the Iris Show at the Bethlehem Public Library on Saturday, June 3rd (contact Kathryn Mohr at kemohrke@aol.com if you're interested in entering the show), and our annual Iris Rhizome Sale at Faddegon's Nursery in Latham on Saturday, August 5th.

If you have any other questions on the above, feel free to contact Euthemia Matsoukas at the email address below.

Officers:

CHIS Chair: Linda Knipper, Linda.Montanaro@gmail.com 518 377-4987

Vice Chairs: Dan and Joanne Maier, Danjomaier@gmail.com 518 449-8480

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Treasurer: Don Salhoff, driris2000@hotmail.com 518 439-1484

Newsletter editor: Euthemia Matsoukas, EuthemiaMatsoukas@gmail.com 518 439-3758

Iris Show Chair: Kathryn Mohr, kemohrke@aol.com 518 952-4995



Hudson Valley Iris & Daylily Society



President: Jim Robinowitz
Vice President: Georgette Martin

Treasurer: Frank Sorbello
Secretary: Sue Rivard

March 5 FLOWER ARRANGING Adams Fairacre Farms, 765 Dutchess Tpke, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 at 2pm.

April 2 TBA

May 20 HVIDS Iris Exhibition, Poughkeepsie Galleria

July 15 HVIDS Daylily Exhibition Poughkeepsie Galleria

July 22 HVIDS Sale at Butterfly Festival (a new sales venue) actual date TBD

July 23 raindate

August 12 HVIDS Sale at Adams Fairacres Farms,

August 13 Iris Prep Party at the Sorbello Home

August 18 Daylily Prep Party at the Robinowitz Home

August 19/20 HVIDS Sale at Poughkeepsie Galleria Center Court

Greater Rochester Iris Society RochesterIris.blogspot.com

President: Cara Hutchings
Secretary/Treasurer: Nate Hutchings
Vice President: Neil Houghton

The Greater Rochester Iris Society will be hosting this year's Region 2 meeting on October 20 and 21. While details are still being worked out, here's the major scoop:

Chad Harris will be our speaker and presenter. He is a hybridizer out of Oregon, specializing in Japanese irises. His website is mtpleasantiris.com. I recommend you take a look at the website; there is a lot of information and some beautiful pictures of his gardens.

He will do a Judge's Training session on *Iris ensata*, as well as a talk on "Water Lovers of Asia," which will be a look at *I. ensata*, *I. laevigata* and the new Species-X, Pseudata.

All events will take place at the Hampton Inn and Suites, 7637 Pittsford-Victor Rd., Victor, NY 14564. Phone 585-924-4400. Room rates will be \$119.00 for the night of the 20th, with reservations due by 9/20/2017. Mention "Region 2 of the American Iris Society" for this rate.

Since Chad's flight will be getting in later on the 20th, we will be having some event then, maybe a small meet and greet. We'll see what we can come up with!

So, there's the major info, we'll be posting other info as we learn it ourselves!

Ontario Iris Society

President: Terry Laurin
Vice President: Jinny Missons

Treasurer: Lyn Hickey
Secretary: Kate Brewitt

Our 2017 season started February 18 with *Get the Jump on Spring* held at the Toronto Botanical Garden (TBG) and presented in partnership with the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) – District 5 and Toronto Master Gardeners. This annual open house was filled with presentations, tours, free gardening advice, a farmer's market and a "Happy 150th Canada" floral design competition. It was a great way to beat the winter blues! ONIS was there promoting our favorite flower and selling potted irises.

Our upcoming events include,

April 1 – Scarborough Seedy Saturday – Blessed Cardinal Newman High School, 100 Brimley Road South, Scarborough, ON

This year's fair will focus on Biodiversity and Saving Our Bees. There will be a seed exchange, heirloom seed vendors, gardening booths, environmental organizations, green living ideas and workshops on growing and living sustainably. ONIS will be there selling potted irises and seeds.

May 22 – President's Open Garden – Aurora, ON.

Last year's open garden was such a success Terry and Kate decided to open their garden gate to visitors again this year. It should be peak bloom for MDBs and SDBs with a few of the early IBs in the mix. Potted irises will be sold with proceeds going towards the Ontario Iris Society. For further details and directions email: tlaurin@rogers.com.

