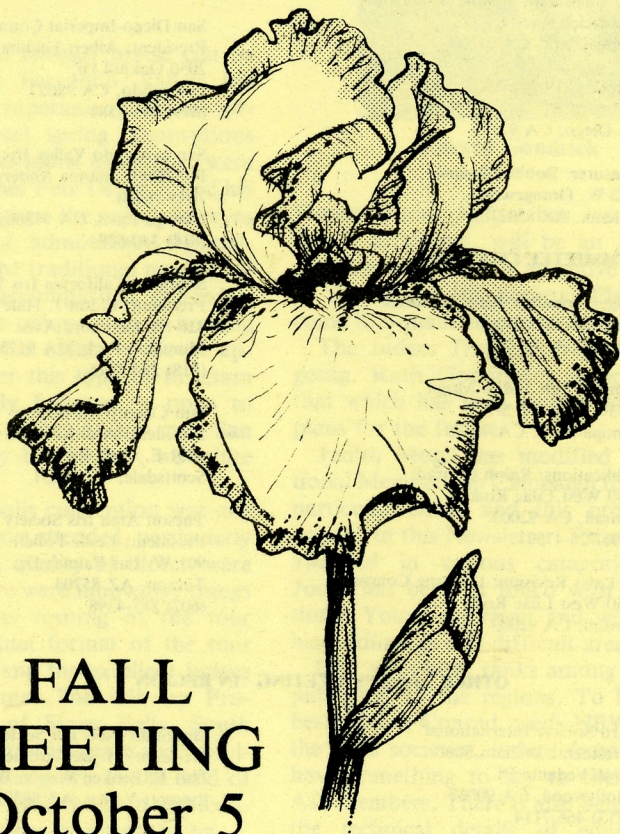


AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

REGION 15

Fall 1985 Newsletter



FALL
MEETING
October 5

Invitation, details

21st YEAR OF PUBLICATION

AMERICAN SOCIETY REGION 15 NEWSLETTER

THIS NEWSLETTER is published in the Spring and Fall each year, and distributed to all members of the American Iris Society residing in Southern California and Arizona. Editorial office is located at 7650 West Lilac Road, Bonsall, CA 92003.

REGIONAL OFFICERS

Regional Vice President
Howard W. Goodrick
1700 Burr Oak Way
Hemet, CA 92343

Vice Chairman: Joanne Anderson
7039 Delco Ave.
Canoga Park, CA 91307

Secretary: Peggie McCroskey
4663 55th St.
San Diego, CA 92115

Treasurer: Bobbi Shepard
3342 W. Orangewood
Phoenix, AZ 85021

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Judges Training: Ruth Goodrick
1700 Burr Oak Way
Hemet, CA 92343

Membership: Judith Mogil
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Publications: Ralph Conrad
7650 West Lilac Road
Bonsall, CA 92003
(619) 728-4759

By-Laws Revision: LaVerne Conrad
7650 West Lilac Road
Bonsall, CA 92003

OTHER GROUPS MEETING IN REGION

Arl Society International
President: William Scott
1946 Vedanta Pl.
Hollywood, CA 90068
(213) 465-7114

REGION 15 AIS AFFILIATES

Inland Iris Society
President: Ralph Strane
7403 Archibald Ave.
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730
(714) 987-2835

San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society
President: Albert Feldman
2050 Oakhill Dr.
Escondido, CA 92027
(619) 747-6584

San Fernando Valley Iris Society
President: Joanne Anderson
7038 Delco
Canoga Park, CA 91306
(818) 340-6084

Southern California Iris Society
President: Eldon J. Hale
426 N. Alhambra Ave.
Monterey Park, CA 91754
(818) 280-8516

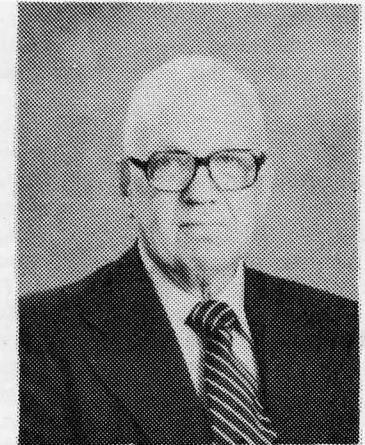
Sun County Iris Society
President: Ardi Kari (Mrs.)
6201 E. Calle Rosa
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Tucson Area Iris Society
President: Leslie Follett
901 W. Las Palmas Dr.
Tucson, AZ 85704
(602) 887-4398

Mountain View Iris Society
President: H. Bernardine Smith
7801 E. Broken Wagon Way
Prescott Valley, AZ 86301

DEADLINE INFORMATION: Changes in circumstances make it difficult to determine precise publication needs far in advance, so no exact date is given here. Officers of the region and all society presidents may serve as information posts for those in need of such information, but a general rule is as follows: Two months in advance of meeting dates are needed. A month is needed to edit supplied material, plan for typesetting, managing space in an attempt to stay within budget, addressing and mailing. Due to bylaw requirements that announcements should be made at least 30 days ahead for legal and other reasons, the second period is necessary. All members are urged to contact the executive committee members with information pertinent to the region and suggestions for communication improvement. Criticism and questions are always welcome.

The Regional Vice President's Report



Howard Goodrick

First off, not enough praise can be given the San Fernando Valley Iris Society for the superlative regional spring trek this past spring. Innovations and planning, let alone execution, were excellent and what Pete DiSantis and his associates have given the region deserves our thanks and admiration. Approximately double the traditional number of registrants was accomplished, due mostly to their rather unique plan of inviting the public to this affair, a novel approach. Whether this type of program will be generally followed is open to question at this point. At any rate, San Fernando Valley Iris Society, we salute you!

The Indianapolis convention was one of the best we have attended, particularly as quantity and quality of bloom were concerned. There were innovative things as well, such as routing of the tour buses, the unusual format of the tour garden booklet and the excellent judges training programs. The talk by Professor Bledsoe of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on his experiences in successfully growing Louisiana iris in the cold of that region was one those in difficult-Louisianas areas might profit by.

From Indianapolis we went to Wisconsin, our old stamping ground, where we visited gardens and helped judge the Milwaukee and Chicago shows.

Back home in Region 15 members of the executive board have been busy with plans, and I offer a summary of its work:

We have a new Exhibition Chairman. Irene Benton is the National Council

Flower Show Judge, has lectured on flower arranging, will be an AIS Apprentice Judge and is an active member of the Inland Iris Society. Please welcome this qualified person to our board.

The Judges Training Program is ongoing. Ruth Goodrick's report details that which has been accomplished and plans for the future.

