

REGION 4 BYLAWS

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of the organization shall be REGION 4, The AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY, hereinafter referred to as Region 4, AIS. Region 4 shall comprise the states of Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

Section 1. Purposes

The purposes of Region 4 shall be to develop the science of horticulture and activities related to the study, propagation, and culture of irises; to stimulate and foster interest in botanical and horticultural pursuits; to cooperate with other organizations, public and private, in the scientific and horticultural education of those interested in learning about irises by any means consistent with these Bylaws. These shall include but are not limited to:

- (a) To support scientific research, including the culture and improvement of irises, and to encourage garden visiting by the general public;
- (b) To collect and disseminate information on the history, classification, hybridization, climatic range, and culture of irises;
- (c) To promote shows and exhibitions for the purpose of educating the general public and fellow irisarians;
- (d) To educate the public through public display gardens, published standards for judging, and local, area, regional and national meetings open to the public; and
- (e) To encourage membership in, and cooperation with, the AIS and its regional and local societies.

Section 2. Organization and Operation

Region 4 shall be organized and operated exclusively for educational and scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 3. Prohibited Activities

- (a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Bylaws, Region 4 shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (1) by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or (2) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- (b) No substantial part of the activities of Region 4 shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and Region 4 shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign, including publication or distribution of statements on behalf of any candidate for public office.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. Members of the AIS residing within the geographical limits of Region 4 are automatically members of this Region.
- Section 2. The membership of Region 4 shall be organized by chapter (hereinafter includes the name Society) according to geographical location. Each chapter shall elect its own officers and set up its own bylaws, not in conflict with these nor the AIS Bylaws.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS, ELECTIONS, VACANCIES, DUTIES

- Section 1. The officers of Region 4 shall be Regional Vice President (RVP), Assistant RVP, Secretary, and Treasurer. These officers shall perform the duties described by these bylaws and by the Parliamentary Authority adopted by Region 4. An elected officer shall not concurrently serve as a chairman of a Regional Standing Committee.
- Section 2. A nominating Committee consisting of five (5) members, one from the District of Columbia and each state in Region 4, shall be elected at the FALL Meeting of Region 4. From this elected committee, the RVP shall promptly appoint a Chairman. This committee shall be charged with the responsibility of presenting a slate of officers for publication in the SPRING issue of *NEWSCAST*. If, after the election, a vacancy occurs, the RVP shall appoint another member from that state to fill that vacancy. The same procedure shall be followed if there is more than one vacancy.
- Section 3. Elections: (a) Officers shall be elected at the ANNUAL SPRING MEETING and shall assume office at the close of the FALL meeting. (b) Terms shall be for one year or until their successors are elected, and to run concurrently with the AIS officers. The RVP shall be appointed annually by the AIS Board of Directors, and shall serve no more than three consecutive years. (c) No officer, except the Secretary and the Treasurer shall serve more than three (3) consecutive terms in the same office.
- Section 4. DUTIES OF OFFICERS
- (a) The Regional Vice President shall:
- (1) Attend the Board of Directors meetings (Spring and Fall) of the AIS when at all possible to promote and coordinate the interests of the Region;
 - (2) Preside at all meetings of Region 4;
 - (3) Be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee; and
 - (4) Appoint the Parliamentarian, the Chairman of each Standing Committee, and the Audit Committee (at least two members), with the approval of the Board.
- (b) The Assistant Regional Vice President shall:
- (1) Assume the duties and exercise the power of the RVP, in the absence of or in the inability of the RVP;
 - (2) Assume the duties of the RVP should a vacancy occur in the office of the RVP; and,
 - (3) Be the advisor for Fall Meetings; be responsible for scheduling meeting sites; and, also serve as Chairman of Regional Awards.

(c) The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all meetings and be custodian of all documents and valuable papers belonging to Region 4. The Secretary shall also send a copy of the minutes to the (RVP) within two weeks of the meeting.

(d) The Treasurer shall:

- (1) Receive all funds and deposit them in an insured institution;
- (2) Disburse such funds by check ONLY when authorized to do so by the RVP or the Board; and,
- (3) Render a brief statement of accounts at the FALL Meeting and a full report at the SPRING Meeting, audited to date.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

Section 1. There shall be one meeting per year known as the ANNUAL SPRING MEETING. These meetings shall normally rotate among the states which comprise Region 4 unless otherwise designated by the Board. While the main purpose of the meeting shall be to visit gardens, there shall be a business session held at some time during the meeting for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports of the officers and committees and for conducting any other business of Region 4.

Section 2. There shall also be a FALL MEETING of Region 4. Besides the normal business meeting there shall be: (1) an auction/sale which helps defray the expenses of Region 4; (2) a Judges Training course; and (3) a Reblooming iris exhibition/show.

Section 3. Neither the Spring nor Fall Meeting dates may conflict with the dates of the AIS meetings. Furthermore, chapter activities should not conflict with either Regional or National conventions.

ARTICLE VI. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to as the Board, shall consist of the elected officers of Region 4, the Immediate Past RVP, Parliamentarian, Regional Committee Chairmen, and Chapter Chairmen or Presidents.

Section 2. The Board shall have the general oversight of the affairs of the Region.

Section 3. The Board shall hold two (2) regular meetings per year: at the Annual Spring Meeting and in the Fall. The RVP may call special meetings with fifteen (15) days notice or may hold telephone conferences.

Section 4. Nine (9) members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VII. COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committee Chairmen shall be appointed by the RVP to serve for a period of one year, the term of office to run concurrently with that of the elected officers.

Section 2. There shall be the following Standing Committees: Auction, Beardless and Species, Budget, Historical, Judges Training, Median Irises, Membership,

Photography, Publicity and Public Relations, Reblooming Irises, Robins, Youth, and Editor of Region 4 publication, the *NEWSCAST*.

Section 3. Special Committees may be created as needed.

ARTICLE VIII. FINANCE

Section 1. Operating funds for Region 4 shall be supported by the various chapters. Regional auctions and sales supplement these funds, but money may be raised by other methods selected by the Board.

Section 2. The Budget Committee shall submit a budget at the FALL Meeting and upon approval by the Board, it shall be mailed to those members of the Board not present and published in the next *NEWSCAST*.

ARTICLE IX. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The current edition of *ROBERT'S RULES of ORDER, NEWLY REVISED* shall be the parliamentary authority for Region 4, AIS.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended at the Annual Meetings by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, providing that 30 days previous written notice has been given or the proposed amendment or amendments shall be submitted by mail to the Region 4 membership. A two-thirds affirmative vote of the total cast for any amendment or amendments shall be required for ratification and adoption.

ARTICLE XI DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution of Region 4, after paying or adequately providing for its debts and obligations, the Regional Vice President and Treasurer shall distribute all assets of Region 4 to The American Iris Society or to such organizations as are qualified as tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding provisions of a future Internal Revenue Code.

Revised and adopted: May 2005