June 4 - ONIS Annual Flower Show and Sale – Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto, ON.

ONIS members gather to display their iris bloom stalks for this American Iris Society sanctioned show. At 1 pm the doors open to the public. All visitors are asked to select their favorite bloom stalks to receive a coupon for a free rhizome at our August auction/sale. In addition to the flower show potted irises will be sold. A popular event with TBG visitors.

August 13 – ONIS Annual Rhizome Auction and Sale – Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto, ON.

We will be auctioning off newer iris introductions at our popular auction. This will be followed by a 'super' sale of iris rhizomes donated by our members.

For more information visit our website at <https://sites.google.com/site/ontarioirissociety/> or email just1moreiris@gmail.com.

Western New York Iris Society

President: Carolyn Schaffner
Vice President: Marilee Farry

Secretary: Betty Schnellinger
Treasurer: Dave Baehre

As WNYIS shares with GRIS the excitement of recruiting the most new members in the 2016 Region 2 Membership Contest, we are coming up with innovative activities to include in our regular events to keep those people interested in their new memberships.

To those ends, this is the outline of our planned events:

April 8 (Saturday)

At Maria Gerbracht's, 125 Lafayette Blvd, Williamsville 716-632-8069 mrgerbracht@verizon.net
 Design techniques demonstration on how to include an object which is not usually found in a design, in preparation for the Iris Show on June 17. The theme for the Show, *Tiptoe through the Iris*, uses footwear in the design.

May 20 (Saturday)

At David Baehre's — 3755 Genesee Street in Lancaster at 2 p.m.
 Preparing Iris Stalks for the Show, with Dave, Mary Beth Gugino, Maria Gerbracht.

June

Open House at Neil Houghton's in Rochester. Specific date depending on peak bloom period.

June 16 (Friday)

Set up for Iris Show at Eastern Hills Mall, near Sears. 4:30 PM

June 17 (Saturday)

At Eastern Hills Mall, 4545 Transit Road, Williamsville. Located inside, near Sears and the food court.
 WNYIS Annual Iris Show. All are welcome to participate.

Theme: *Tiptoe through the Iris* (featuring footwear or related items)

Exhibit preparations 7:30-10:45 AM. Judging 11 AM-1 PM. Open to public 1PM-4 PM

July 8 (Saturday) (back up date of July 1 if bloom season is unusually early)

At Joanne Bassett's, 11837 Parker Road, East Aurora, 716-662-2569 — 11 am to 1 pm.
 2-hour judges training on Louisiana & Japanese Iris. We will evaluate 2-year grown iris from MJ Urist and Joe Musacchia in addition to other replanted Iris.

August 26 (Saturday)

At Botanical Gardens, 2655 South Park Avenue, Lackawanna

Annual Plant Sale, with Hosta and Daylily Societies. Theme: **Deer Don't Eat Iris**

Sometime (TBA) prior to the sale, Maria and David will meet to discuss digging, cleaning and labeling the iris for the sale AND When to dig and how to divide Iris

September (TBA)

WNYIS Picnic & Annual Meeting

October

In Rochester. Region 2 Annual Meeting hosted by Greater Rochester Iris Society.

2016 Region 2 Fall Meeting

by Vaughn Sayles

On Friday, October 14, we loaded the car and headed towards Buffalo enjoying the beautiful day and colorful foliage along the way. We found the Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott by the airport and were pleased with the location that WNYIS had reserved for the meeting. After checking in we found our way to the Hawthorn Room where Marilee Farry was issuing name tags and folders while Joanne Bassett was setting up the Silent Auction. It was a nice beginning to a very successful fall meeting.



Welcome!

In addition to a warm welcome there was a special treat for attendees. A nice selection of potted bearded iris was provided by WNYIS members from their gardens. We were encouraged to take more than one and many people did. It certainly was a nice way to add iris that grow well in Region 2 to our collections.

Dave Baehre had prepared a tasty welcome dinner which was supplemented by some of the other members of WNYIS. Attendees enjoyed a nice selection of food and beverages as they caught up with fellow iris lovers from Region 2. After the meal the group enjoyed a slide presentation featuring pictures taken by Kate Brewitt, Kathryn Mohr, E.J. Mattson and Vaughn Sayles of iris in bloom at the 2016 AIS National Convention. It was an enjoyable evening!