Judith Mogil has modified the National Membership Campaign to suit our particular needs and this program is printed in this Newsletter. Prizes will be awarded in various categories. Jim Jones has been in touch with the National Youth chairman and will report his findings in this difficult area.

Our Newsletter ranks among the best published by the regions. To have the best, Ralph Conrad needs NEWS from the local societies, indeed from all who have something to say to their fellow AIS members. There is also help need in the technical details of editing and publishing, particularly in the usage of modern graphics in order to get the best and most economical methods. Who can help? If you can, please let Ralph or me know.

By action of the Board at the Fall, 1984 meeting a committee was appointed to revise the region's bylaws. (See the Spring, 1985, issue of the Newsletter, page 12) LaVerne Conrad became that commit-

tee's chairman and the ad hoc group has now completed its work. The revision is published in this issue, and acceptance will be voted upon at the upcoming fall meeting.

Bobbie Shepard and her committee and continuing planning for Fiesta 87, and she will report on progress at the Fall meeting.

While nothing has been said about the contributions of the Assistant RVP, the secretary or the treasurer, they have all been an important part of the success of our first half year of work and planning.

As usual, the shows were the highlights of the iris season. We judged or participated in all but the Southern California and the Tucson Shows. All were staged well and with more than adequate bloom. Effort is required to stage a show in order to display the entries to best effect and yet provide room for the visitors to move about.

Please make every effort to attend the region's fall meeting, hosted by the Inland Iris Society. Information and registration form are supplied in this issue. There will be no further announcement, so be sure to keep this issue on hand.

And please plan now to attend the National AIS Convention in San Jose from April 26 to April 30 next year. The spring board meeting of our region will be held there during the convention period, and local presidents and show chairmen may wish to schedule their shows around these dates.

Our Spring Trek planned next April by San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society has been cancelled due to conflict of their date and the San Jose meeting. As to the spring meeting, you will be notified as our planning progresses.

April 14 to 18, 1987 are the dates of Fiesta 87, the national convention to be held in Phoenix. It will be hosted by Sun Country Iris Society, but it is also a Region 15 project and merits our support. Again, we should plan local shows around these dates. Fiesta 87 will be different in many ways, in a glamorous setting in the hills east of Phoenix. Planning to attend now is encouraged.

Tentative Schedule Regional Meeting Hosts

The meeting dates to and including the 1988 meeting to be hosted by SCIS have been accepted. The following three meetings are newly scheduled and this invitation is issued to those societies designated. Please note Standing Rule 5 regarding these invitations which states "The regional board shall advise local clubs four years in advance of their responsibility in hosting the spring or fall meetings, and the clubs must express their willingness to accept three years before the scheduled meeting.

- Fall, 1985** Inland Iris Society
See notice this issue
- Spring, 1986** See notice this issue
- Fall, 1986** San Diego-Imperial Valley
- Spring, 1987** National Convention hosted by Sun Country Iris Society, Phoenix
- Fall, 1987** San Fernando Valley Iris Society
- Spring, 1988** Southern California Iris Society
- Fall, 1988** Inland Iris Society
- Spring, 1989** San Diego-Imperial Valley
- Fall, 1989** Southern California Iris Society

Nominating Committee Issues Its Report

The regional nominating committee has issued its report and has offered a re-nomination of current officers for another term, with the exception of the treasurer's position. Vickie Day of Phoenix has received the nod for that, replacing Bobbie Shepard, whose maximum of three years of consecutive service has been completed.

IN MEMORIAM

Claire Roberts

The bulwark and guiding genius of the American Iris Society is the worker who toils, almost namelessly, for the simple joy of doing a good job on time and well done. Such a person was Claire Roberts whom this paragraph memorializes. I knew her even before I had thoughts of living in California by means of the Robbins she conducted. After we moved here, and again became involved in Iris, she became someone on whom I could depend for counsel and guidance in unraveling the nuances of southern California culture, both in and out of the Iris World. We must also remember her skill in the art work, which she did so well.

— Howard Goodrick



AWARDS TO NEVA SEXTON included the President's Cup, won at American Iris Society's Annual Meeting in 1975 in San Diego. She had just been presented the cup by Clarke Cosgrove, Region 15 member and then A.I.S. president.

NEVA SEXTON

One of the nation's foremost, and probably the most prodigious hybridizer of tall bearded iris in recent decades within Region 15, Neva Sexton died on July 6th. She was laid to rest in a small cemetery in the town she had helped to put on the map for most irisarians—Wasco, California, a small farming community located northwest of Bakersfield.

Her husband, Harvey, passed away three years ago this coming October, and her daughter and immediate family currently reside in the Wasco home.

In 1952, Neva attended a flower show in Bakersfield and simply "fell" for irises. Before leaving that spring show she had formulated her designs for the future, with her own ideas for color, branching, substance and vigor and a positive determination to have the best for a hybridizing program. In need of extra cash to purchase some of the best iris, she took to the cotton fields near her home and hired herself out at \$1 per

hour hoeing cotton fields. So, for 20 hours' labor she promptly acquired LIMELIGHT, then selling for \$20, and her "go-getter" hybridizing was on its way to being launched.

Hard agriculture field work was not new to her. Before 1952, when cash was even leaner in the Sexton household, she planted onion sets by hand in rows that "were only a mile in length." Her record for picking cotton by hand was 550 pounds in one day. Her secret in planting onions and picking cotton was "to never straighten up until the end of a row."

Her first iris introduction, in 1959, was Mixed Emotions, so named due to the cross of a blue and a yellow cultivar, which skeptics and noted hybridizers of that day felt was a waste of time. The cross was Golden Ruffles (by Carl Taylor, the second RVP of Region 15) and Azure Skies (a cultivar developed by Mrs. Douglas Pattison, a pioneer in iris promotion in Illinois, who had by that time retired to southern California and was living in Sherman Oaks).

Thirteen years from the day of that flower show, a Dykes Medal was be-

stowed upon her for her PACIFIC PANORAMA. Eight years later, in 1973, her NEW MOON won her a second Dyke's Medal. This was a banner year for her, for she also received the American Iris Society's Hybridizer's Award. Thus, in 21 years, her achievements had reached a height attained by a special few.

Fifty-three of her tall beardeders were registered and introduced for her by either Melrose Gardens or Tell Muhlstain, but mostly by Sexton's Iris Gardens in Wasco. Her last introduction was AMERICAN SWEETHEART in 1983. This cross is interesting when fully known: (World News x (Dawn Crest x 38-58) x Mary Randall x Golden

Chance). It has dark brown standards and black falls. In 1968, she saw a seedling in the DeForest garden in Oregon, obtained a rhizome, a sibling of Bayberry Candle, and hybridized with it for years. It became the pollen parent of her final introduction.

