



Treasurer's Report – Annette reported that as of September 30, 2025 assets were comprised of \$7,529.53 in the checking account and an I-Bond with a value of \$1,110.00 for a total of \$8,639.53, a decrease of \$190.48 since January 1, 2025. Year-to-date income total is \$521.20 while expenses total \$711.68. Some receipts remain outstanding and will be submitted before year end.

**Motion by Debi Chowdhury to approve the 2025 year-to-date financial statement as presented. Motion carried.**

Archives Report – Cara reported that she has been working on downsizing the Region 2 archive. A selection of books and papers are available from today's silent auction. Items will also be taken to the 2026 AIS National Convention in New Jersey for their silent auction. Going forward, a list of available items will be published in the Region 2 newsletter which members can obtain.

Awards and Exhibitions – Cara reported that in 2025 three AIS-approved iris shows were held in Region 2 with awards given out. as follows,

The Ethel Anson S. Peckham Award for the highest placed historic iris was awarded to *Iris graminea* as exhibited by Michael Roller of GRIS. Cara presented Michael's plaque to Wendy Roller in his absence.

The Ruth V. Blenis Award for the highest placed tall bearded iris was awarded to TB 'Instant Message' as exhibited by Dave Baehre of WNYIS. Annette will present Dave with his certificate at the next WNYIS meeting.

The Magdalen Award for the highest placed median iris was awarded to IB 'Witty' as exhibited by Terry Laurin of ONIS.

AIS Silver (most first-place ribbons) and Bronze Medal (second most first-place ribbons) recipients were as follows,

GRIS Silver Medal recipient: Wendy Roller, Bronze Medal recipient: Michael Roller. Cara presented both medals to Wendy Roller.

ONIS: Silver Medal recipient: Terry Laurin, Bronze Medal recipient: Ilona Shtepan

WNYIS: Silver Medal recipient: Dave Baehre, Bronze Medal recipient: Joanne Bassett

Judges' Training Report – Wendy reported that all Region 2 judges were able to complete their 3-year judges' training requirements for the period of August 1, 2022, to July 31, 2025. Currently on the Region 2 roster is: 7 Active Master Judges, 3 Garden/Exhibition Judges, 1 Apprentice Judge, 4 Accredited AIS Artistic Judges, and 10 Retired Master Judges.

Region 2 accredited judges' names will be submitted at the AIS Board of Director's meeting on November 5, 2025. Changes to the 2026 roster include Marilee Farry becoming an Active Master Judge, and Annette Kuhn becoming a Garden/Exhibition Judge and an Accredited AIS Artistic Judge.

Membership Report – Cara reported for Georgette Martin in her absence. As of October 1, 2025, there are 91 members in Region 2 of the American Iris Society. This is a net increase of 12 members since last year's general meeting. This number includes four affiliate members (Capital Hudson Iris Society, Greater Rochester Iris Society, Ontario Iris Society, and Western NY Iris Society) and four organizational memberships (Brooklyn Botanical Garden, Cornell University Library, Jardin Botanique de Montreal Bibliotheque, and Royal Botanical Garden).

Newsletter Update – Leto reported via Zoom that two editions were published in 2025, spring and autumn. Thanks were extended to everyone who sent articles and images, and to Kate for her assistance. All editions are archived in the Ben R. Hager-Sidney DuBose Memorial Online Iris Library, part of the AIS Iris Encyclopedia (WIKI). Leto asked everyone to consider submitting articles and/or images to the newsletter in future.

Webmaster – Kate reported via Zoom that during 2025, on average, there were over 3,775 visits per month, an increase over 2024. The three top busiest months were, May, April, and July. For the first time, monthly visits for several months surpassed 4,000. Affiliate pages regularly place in the top ten web pages viewed so continue to submit updates.

## AFFILIATE REPORTS

Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS) – Kathryn reported that the holiday party has been moved to November 15 at the Cornell Cooperative Extension, Albany Country Office, in Voorheesville.

Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS) – Cara reported that the next meeting will be October 19 when plans for 2026 will be discussed.

Ontario Iris Society (ONIS) – Kate reported that the ONIS AGM will be held November 2 when the board will make plans for 2026. An update was given on the ONIS report appearing in Region 2's autumn newsletter. With the help of private donors (like ONIS and the AIS) and with contributions from both federal and provincial governments, Nature Conservancy of Canada was able to purchase land on the Bruce (Saugeen) Peninsula which is habitat for the dwarf lake iris.

Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS) – Annette reported on the events held by WNYIS during 2025 and the efforts they are taking to educate gardeners about growing irises and using irises in floral designs. At their next meeting on November 2 there will be a presentation on the history of irises, show awards presentations, a design demo, and a business meeting.

## NEW BUSINESS

Budget – Annette presented the budget of \$2,944.00 for 2026. The budget remains unchanged from last year, except for a \$10 increase in the membership budget. This increase is due to a rise in postage costs associated with mailing the welcome letter to new members from the 2025 AIS membership drive. Similar growth is anticipated from the 2026 membership drive.

**Motion by Debi Chowdhury to accept the 2026 Region 2 budget as proposed. Motion carried.**

Show Dates and Region 2 Awards – The 2026 show rotation is ONIS, CHIS, GRIS, and WNYIS. At the board meeting held October 15, the affiliate chairs selected the Region 2 award for their 2026 shows as follows,

ONIS: The Ruth V. Blenis Award, tentative date Sunday, June 7, 2026.

CHIS: Passed on an award for 2026.

GRIS: The William McGarvey Beardless Iris Award, tentative date Sunday, June 7, 2026.

WNYIS: The Magdalen Award, tentative date Saturday, May 30, 2026.

Nominating Committee – Debi presented the list of nominations for the 2025/2026 officers' positions approved by the board at the October 15, 2025 board meeting,  
Regional Vice President (RVP) - Debi Chowdhury  
Assistant RVP – no nomination  
Secretary - Kate Brewitt  
Treasurer - Annette Kuhn

Since there were no nominations from the floor, the nominees were declared elected by acclamation. Debi Chowdhury presented Cara Hutchings, outgoing RVP, with an RVP pin and a bouquet of flowers. Kathryn Mohr was also presented with a bouquet of flowers as a thank you for organizing the general meeting. Kathryn, in turn, thanked all the people at the Garden Alliance.

Other business – Cara reminded everyone that the 2026 AIS National Convention is in New Jersey, NY. Howie also provided details on the location, the gardens and the optional tour.

Adjournment at 11:01 pm

After lunch a presentation was given by Howie Dash on “Picacho Mountain Iris, A Hybridizer’s Journey”.

Submitted by Kate Brewitt, AIS Region 2 Secretary