The next morning started early with a Board of Directors Meeting where it was decided to have a 2017 Membership Challenge Contest ending on October 1, 2017 and to increase expenditures in the proposed 2017 budget by \$100.00 for Membership and by \$200.00 for the Fall Meeting.

Following the break which included making bids on Silent Auction items, the General Membership Meeting was held and officers for 2017 were elected and the 2017 budget in the amount of \$2,385.00 was adopted. Show dates for 2017 were announced and the 2017 Region 2 Show Awards were selected by eligible Affiliates.

Carol Warner of Draycott Gardens, Upperco, Maryland, then gave a colorful presentation on using iris in the landscape which included many pictures from her gardens and those of friends. It was a nice way to get our minds back on how beautiful iris and companion plants that bloom at the same time can be.



Guest speaker, Carol Warner

Carol's presentation was followed by a buffet with a nice selection of hot items which was appropriate for the fall weather. WNYIS selected a good caterer and there was a lot to eat.

Our tasty lunch was followed by the presentation of awards. The 2016 Region 2 Show Awards were presented by our Awards chairperson, Kathryn Mohr.



The Region 2 Show Awards for 2016 were: 1) Magdalen Award GRIS MTB 'Speckled Spring' Dorothy Stiefel, 2) Peckham Award WNYIS Historic Sib 'Lydia Winter' Judy Tucholski-Zon and 3) McGarvey Award CHIS Sib 'Seneca Butterfly' Virginia Dorwaldt.

Special recognition was given by Judy Tucholski-Zon (former RVP of Region 2) to David Baehre. She saluted Dave for his years of winning entries in WNYIS shows and contributions to the club.



The awards presentations also included the presentation of the 2016 Irwin A. Conroe Distinguished Service Award for Region 2. This year there was a tie and our RVP, Dorothy Stiefel, presented the awards to Kathryn Mohr and Betty Schnellinger. (See article on another page.)

Congratulations to all those who received awards.

The presentation of awards was followed by a live auction. Carol Warner had donated a nice selection of Hiroshi Shimizu's pseudatas which David Baehre had potted and nurtured over the summer. Kate Brewitt with Terry Laurin's assistance auctioned off the iris for WNYIS.



Who'll bid \$30.00?

The Pseudata Auction was very successful and the Silent Auction brought in \$386.00 for Region 2. After everyone paid their bills for their acquisitions from the auctions it was time to say goodbye for some. The Region 2 Judges and other members who were interested attended Carol Warner's Judges Training on Pseudatas. Her presentation was organized, informative and well received.

I'm sure everyone who attended would agree that WNYIS did a great job as hosts of the 2016 Region 2 Fall Meeting. We consumed tasty meals with lots of choices and conducted the business of the region while enjoying the presentations and catching up with other members in attendance. It was a nice way to conclude the iris season as the last of the rebloomers are struggling to bloom and we are getting our gardens ready for winter. 🌸

Also at the Annual Meeting...



Friendly gathering before the meeting, from left, Wendy Roller, Dorothy Stiefel, Carol Warner, David Bollinger, Maria Gerbracht,

Joanne Bassett, with Marilee Farry checking out items for the silent auction.



2016 Conroe Award

This year's votes resulted in a tie! At left, long-time member and dedicated member in several facets, is **Kathryn Mohr**, receiving well-deserved recognition from RVP Dorothy Stiefel. **Betty Schnellinger**, above, region newsletter editor, receives the second award.

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY REGION 2

Wirz-Rettig Award

It was established by the Western New York Iris Society to recognize the contributions of Alfred R. Wirz and Anna Rettig who fostered knowledge for the successful growing of Japanese Iris in this area.

The award was first given at WNYIS shows, but since 2014, it is a Region 2 award. Al was a member of AIS Region 2 in the Niagara South West Society (now WNYIS) since 1965. He served as local President, Region 2 Treasurer from 1976-80, and an AIS Judge from 1970-90. Al's interest in Japanese irises was influenced by Robert B. Milner, the founding president of NSW, who had been a botanist and hybridizer for Walter Marx (famous Japanese Iris hybridizer) and later at Wayside Gardens in Ohio.