Few of her 53 introductions failed to garner awards of at least a minimum basis.

She was only an ARKANSAS GIRL, but she became a household name whenever and wherever irisarians around the world gather to discuss their favorite flower. When that NEW MOON rises slowly over the PACIFIC PANORAMA of Region 15, she will be remembered.

— Sanford Roberts

The Sexton introductions are listed alphabetically, giving an insight into her hybridizing program. One, named Golden Empire, received an HC in 1965 but was never introduced; five received Awards of Merit, Georgia Girl, Good Morning America, Homecoming Queen, Moon River and Sky Lab; and thirty-three rose to an HM award. Two introductions went all the way upwards to earning the Dykes Medal. The first year shown is year of introduction. Where another year is shown, it indicates at least an HM.

American Sweetheart (1983)
Arkansas Girl (1982-85)
Artist's Dream (1965)
Beauty Secret (1966)
Christening Party (1974)
Country Dawn (1965-66)
Earth Angel (1960-61)
Evening in Paris (1976-79)
First Snow (1966-69) (Sdlg 26-60)
Georgia Girl (1971-AM '76)
Golden Empire (HC '65)
Golden Sensation (1967-69)
Good Morning America (1979-'81-AM '83)
Goodnight Irene (1971-73)
Hall of Fame (1972-74)
Happy Bride (1973-74)
Happy Deb (1962)
Heaven's Own (1966)
Hidden Magic (1966-69)
Homecoming Queen (1978-AM '82)
Jack R. Dee (1974-75)
Kinberlina (1970-72)
Magic Lady (1977-79)
Midnight Special (1973-77)
Miss Personality (1977-78)
Mixed Emotions (1959)
Moonlight and Roses (1967-69)
Moon River (1963-AM '66)

Mr. Lincoln (1972-74)
My Desire (1972-73)
New Frontier (1962-63)
New Moon (1968-Dykes Medal '73)
New Tomorrow (1981)
Pacific Panorama (1960-Dykes Medal '65)
Party Princess (1970)
Peek A Blue (1975-76)
Pink N' Pretty (1962-65)
Pink Peace (1962)
Prince of Peace (1980-82)
Ruth's Love (1962-65)
Sea of Galilee (1974-75)
Shaft of Gold (1976-78)
Sky Lab (1974-AM '77)
Small Talk (1963-65)
Spanish Street Song (1974-77)
Springtime Fantasy (1969-71)
Sunset Jubilee (1975)
Swing Shift (1972-75)
Taco Belle (1978-81)
Thanksgiving (1976-77)
Travel On (1969-72)
Westside Story (1969)
World News (1977-78)

Compiled by Sanford Roberts.

NEW JUDGES HANDBOOK

The long-awaited Handbook for Judges and Show Officials is now available from the AIS Publications Chairman, Mrs. Jaymie Heathcock, Rt. 3, Box 270, Vinita, OK 74301. The cost is \$5.00, post paid. Make checks payable to The American Iris Society.

The Handbook is a must for all judges, apprentices and student judges. Likewise, it is recommended for all involved in planning iris shows.

The Judges Training at the fall meeting will be given by Howard Shockey on Aril and Aril-bred irises. It will be of help to you to have your new handbook at that session.

REGION 15 TREASURER'S REPORT July 31st, 1985

Beginning Balance August 31, 1984:	Checking Account	1,721.45	
	Savings Account	2,076.69	
	Time Certificate	500.00	
	Accounts Receivable	500.00	4,798.14
RECEIPTS			
Regional Iris Auction Sales			
Inland Iris Society	240.00		
Tucson Iris Society	150.00		
San Fernando Iris Society (1985)	346.00	736.00	
Donations:			
Howard Goodrick—RVP Expenses	250.00		
Tucson Iris Society	300.00		
So. Calif. Society donation meant for Convention funds	(200.00)	350.00	
Interest Income:			
Checking Account	56.85		
Savings Account	36.78	93.63	
		TOTAL RECEIPTS	1,179.63
DISBURSEMENTS			
Newsletter for Region 15:			
Fall 1984	389.56		
Spring 1984	476.74		
Mail Labels	25.97	892.27	
Other Expenses:			
1984 Auction Iris	330.50		
1985 Auction Iris	287.00		
1985 RVP Expense Allotment	250.00		
RVP Expense—Copy Work	27.88		
1984 Fall Meeting Expense	150.00		
1985 Spring Trek Expense	150.00		
Two sets mail labels	26.49		
Judges Training Expenses	34.80		
New Checks	7.59	1,264.26	
		TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	2,156.53
			<u>3,821.24</u>
Ending Balance July 31, 1985:	Checking Account	1,321.24	
	Two \$1000 CD's	2,000.00	
	Accounts Receivable	500.00	3,821.24

Treasurer's Note: Please realize that this report is for an 11 month period. The income from Regional auction iris has not yet come in so it does not reflect on the income. Sun Country Iris Society had their auction and have netted \$306.00. I hope the receipts will all be turned in so that I can bring you up to date on October 5th. See you then.

Bobbie Shepard
Treasurer

FIESTA PHOENIX '87

Today, as this is written, is August 5. Twenty months, 8 days until the Fiesta begins! I remember when we started all of this and we all said "Oh well, we have FIVE YEARS! Where has it gone?"

Plans are progressing very well. Right now is the time that we are receiving guest iris to be planted in our beds. An average of two boxes per day are arriving by UPS and USPS. Floyd Wickenkamp and Mary Scheidler are processing them as fast as they can. Mary has to be careful she picks up a potato for dinner instead of grabbing an iris. They are spread out over her family room at the moment, being sorted. A garden owner's meeting will be held Tuesday night and the guest rhizomes will be distributed. The work parties for the gardens have been beneficial for getting some of them in order and ready for planting.

We are not getting the response to the boutique we would like from region members. Do any of you have anything that you want to sell at the boutique? I

A Challenge To Youth Members

I know you exist, "the youth of our organization," because in each show many of you have participated and have received awards.

I have asked each local society president to send me the names of those of you who have won awards in the youth section of the spring shows, but have not, at this writing, received any. Perhaps I should have made my request to the show chairmen but assumed the presidents would help me.

It is my purpose to have each of you receive additional recognition in our regional publication, and to pass it along to our National Youth Chairman, whom I had the opportunity to meet at the Indianapolis convention this year.

There is important information that can be sent to you regarding possible judge's training, national awards, organizing within our region and participation at our national conventions

will be at the fall meeting on October 5th. Please let me know if you are making something. I would like to see a sample or at least get a look at your ideas. Make this a club project to earn money for your treasury or individuals can turn their spare time into a little extra money to pay for their convention costs. The whole idea behind the boutique is to be able to offset expenses and keep the registration fees down. Please help us.

It is still too early to finalize food, but we are sure having fun trying to make up our minds. Lunch and an afternoon at a Western town are set in motion. It will be a fun experience and full of several surprises. Of course the Convention site is very settled. The Pointe Tapatico is a beautiful resort hotel nestled in the Phoenix Mountain Preserve. It has so many advantages and the management is going out of its way to help us make this the best convention ever.

Remember Fiesta Phoenix '87!

Bobbie Shepard
General Chairman

which are to be held in San Jose next year and in Phoenix in 1987.

If we organize, there isn't any reason why we couldn't have a strong representation at each regional meeting and convention. You could have your own interest sessions, your own officers and your own newsletter.

Some information has been given me in a round about way, however, and congratulations are extended to Timothy Miller, Trenton Cherry, Dwayne Aalseth, Jeff Mosca and Gina Keenan.

My address is included in this appeal to you. Write to me yourself rather than waiting for someone else to inform me of your success and interest in the growing and showing of your irises.

James H. Jones
Region 15 Youth Chairman
2213 Sparrow Hill Lane
Lakewood, CA 90712

NEW DATES AND HEADQUARTERS HOTEL CHOSEN FOR SAN JOSE MEETING

Calling their preview meeting a "Hyatt Fiasco," Region 14's convention committee has changed headquarters hotel to the Red Lion in San Jose, and revised the dates to Saturday, April 26, through Wednesday, April 30th. The newly chosen hotel is located half the distance from the San Jose Airport as the previous choice. Tentative schedule, as noted in the region's excellent publication, is as follows: Saturday, April 26 - Registration 1:00 p.m., various meetings

in the afternoon and evening; Sunday, April 27 - Registration, Section meetings, National Show, Welcome Dinner; Monday, April 28 - Bus tours to the San Jose-Santa Cruz gardens, lunch at the Coconut Grove on the boardwalk at the beach, meetings and judges training in the evening; Tuesday, April 29 - Melrose and Keppel-Gatty gardens in Stockton, box lunches at Micke Grove, evening open; Wednesday, April 30 - San Jose, Campbell, Saratoga gardens, lunch at the Red Lion, Awards Banquet.

INDIANAPOLIS REFLECTIONS

By Jim Jones

Indianapolis was the fourth consecutive national convention that I have had the privilege to attend. Each year I have added inspiration and resolve to do better in the cultivation of my own iris selections.

In spite of inclement weather one day, the gardens on the whole were great. It was interesting to see how some of the same cultivars that I had recently seen on the regions 14 and 15 treks were performing in an entirely different climatic growing area.

The bus groups traveled on separate days to the south, west and north of Indianapolis visiting three gardens each day except for those going north visiting four. At each stop we not only saw the well-groomed gardens but enjoyed refreshments, including varieties of homemade cookies, freshly baked cinnamon rolls or tea cakes, which were a big hit. Luncheons each day were well planned.

The first day, a Monday, was devoted to meetings of the different divisions or societies composing the American Iris Society, followed by the welcome dinner which was climaxed with an exceptional

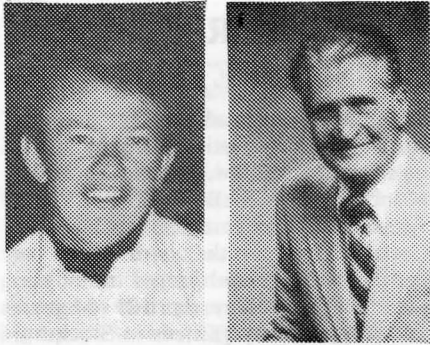
performance of a musical review performed by Marian, Indiana, High School choir, a truly outstanding performance.

Second day we went touring to the different gardens with our directional tour group. That was followed in the evening by judges training sessions in either tall bearded, Siberian or Louisiana irises. Thought occurred that perhaps the sessions should have been repeated on Wednesday evening so those desiring could have attended an additional informative session.

Wednesday and Thursday enabled each tour group to complete the schedule of garden visitations, culminating with the awards banquet Thursday evening.

I sincerely hope that many of our region members plan to attend the National Convention in San Jose next April 28 to May 2.

I participated in the preview trek of next year's convention gardens in Region 14 this year. I assure you that you will not be disappointed in the choice and the exceptional merit of the gardens that will be on tour next year at the San Jose meeting.



Bill Maryott

Howard Shockey

Fall Meeting October 5

The Inland Iris Society invites you to attend the 1985 Fall Meeting of Region 15 of the American Iris Society to be held at the Arbor Restaurant, Foothill at Euclid in Upland. Euclid Avenue is the main north-south traffic pattern for both Ontario and Upland. It is within easy commuting distance from the Ontario Airport, and reached from main interstate highways leading from the Los Angeles and San Bernardino areas. Sara Holk, who heads the planning committee, has lined up two well-known irisarians from out-of-region for the programs.

Beverly Sills Wins Dykes

To no one's surprise, Beverly Sills has won the 1985 Dykes Memorial Medal with almost one-third of the judges' votes. Song of Norway was first runner up after having risen sharply in recent balloting.

Of Region 15 particular interest were the following winners: C.G. White Award runner up—Smooth As Silk, Mark Rogers; Nies Award—Imperial Gold, Eleanor McCown; Honorable

Howard Shockey of Albuquerque, New Mexico, will conduct the morning Judges Training Session. A native of Albuquerque, he has had a serious interest in iris since 1957 when he was thrown in headlong by a superb specimen of *I. susiana*, ordered seed and plants from Lloyd Austin and had embryo cultured Arils growing in vials before the rhizomes arrived that fall. He has been an AIS judge for 25 years.

His first love is the pure Arils, followed by arilbreds and tall bearded. The past several years he has been growing between 2500 and 3000 pure Arils, with three to four hundred making maiden bloom each year. He is one of the very few extensively engaged in this important field.

In the judging session he will use slides to demonstrate the various types and the difference between them to clarify misconceptions in evaluating by judges.

Bill Maryott is an avid hybridizer (from 1973) of tall bearded iris and operates a large commercial iris garden in San Jose. His garden will be remembered by those who attended the last San Jose national AIS meeting, as it will be next year.