Al bought Japanese irises from Walter Marx and Wayside Gardens, grew them well in his small Kenmore NY backyard, and began hybridizing Japanese irises. He introduced 'Cartersan' in 1979, and in 1984 'Prince Theodore' and 'Imbertus Rex'. He attended numerous national conventions to meet with other Japanese growers. He also gave one-man exhibits in the Kenmore Library and nearby bank for many years, presented programs to garden clubs and iris societies, and wrote articles about growing Japanese Irises for the Region 2 Newsletter.

Al inspired Anna and encouraged her to grow Japanese Irises from his hybridized seed pods. She started by growing over 100 seedlings from four of Al's crosses. Anna soon began hybridizing her own cultivars, introduced three and was convinced that her cultivars were good enough to exhibit at the 1992 National Japanese Iris Convention in Maryland. There, two of her introductions tied for second best among the out-of-area guest irises.

Her introductions were readily praised because of their branching (longer bloom season), wonderful substance, and they were great growers. Anna invited any visiting AIS judges to her garden every year to help evaluate her seedlings. She eventually introduced seven cultivars: 'Anna Angelwings', 'Chief Red Jacket', 'Grand Island', 'Niagara Power', 'Rainbow Center', 'Stella Niagara' and a dwarf cultivar 'Miss Buffalo'. Two are still available through American growers and one is the parent of 'Pure Emotion', an introduction by Aitken of Salmon Creek Garden, Vancouver, WA. Anna also donated numerous Japanese irises every year to the WNYIS sale, and was there to enthusiastically tell every buyer how to grow them.

The WNYIS was blessed to know Al Wirz and Anna Rettig who gave us beautiful Japanese Irises to grow.

AWARD FORM: a TALL vase (Eiffel Tower type) to hold Japanese irises and a Certificate.
The Western New York Iris Society will bear the expenses for 10 Awards. Awards were given in 2015 and 2016.

...by Maria Gerbracht, Anna's daughter

AIS Photo Contest Winners from Region 2



Close Up,
'Orange Tiger'

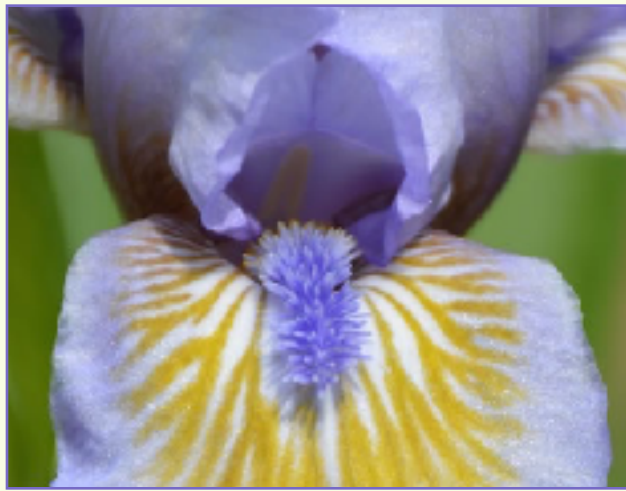
Cora Roller

Big Winner
in the
Youth
Division

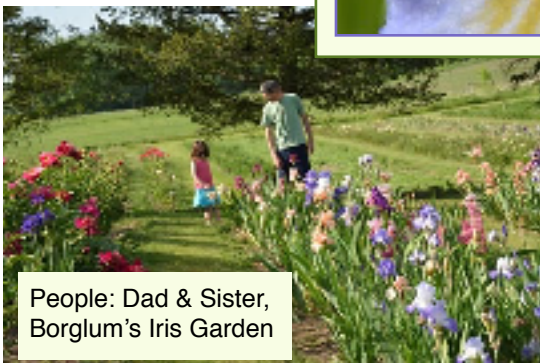


Landscape Display,
Borglum's Iris
Garden

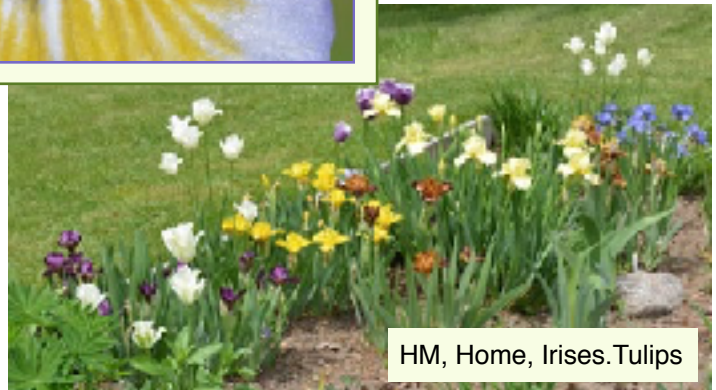
Effects:



'Irish Moss'



People: Dad & Sister,
Borglum's Iris Garden



HM, Home, Irises.Tulips



Brenda Fox won the Landscape Category with 'Davy Jones' and received Honorable Mention for People in the Iris Garden.

In Memory of Ronald James



On September 20th 2016, Ron James left this world to tend the great iris garden in the sky where the irises are always in bloom and there are the most wonderful color combinations.

Ron James was a member of the American Iris Society for 22 years. In that time span, he became a master judge, retiring after 15 years of service. He was a long time member of the Central New York Iris Society until it disbanded in 2015. Ron loved his irises, hybridizing hundreds of new seedlings. He chose the best of the best to introduce cultivars like 'Broken Enchantment', 'Mauve Enchantment', and 'Royal Enchantment'.

Ron was a master Mason for almost 50 years, holding many officer positions in the fellowship of the craft. He was also a Shriner and a member of American Legion Post 1550.

Ron was married to the love of his life, Donna, for 55 years, and together they ran Enchantment Acres Flower Farm. He really enjoyed showing off the train garden and talking about his favorite flower, the iris.

In all the years that I knew Ron, I never heard him say an unkind word against anyone. Ron James was many things to many different people.

I will remember him best as my friend. He will be missed.



...by Jan Smith

**AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY REGION 2 ANNUAL FALL MEETING
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
OCTOBER 15, 2016 AT 8:30 AM**

1. Call to Order

RVP Dorothy Stiefel, presiding.

2. Roll Call

President and RVP—Dorothy Stiefel
Vice-President—Judy Tucholski-Zon
Treasurer—Vaughn Sayles
Secretary—Marilee Farry
CHIS President—Linda Knipper absent and excused; proxy assigned.
GRIS President—Cara Hutchings
HVIDS President—Jim Robinowitz
ONIS President—Terry Laurin
WNYIS President—Carolyn Schaffner
Editor—Betty Schnellinger
Webmaster—Kate Brewitt
Judges' Training—Wendy Roller
Awards & Exhibitions, CHIS proxy—Kathryn Mohr
Guests: Ed Jowett, E.J. Mattson

3. October 3, 2015 minutes were reviewed: One correction was made by Kathryn regarding Youth Awards, and the correction was included in her report. No other corrections/additions made. Minutes accepted.

4. By-laws: Dorothy requested a committee to present a proposal for amendment of the by-laws to permit business being conducted via e-mail between annual meetings. Committee: Dorothy, Carolyn, Kate.

5. Membership: Neil reported 148 AIS members as of 9/30/2016 compared with 152 members on 9/30/2015. Although the Region gained new members, it also incurred non-renewals and deaths. Overall, Neil felt that the New Membership Challenge had been a success and recommended that it be continued through 2017. Carolyn moved and Cara seconded that the Challenge should continue in 2017, ending Oct. 1, 2017. After discussion, the motion passed with 4 yes and 3 no votes.

6. Treasurer's Report: Submitted by Vaughn Sayles.

7. Budget: Presented by Vaughn Sayles. Terry Laurin initiated a discussion regarding increasing the amount allocated to the Affiliate hosting the annual meeting. Cara Hutchings moved that the amount be increased by \$200, to a total of up to \$1,000, effective with the 2017 budget. The measure was passed unanimously.

8. 2017 annual meeting: Cara Hutchings announced that GRIS would host the 2017 meeting.

9. Webmaster: Kate reported that the site receives approx. 175 contacts monthly.

10. Newsletter: Editor Betty Schnellinger thanked the various contributors for their stories and pictures.

11. Nominations: Judy Tucholski-Zon presented the following slate:

RVP and President, Dorothy Stiefel
 V.P., Kathryn Mohr
 Secretary, Kate Brewitt;
 Treasurer, Vaughn Sayles.