He is currently an advisory engineer with IBM, and says that when he is able to retire he would like to devote himself to irising full time and to increase development of his hybridizing program. His subject matter for the program had not been announced at deadline time, but all can be assured that his talk will be inspiring.

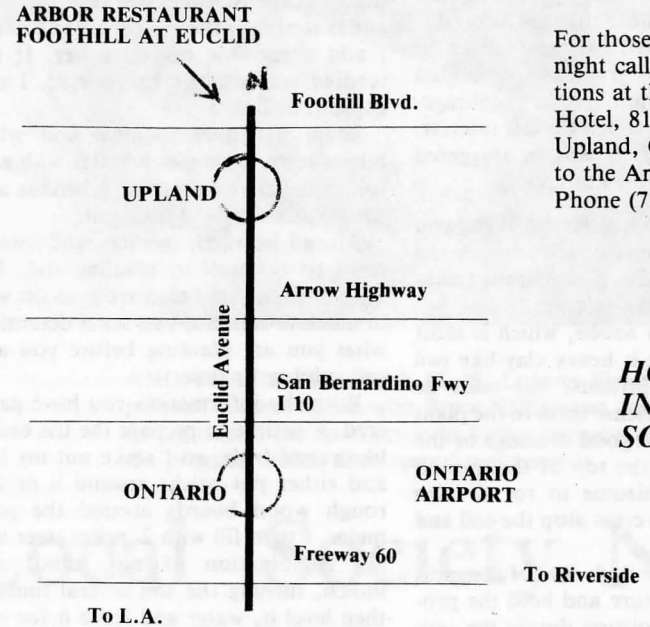
Mention, tall bearded—Wild Jasmine, Bernard Hamner, Arkansas Girl, Neva Sexton and Royal Kingdom, Bernard Hamner. Honorable Mentions, arilbred—Desert Embroidery and Sagewood Honey, Mark Rogers, introduced by Dorald Shepard. Honorable Mention, aril—Anvil Springs and New Discovery, John Holden. Honorable Mention, Spurias, included Son of Sun, Floyd Wickencamp.

Of region interest, there was no Mitchell Award for Californiaes, for no named cultivar received the minimum of ten votes.

American Iris Society, Region 15

FALL MEETING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1985



For those desiring to stay overnight call or write for reservations at the Uplander Motor Hotel, 81 W. Foothill Blvd., Upland, CA 91786 next door to the Arbor Restaurant. Phone (714) 982-8821

**HOSTED BY
INLAND IRIS
SOCIETY**

PROGRAM

9:00 a.m. Registration
Continental Breakfast
Executive Committee Meeting
10:00 a.m. Judges Training session. Howard Shockey
11:30 a.m. Buffet Luncheon

12:45 Welcome—Ralph Strane, President, Inland Iris Society
1:15 p.m. Region 15 Annual Meeting, including election of officers. Howard Goodrick, RVP, presiding.
2:00 p.m. Guest Speaker Bill Maryott
3:00 p.m. Door Prizes, Adjournment

Please send reservations to John Reinschmidt, 16606 Barbee, Fontana, CA 92335. Phone: (714) 882-6191

Reservations For Region 15 Fall Meeting, October 5, 1985

Please Make _____ Reservations @ \$15 each for

Amount Enclosed _____

NOTE! THIS IS THE ONLY NOTICE TO BE ISSUED

My Method of Soil Preparation for Median Iris

By Peter DeSantis

EDITOR'S NOTE: One of the highlights of the San Fernando Valley iris trek last spring was Pete DeSantis' small front and rear home planting of an unusual interplanting of popular iris sections, including median to smaller ones such as MTB's, those that are more difficult to grow well by most of us in Region 15. He has graciously submitted his planting program here as encouragement to others to widen the iris interest. One of his plantings was in staggered wooden boxes, most unusual.

First, determine which type of soil you have in your garden (the soil varies in the San Fernando Valley from adobe (alkaline) to sandy loam, to acid.

Let's start with adobe, which is most prevalent. Adobe is heavy clay-like soil that is rich in nutrients, but must be broken down to release them to the plant roots. It must give good drainage or the water will lie on the top of the ground and cause the rhizome to rot. It also forms an alkaline crust atop the soil and causes drown rot.

The soil must include lots of compost to lighten the texture and hold the proper amount of moisture during the very hot and dry weather.

Sandy loam is easy to work with, but needs compost to retain moisture, a heavy dressing of fertilizer. (I use steer, bone meal and super phosphate.) These ingredients give sandy soil the necessary nutrients.

Since sandy soil has few nutrients and drains much too fast, I suggest a heavy base of garden soil with the above. I use the steer, some use chicken manure or cottonseed meal, which should be mixed

with the bone meal and super phosphate.

Now that you have determined the type of soil you have, you can check for acid or alkaline. A PH gauge is almost a must, inexpensive and will save you time and material. If the gauge reads alkaline, I add a sprinkle of soil sulfer. If the reading tells me the soil is acid, I add gypsum or lime.

Some iris need alkaline soil while others seem to do much better with acid soil. Spurias, Louisianas, Siberians and some Arils can take acid soil.

All tall bearded, median, and dwarfs seem to do well in alkaline soil. My quarter-bred Arils also seem to do well in alkaline soil. So, you must determine what you are planting before you add soil sulphur or lime.

With the information you have gathered, it is time to prepare the iris bed. I like raised beds, so I stake out my bed and either put bricks around it or 2x6 rough wood boards around the perimeter. I then fill with 2 inches steer and my combination of soil, sand, and mulch, turning the soil several times. I then level it, water and leave it for two weeks before I plant. You can also form mounds and plant on top.

I do not gas the new bed to kill weed seeds or insect eggs. I consider this much too dangerous and should be left to professionals.

Containing most weeds is easy when you cover the newly planted bed with a half-inch layer of redwood compost. It helps to retain the moisture as well.

Happy gardening. I wish you as much success as I have enjoyed.

SUFFERS DOUBLE LOSS

Lura Roach, a stalwart of Southern California Iris Society for several decades, lost her husband George recently. To compound the loss shortly thereafter her sister, Thelma Leaton, passed on at the age of 89. Lura is a hybridizer of note, and one of her better introductions, a plicata that won many plicata awards and several best of show awards was named Thelma Leaton.



AND THAT'S THE WAY IT IS. Dolores Denney makes a point of something iris with Bryce Williamson, speaker at the spring trek in the San Fernando Valley during an interlude in the program which drew record registrations.

Local Society News

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY managed a swift recovery from their hosted spring regional trek with a backward look in picture and patter at our May meeting, which gave our membership the opportunity to bask in the reflection of a job superbly done. The word "superbly" is not self-inflicted for that generally was the reaction we received from visitors. In June our membership meeting included presentation of Best Iris Plaques to winners Nancy Bartlett, Bernard Hamner and Larry Gaulter. Guest speaker was Ron Mullin, A. I. S. president. The July meeting was, as usual, one that is always popular and well attended for it involved this year's regional iris auction. The super procurement effort of Bill Rinehart had made availability more recent, higher quality than ever before.

THE MOUNTAIN VIEW IRIS SOCIETY, with a membership of 16, meets the second Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. The July meeting was our Annual Potluck and installation of new officers who are: H. Bernardine Smith, president; Katie Romero, vice president and program chairman; Marge Peninger, secretary; Madeline Eckerman, treasurer; and Brystal Beeson, publicity.

We have no project right now except to upgrade our iris stock and build up our membership. Maybe there will be more to report next time.

— H. Bernardine Smith

INLAND IRIS SOCIETY has recognized the contributions of four of its members by awarding them Honorary Life Memberships this year. They are

Alta and Rex Brown, Lucille Lewallen and Opan Ollis. All four are members of A.I.S. and well-known for their work with iris and recognized for outstanding service over many years to the Inland Iris Society. Much of our club effort has gone into our preparation as hosts for the fall regional meeting. The committee has been ably headed by Sara Holk.

Holden Clough, thought to be an iris species, grown and exhibited by Cal Dixie Iris Gardens, was judged the Best Specimen of the Show of the Inland Iris Society held at Riverside Plaza in Riverside April 27 and 28. Judged most worthy seedling of the show was Hamner's Iris Garden's 81-21-4. Best youth specimen, Santana, was exhibited by Trenton Cherry. Other section winners included Old Master, tall bearded, The Hamners; Vintage Years, Spuria, Paulette Carpenter; Eolian, Louisiana, Cal Dixie; Baby Shower, median, Corrine Bromberger; Saffron Jewel, arilbred, Cal Dixie. Silver Medals for adult and youth respectively were earned by Cal Dixie Iris Gardens and Stanford Cherry, Bronze Medals, Hamner's Iris Garden and Trenton Cherry. Richard Cherry was show chairman.

— **Ralph Strane and Richard Cherry**

THE TUCSON IRIS SOCIETY is inactive in the summer months, much like the iris we grow here. This summer particularly we have stayed indoors to avoid what has been day after day breaking of record-tying heat. The iris have looked very burned. However, in the past two days (at the end of July) our somewhat cooler summer rainy season has begun and the iris look none the worse for wear—they are truly adaptable.

Our show in April was a week later than we wanted it to be due to some last minute schedule changes by the Park Mall in which we hold our show. However, over the past few years we have been perfecting the art of using refrigeration to delay bloom for a show. Since we are a rather small group, we have found it desirable to use these techniques if we want to have a large show. The show this year was probably the

largest ever with more than 300 entries. The Queen of the Show, Beverly Sills, spent the last 4 days before the show in the refrigerator with all blossoms carefully and fully wrapped in tissue paper. Then, 24 hours before the show, the entries are brought out in full bud and allowed to open in time for the show. Also, the winner of the Silver Medal preserved most of his entries in the same way.

We take iris orders at our show. The customer must pay at the time of purchase in April and we make delivery to them at our sale in September. If we cannot fill the order, we refund the money. By allowing purchases to be made at the show, customers know exactly what they are buying because they can see the display on the tables.

Our annual sale was held at Tucson Botanical Garden on September 7 from 1 to 4 p.m. and September 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or until sold out. At the time of this writing we expect to have at least 3000 good quality rhizomes for sale. We promote the sale heavily in the local media and typically gross \$6500 or more.

Our pricing policy seems to be somewhat unique. All iris, regardless of normal catalog price or year of introduction, are sold for one price—\$3.00 each or 13 for \$30. Well over half of what we sell consists of introductions of the late 1970's and the 1980's. We have many repeat customers and believe we offer the community a real bargain. That, after all, is one of our main purposes, to encourage the growing of iris in this area.

In the fall of 1984, we moved and replanted the iris garden at Tucson Botanical Garden. Almost \$2000 of club funds were devoted to this activity in soil preparation, garden design and plants. The garden now contains tall bearded, border and intermediate iris, arilbreds, spurias and Louisianas—somewhat over 200 plants in all. Although it was late in the fall when we planted the garden, most of the varieties bloomed in the spring with much public interest. The garden should be outstanding in the

spring of 1986.

As a group, we were able to take two out-of-town garden tours in the spring of 1985, including a visit to the show of Sun Country Iris Society in Phoenix where we were hosted for an outdoor evening dinner, which we all enjoyed.

We hope to participate in the convention in San Jose in 1986 and have already begun to contribute funds to the Phoenix Convention activity for 1987.

Somehow, we were not listed as a group in the recent AIS Bulletin of registered affiliates. Rest assured that we are alive and well and registered.

— **Les Follett, president**

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IRIS SOCIETY

's activity peaked just after peak season with a bus trip for the membership to more acquaint them with commercial gardens. Gardens visited were Cal Dixie in Riverside and The Hamners in Perris. Bloom was still in good shape at both locations. The trip included a continental breakfast at the Hamners and a most varied buffet at Cal Dixie, orchestrated by Sara Hoak. Other trips of an educational type are in the planning stage.

Election of officers showed Eldon Hale returning as president, Gayle Westrate moving from secretary to vice president, Lana Tripathi elected secretary, Duncan Eader continuing as treasurer and John Wight taking over the advisor spot.

Among changes in the society's by-laws was moving the dues figure into standing rules so it could be adjusted more easily. On the discovery that the dues did not even cover the cost of Iris Notes, its bulletin, the amount was raised from \$2 to \$3, with additional fees for family and triennial memberships.

This year's spring show was considerably larger than the two previous ones, particularly in the area of entries and cultivars. Winner of the best TB Iris award, which was also chosen Queen of the Show, was Entourage, exhibited by George Sherman of Altadena. The Barbara Serdynski Memorial Award for best plicata was won by "Indigo Rim"

exhibited by Duncan Eader. "Adobe Sunset," the spuria of Eleanor McCown and entered by Pete DeSantis of Reseda, took the best beardless accolades. The AIS Silver Medal went to Pete DeSantis, sweepstakes winner of 13 Blue Ribbons. The Bronze Medal went to Duncan Eader.

In the artistic division, best arrangement was awarded to Jennie Hopson. Winners of sweepstakes for the division ended in a tie between Ron Lissner and Doris Hale. Award for beginning amateur section went to Doris Hale, with Barbara Wight runner-up. In the youth section, Gina Kernan was the winner and runner-up was Andrea Walker.