No nominations from the floor. Neil moved to accept the nominations, Marilee seconded, and the slate was elected by acclamation.

12. Show Dates/Awards:

CHIS	June 3, 1017	Magdalen Award
HVIDS	May 20, 2017	Passed
GRIS	June 4, 2017 (tentative)	Blenis Award
WNYIS	June 17, 2017	McGarvey Award
ONIS	June 4, 2017	Peckham Award

13. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 am. Additional topics to be covered in the general membership meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Marilee Farry, Secretary

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**AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY REGION 2 ANNUAL FALL MEETING
 MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
 HELD IN CHEEKTOWAGA, N.Y. – OCTOBER 15, 2016 AT 11:00 AM**

1. Call to Order/Welcome

RVP Dorothy Stiefel, presiding. Everyone was welcomed and thanked for attending. Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS) was thanked for hosting the meeting.

2. Roll Call

In Attendance were:

Dorothy Stiefel – RVP, Archives; Bylaws.
 Judy Tucholski-Zon – Assistant RVP
 Marilee Farry – Secretary
 Vaughn Sayles - Treasurer
 Kathryn Mohr – Exhibitions/Awards; proxy for Linda Knipper, CHIS President
 Cara Hutchings – GRIS President
 Jim Robinowitz – HVIDS President
 Terry Laurin – ONIS President
 Carolyn Schaffner — WNYIS President
 Wendy Roller – Judges' Training Chair
 Neil Houghton – Membership Chair
 Betty Schnellinger – Newsletter Editor
 Kate Brewitt – Webmaster

Absent and Excused:

Linda Knipper – CHIS President

Also in Attendance

Dave, Baehre, Joanne Bassett, David Bollinger (FSKIS), Chuck Chapman, John Colley, Maria Gerbracht, Nathan Hutchings, Ed Jowett, E.J. Mattson, Jinny Missons, Carol Warner, Ron Zon.

3. Additions/corrections to the minutes of the Oct. 3, 2015 meeting.

Linda Knipper should not have been listed as 'Creative Money'.

Janette E. Smith – Youth Committee Chair should have been categorized as 'Absent and Excused'.

Motion by Neil Houghton to accept the 2015 minutes as circulated with corrections noted. Motion carried.

4. Committee Reports

Archives: Dorothy Stiefel presented a 1950s era journal of iris records owned by Kenneth Warner and donated by Kathy Shadrack.

Bylaws: Dorothy Stiefel advised that a committee has been formed to update the AIS Region 2 Bylaws so that business can be transacted via email. The committee members are Dorothy Stiefel, Carolyn Schaffner and Kate Brewitt.

Creative Money: Dorothy Stiefel advised that a chair is needed for this committee. If anyone is interested, please see her.

Awards/Exhibitions: Kathryn Mohr provided additions to her previously submitted report. The Guidelines for the Awards document will be updated by December 31, 2016. WNYIS will help define the Wirz-Rettig Award.

Judges Training: Wendy Roller indicated that her report appeared in the Fall Region 2 newsletter. Several changes have occurred this year, as noted. We also note and mourn the passing of two accredited judges; Diane Crandall, Garden/Exhibition Judge and Ronald James, Master Judge.

Membership: Neil Houghton reported that the 2016 Membership Challenge had brought in approx. 16 new AIS members, and would conclude at the end of the calendar year. The Membership Challenge will continue in 2017, running from January 1, 2017 to October 1, 2017.

Newsletter Editor: Betty Schnellinger gave sincere thanks to everyone who provided her with articles and pictures.

Youth Committee: Dorothy Stiefel noted that this committee needs a Chair. There are approx. six (6) youth members in the Region. Two potential candidates were identified and will be approached.

Webmaster: Kate Brewitt reported that on average there were 175 visits per month. The webpage for Capital Hudson Iris Society (CHIS) continues to be the most popular.