SUN COUNTRY IRIS SOCIETY had a potluck on April 31st at the home of Dorald and Bobbie Shepard after a very successful show. The Tucson Area Iris Society was our guests.

Forty of our members attended a judge's training session conducted by Ruth Goodrick. She chose iris from Shepard's garden and everyone discussed each iris on good and bad points. Everyone who participated enjoyed the session.

The club's rhizome sale was very successful, and we showed slides of all club iris.

Our gift exchange and potluck Christmas Party is scheduled for December 6th.

At our annual iris show, Dorald Shepard won the Silver Medal and Julius Riedel received the Bronze Medal. Queen of Show was won by Persian Berry, exhibited by Dorald Shepard.

— **Rachel Meschede**

SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY

presented its 20th Annual Spring Show at Casa del Prado in Balboa Park on April 27 and 28 quite impressively with 237 entries and 25 arrangements. Our thanks go to Valera Chenoweth and Vern McCroskey, co-chairmen, who worked so hard to make it such a success. Winners were as follows: Silver Medal, Bob Brooks;

Bronze Medal, Peg McCroskey; Queen of Show and Best Spuria, "Betty Cooper," Paul and Dorothy Runde; Best Louisiana, "Valera," Valera Chenoweth; Best Blue, "Pacific Grove," Bob Brooks; Best Plicata, "Rococo," Dorothy Driscoll; Best Red, "Polly Dodge," Peg McCroskey; Best White, "Mt. Olympus," Jack Jones; Best Seedling, "A0-2," by Archie Owen; and Best Arrangement, Marie Walsh.

Our annual potluck was held in July at the home of Hazel Carson, at which time the regional iris auction was held, the presentation of show winners was made, and installation of officers accomplished. They are: President, Al Feldman; Vice President, Hazel Carson; Secretary, Janice Lynch; and Treasurer, Dena Daugherty.

Our huge iris rhizome sale took place in the patio area of Casa del Pardo under the able direction of sale chairman Jack Fitzgerald.

— Dorothy Driscoll

ARIL SHOW, "FLOWERS ON PARADE"

By Pete De Santis

The Aril Society International had a successful Specialty Iris Show on March 30-31 at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum in Arcadia, California.

Fourteen exhibitors entered 123 specimens, 92 seedlings, and there were 106 cultivars in the horticultural division.

Pete De Santis was awarded the A.I.S. Silver Medal for receiving 17 blue ribbons; the Tom Craig Plaque for the best ¼ bred aril, Moon Child; best Siberian iris, Caesar's Brother; best border bearded iris, Oracle; and best Intermediate iris, Tawny.

David Shank, from Israel, was awarded the bronze medal for receiving six blue ribbons, best specimen aril, the best aril seedling, 81-RM35LT, and the Houch Perpetual Award.

Audrey Rae was the recipient of the A.I.S. Award for best half-bred aril, Thief of Bagdad, and the best three-quarter bred aril, Jeweled Veil.

Duncan Eader was awarded a rosette for the best dwarf iris, Bright Eyes.

Dolores (Dodo) Denney received the McCaskill Perpetual Award for the best Californicae seedling, 81-1.

Bennett Cherry received the most blue ribbons in the Youth Division.

In the Artistic Design Division there were 40 beautiful exhibits by 12 exhibitors.

Tish Hill was awarded the best-arrangement-in-the-show rosette, and was tied with Inez Webster for the Sweepstakes Award.

In the Youth Division, Dwayne Aalseth received the award for the best arrangement and the Sweepstakes Award rosette.

The two-day show drew a large attendance of enthusiastic flower lovers.

Judges Training News

Seven Apprentice Judges have completed requirements and are being recommended for appointment by the A.I.S. Board of Directors as Garden Judges. Also, several student judges will be recommended as Apprentices.

Having more judges and apprentices available for judging shows will alleviate the crunch at that time. After approval by AIS, names and addresses will be sent to local presidents.

A judging school, as used in many regions, is being considered for next spring before the busy bloom season begins. Three or four hours of training would be given by competent instructors during the one-day event.

Attendance by student, apprentice and accredited judges would facilitate meeting AIS requirements. A registration fee would probably be necessary to offset expenses of the school. The school would be open to all, not limited to those in the training program.

Your comments and suggestions at the fall meeting will be appreciated.

— Ruth Goodrick,
Judges Training Chm.

REGION MEMBERSHIP CONTEST PROPOSED

The A.I.S. New Membership Contest may be augmented by one of a similar nature in Region 15. The national contest is held on a yearly basis, currently ending on December 31. The proposal by Judith Mogel, current regional membership chairman, suggests ours to be held in conjunction, whose rules are outlined on page 53 of the A.I.S. January, 1985 Bulletin.

Coincident to this suggestion, made at the last executive board meeting, was the addition of a membership chairman for Arizona, and the appointment of Carol Spiece for that post.

As outlined by Judith, the regional

contest would involve the following:

Each local society would furnish a current list of A.I.S. members. Each club would award a prize iris, introduced within the past three years, to its club winner. Region 15 would award a new iris introduction to the overall winner. A minimum of three new A.I.S. memberships would be required to qualify for this award. All A.I.S. memberships and dues collected by the clubs during the contest period would be forward to the Regional Membership Chairman. A periodical report would be forwarded to the Regional Vice President.

The proposed contest would begin on January 1, 1986 and end on December 31. Winners would be announced in the regional newsletter and awarded at the Spring 1987 meeting.

I Remember Neva Sexton

By Sanford Roberts

On a windy and brisk Easter Sunday in 1966, I knelt beside a guest seedling in the Jim Watkins-Jose Rivera garden in Fallbrook. Many people were present that day in that garden, most on hands and knees with gloves, weeders and containers. The object—a garden party. In reality, remove all those pesky weeds before Region 15 held its 1966 Spring Trek, scheduled a fortnight later.

Before the day ended, with refreshments and a delightful dinner there, I had copied a number "Sexton 26-60" on a piece of paper and tucked it safely away. I lost no time in writing Neva, inquiring about this seedling—when and if it would be named, registered and introduced. When she replied to my letter, a friendly and respected acquaintance was born. In reviewing the 53 introductions produced by her I realize that I have grown and admired 50 of them.

Our correspondence continued throughout the year. Nearly every year a package would arrive from Sexton's Iris Garden

containing the cultivars I had earlier ordered. Later I was fortunate to pull a chair up to the Sexton table and after partaking of at least three servings of everything I would sheepishly declare that I was on a diet and it was really time to quit eating.

Neva never failed to encourage my meager hybridizing program. Often, a letter arrived instructing me to use a certain cultivar to achieve a certain color, ruffles, substance, or her pet peeve, better branching.

At some time during the two decades my letters gravitated more to the breeding of pure bred dogs. For some reason this interested her. One letter I wrote include, "Neva, I will never be a hybridizer of your stature, but I will be known for my contributions to breeding pure bred dogs. That is where I will get my 'Dykes Medal' if I am fortunate enough."

In October, 1981, on a late Saturday afternoon, I was walking among the newly set iris and envisioning the beauty to be seen the following spring, when a loud yell from the house informed me to rush in for a phone call from Houston.

The news was a dream fulfilled...my wife Pat and I had been awarded "Breeder of the Year." It was simply too much to comprehend. A half-hour later I regained my composure and picked up the phone and dialed Neva in Wasco and breathlessly exclaimed "Neva, we have just won "Breeder of the Year" award and I have my Dykes Medal." Her reply... "Good, I have a new introduction coming along in a couple of years and I'll send you a rhizome as a gift for your years of hard work."

Two years later her 1983 introduction

of American Sweetheart was offered for sale and I promptly ordered a rhizome. In mid-August the package from Wasco arrived. Below the ordered rhizome and packing excelsior was an even larger rhizome of American Sweetheart with a note attached that said, "This is for your doggies' fine wins, but YOU must grow and enjoy it."

I remember Neva Sexton! I shall never forget her contributions to the world of irises. She, too, was an avid lover of animals. She respected me for my love and pursuit of breeding pure bred dogs.

Report of the Bylaws Committee

These are the revisions of Region 15 Bylaws and Standing Rules as approved by the ad hoc Bylaws Committee composed of LaVerne Conrad, chairman, Howard Goodrick, RVP and ex officio member, Ralph Strane, Jimmy Jones, Joanne Anderson, Eldon Hale, Peggy McCroskey, Jim Day (Arizona), and Gayle Westrate.

Article III. Membership

Any member of the American Iris Society residing within the limits of the region as established by the American Iris Society shall automatically be a member of Region 15.

Article IV. Officers

Section 2. The Elected officers of this region shall be a Regional Vice President, ~~a vice chairman, an Assistant RVP,~~ a Secretary and a Treasurer.

Section 3. The four elected officers shall be elected annually with the Regional Vice President being subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of the American Iris Society. No officer or chairman shall be elected or appointed to the same office for more than three consecutive years. Newly elected officers shall assume office as of January 1st. All officers and chairmen shall transfer their material to their successors by December 15th.

Article V. Duties of Officers

Section 2. The ~~Vice Chairman~~ Assistant RVP shall perform the duties of Regional Vice President in the event of the latter's absence and assist him in all regional activities. He shall maintain a list of available programs for use by affiliate clubs.

Section 4. The treasurer shall be custodian of all monies belonging to the region or under its control. He shall pay all bills properly incurred by the region and keep accurate records of all financial transactions. At each meeting he shall report all receipts and disbursements since the last meeting and. He shall submit an the annual report including the itemized budget for the coming year to the Regional Vice President and Editor by or before August first February 15th

for publication in the ~~Fall~~ Spring Regional Newsletter.

Section 5. The four elected officers shall prepare an the annual budget before February 15th.

Article VIII. Nominations and Elections

Section 1. At the Spring Regional Meeting, the Regional Vice President will appoint a Chairman and two Presidents from Affiliated Iris Societies to serve on the Nominating Committee. At least one resident of each state within the region must be appointed. shall appoint a Nominating Committee of five members, one of whom shall be a member of the Board, at least one of whom shall be from Arizona and the other three shall be representatives from three other affiliated clubs. They shall elect their own chairman.

Section 3. Additional nominations may be made from the floor by any A.I.S. member of the assembly at the Fall Meeting.

Section 4. No one shall be nominated who has not signified willingness to serve and. All nominees shall be members of the American Iris Society in good standing.

Article IX. Committees

Section 1. Two Region 15 members shall be appointed annually to audit the Treasurer's books and report their findings to the Executive Committee at the Fall Meeting. The RVP shall appoint an auditor in time to audit the Treasurer's records before January 1st. The auditor's report shall be approved at the Spring Meeting.

Section 2. The Exhibition Chairman shall select his own committee to work with him. They will (1) encourage and assist groups to include any organization to present accredited iris sections within their shows, (2) aid in the preparation and secure A.I.S. approval of show schedules, (3) secure sufficient accredited A.I.S. judges for such show.

Section 3. The Judges Training Chairman shall select his own committee. They will (1) supervise judges' training activities throughout Region 15, (2) plan and provide, and approve the judges' training programs, for the Fall Meeting, (3) maintain adequate records of the training of each student, apprentice, accredited and senior judge within the region.

Section 6. The Special Committee Chairmen shall select their own staff members.

Article XI. Rules of Order

Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised, shall govern this organization unless otherwise provided for in these Bylaws.

1. The Vice Chairman Assistant Regional Vice President shall be responsible for contacting affiliated club presidents regarding their responsibilities on the Region 15 board.

Strike out Standing Rule 3 and substitute the following:

3. The policy for the Publications Editor for the Regional Newsletter shall be to include articles about regional functions, judges, clubs and other appropriate topics.

Strike out Standing Rule 5 and substitute the following:

5. The Regional Board shall advise local clubs four years in advance of their responsibility to host the Spring or Fall Meetings. The clubs must express either their willingness or inability to accept, three years before the scheduled meeting. The schedule is to be printed annually in the Regional Newsletter. The Secretary shall send the invitation to the club at the proper time.

Strike out Standing Rule number 6 and substitute the following:

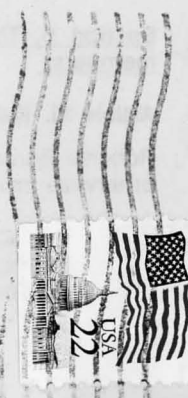
6. Region 15 will contribute \$150 to help defray speaker expenses for each club hosting a Region 15 meeting. Notice of the meeting shall be printed in the Newsletter. Local clubs shall absorb the possible remaining expenses above the Registration Fees.

Proposed New Standing Rules:

7. The Region shall provide an amount not to exceed \$25 for each year of service to the Region, to purchase a gift for the outgoing RVP.

8. Clubs in the Region not affiliated shall be encouraged to send a representative to board meetings for information. All members of these clubs are welcome at Regional Meetings.

9. These Standing Rules may be changed at any time by a majority vote of those present at a regular meeting.



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