5. Affiliate Reports

Each affiliate indicated reports were available in the Fall Region 2 newsletter with the following additions:

- ONIS will hold their annual meeting on November 6 in Port Perry, ON.
- HVIDS presented a check to AIS Region 2 for \$35; the proceeds from their raffle of this year's Dykes Memorial Medal winner 'Swans In Flight'.
- WNYIS advised of an upcoming meeting on November 6.
- CHIS advised of an October 16 meeting and a visit to Joe Pye Weed's Gardens on November 20. Also announced was their new show award, the Bob and Ann Keup Award.
- GRIS is working on an iris terminology presentation. They also announced they will host the 2017 AIS Region 2 meeting in October 2017.

New Business

6. Election of officers for 2017

The following slate of Officers was presented,

Dorothy Stiefel – Regional Vice President (RVP)

Kathryn Mohr – Assistant RVP

Kate Brewitt – Secretary

Vaughn Sayles – Treasurer

There were no nominations from the floor.

Motion by Neil Houghton to accept slate of officers by acclamation. Motion carried.

7. Budget for 2017/Treasurer's Report

Vaughn Sayles gave his report as of October 11, 2016.

Total Assets: \$10,204.97

Checking Account: \$3,002.45

Savings Account: \$3,618.99

Certificate of Deposit: \$3,583.53

Reserve: \$1,485.61

Total Unencumbered Assets: \$8,719.36

Vaughn thanked the following for their contributions to Region 2 during the year:

WNYIS for their donation in memory of James G. Burke.

WNYIS for the donation of funds upon their disbanding.

Dorothy Stiefel for declining reimbursement of the 2016 AIS National Convention registration fee.

Vaughn proposed an increase of \$100 to the 2016/2017 budget to cover expenses from continuation of the "Membership Challenge". Also proposed an additional \$200 to cover additional funds allotted to the Affiliate hosting the AIS Region 2 Annual Meeting. Total increase to the 2016/2017 budget of \$300.

Motion by Neil Houghton to accept the budget for 2016/2017 with proposed increases. Motion carried.

8. Show Dates and Regional Award Selection for 2017

HVIDS – May 20 – passed on an award.

CHIS – June 3 – Magdalen Award

GRIS – June 4 (tentative) – Blenis Award

WNYIS – June 17 – McGarvey Award

ONIS – June 4 – Peckham Award

9. 2017 Region Meeting

Cara Hutchings announced that next year's Region 2 Annual Meeting will be hosted by GRIS.

10. Other business

Dorothy Stiefel made mention of Alan McMurtrie's new iris reticulata introductions.

They are available in the US.

Joanne Bassett thanked everyone for their donations to this year's Silent Auction.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Wendy Roller to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 pm. Motion carried.

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Proposed Bylaws Amendment

At the Oct. 2016 Region 2 annual meeting, it was proposed that the Region amend its bylaws to allow additional meetings and business transaction via email. This has been done successfully by the American Iris Society at the national level for some time.

Therefore, the Bylaws Committee proposes the following changes to our bylaws. Text to be added appears in **bold** print.

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ARTICLE VIII—BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 2

The Board of Directors shall meet at least once annually at a time and place designated by the Regional Vice President. **The Board of Directors may also meet and transact region business via electronic mail (e-mail), or via conference telephone call. These meetings and transactions will be reported in the next region newsletter. A printed copy of the report shall be placed in the permanent minutes book of the Region 2 Secretary.**

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This change will be voted on at the 2017 annual meeting Oct. 21. A two-thirds "yea" vote by those present is necessary to implement this change.



Moments from the 2016 AIS Region 2 Annual Meeting



Pictured from left: Project STEP alumnus Lev, Jodie McMenamin, Gabriella Sanna, President Barack Obama, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore, First Lady Michelle Obama, Mrs. Lee Hsien Loong, STEP alumni Jordan and Tristan, and Project STEP student Njioma in the Blue Room of the White House.

Official White House Photo by Chuck Kennedy.

THE OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH

In an October 6, 2016 email from proud dad and long-time WNYIS member Dave Baehre:

“Jodie received an email from the White house..planned the trip...booked the hotel....arranged air flights for the Project Step family.....arranged passage to the White House with the Marines....met the 1st family...had a photo op... etc...what an experience ...when we are all dead and gone... someone in the distant future who probably is not even born yet , will say. ‘Look at the photo I found in the attic...I think that is my Great, Great Aunt....she was friends with the President of the United States....’.”