

Bylaws of the Reblooming Iris Society

ARTICLE I Name and Affiliation

Section 1: Name

This non-profit organization shall be known as the Reblooming Iris Society (RIS).

Section 2: Affiliation

The RIS is a section of the American Iris Society (AIS).

ARTICLE II Objectives

Section 1: Purposes

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

(a) supporting scientific research, including the culture and improvement of reblooming irises and encouraging the general public to visit iris gardens.

(b) collecting and disseminating information on the history, classification, hybridization, climatic range, and culture of reblooming irises.

(c) promoting fall shows and exhibitions for the purpose of educating the general public and fellow irisarians.

(d) educating people through public display gardens; published standards for judging; and local, area, regional, and national meetings open to the public.

(e) encouraging membership in, and cooperation with, the AIS and its regional and local societies.

Section 2: Organization and Operation.

The RIS is organized and operated exclusively for educational and scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. As of February

13, 2001, the Internal Revenue Service recognized the Reblooming Iris Society as being exempt from federal taxes under 501(c)(3) of the code.

Section 3: Prohibited Activities.

(a) The RIS will not conduct activities not permitted (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or (b) by an organization which receives contributions which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(b) No substantial part of the activities of the RIS shall consist of dispensing propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. RIS 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 and Dues

Section 1: All **voting members** of RIS who are in good standing, dues paid up to date, must also be members of the AIS.

Section 2: Membership dues shall be established by the RIS Board of Directors.

Section 3: Honorary membership for life may be granted by the RIS Board to a member in recognition of distinguished service in RIS. An honorary member shall have full membership privileges but shall no longer be required to pay RIS dues.

Section 4: Organizations may subscribe to the periodical publications of RIS for no cost. These organizations shall not have voting or other membership privileges.

Section 5: Income. No part of the net earnings of the RIS shall be distributable to its members, directors, officers, or other private person, except that the organization is authorized to pay reasonable expenses for goods and/or services rendered to further the objectives of the RIS.

ARTICLE IV RIS Officers and Board

Section 1: The RIS Board shall consist of officers, area directors, editors, and committee chairs.

Section 2: The elected officers shall be president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.

Section 3: The president shall appoint committee chairs as needed.

Section 4: The president shall appoint the editors of the *Reblooming Iris Recorder* and *Annual Rebloom Report*.

Section 5: Geographical regions within the United States and elsewhere shall be represented by area directors who have been nominated by the president and approved by the RIS Board.

Section 6: Terms of Office

- (a) The president and the vice-president shall be elected for a three (3) year term.
- (b) The secretary and treasurer shall be elected for a three (3) year term.

Section 7. Elections. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of those present at the ANNUAL MEETING and shall assume office at the close of the meeting.

Section 8: Replacement of officers or board member

(a) In case of a vacancy of an elected officer, the president shall submit, for approval, the name of a candidate to the RIS Board to fill the office temporarily until a person is elected to complete the vacated term of office.

(b) An elected officer or board member may be replaced by the RIS Board if they are incapable or unwilling to perform the duties of their office.

(i) A special RIS Board meeting must be called. A motion to remove an officer or board member must be made and approved by a majority of the RIS Board members present.

(ii) To fill the vacated position in an acting capacity, a person will be nominated and approved by the RIS Board.

(c) The person operating in an acting or temporary capacity may be nominated and elected to office in the next election cycle if they wish to retain their position. The time spent as an acting officer will not count against the time as an elected officer.

Section 9: Duties of Officers

(a) The president shall

(i) preside over all meetings of RIS and provide an agenda prior to the meeting.

- (ii) be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.
- (iii) attend AIS Board meetings when possible, to promote and coordinate the interests of RIS.
- (iv) attend AIS section and cooperating society meetings to represent the interests of RIS.
- (v) appoint chairs of committees as needed with the approval of the RIS Board.
- (vi) keep the RIS Board apprised of all events and changes which might affect the workings of RIS.

(b) The vice-president shall:

- (i) exercise the functions of the president when the president is temporarily absent or unable to fulfill the duties of president.
- (ii) assume the office of the president in the case of a vacancy.
- (iii) maintain a current list of reblooming display gardens.

(c) The secretary shall

- (i) keep all meeting minutes and records of all meetings of the RIS.
- (ii) prepare ballots for elections.
- (iii) record, in writing, any additional nominations made from the floor.

(d) The treasurer shall:

- (i) receive, record, and account for all monies of RIS.
- (ii) pay all bills approved in writing by the president.
- (iii) present to the RIS Board for approval an annual budget for RIS that includes projected expenditures and incomes for the upcoming year as well as actual expenditures and income from the previous year.
- (iv) submit the final, approved budget to the editor of the *Recorder*.

(e) The area directors shall:

- (i) serve on the RIS Board.
- (ii) advise the president and the editor of the RIS *Recorder* of any items or activities of interest.
- (iii) encourage fall shows, exhibitions, and garden tours for reblooming irises.
- (iv) promote programs to educate the public and affiliates about reblooming irises.
- (v) submit a report to the editor for publication in each edition of the *Recorder*.

(vi) collect and send a rebloom report to the editors of the *RIS Recorder* and *RIS Annual Rebloom Report*.

(f) The membership secretary shall

- (i) receive dues and transfer the income to the treasurer.
- (ii) keep all records of members.
- (iii) notify RIS members to renew their membership before it expires.
- (iv) welcome new members.
- (v) inform the editor of the *RIS Recorder* of new members and their contact information.
- (vi) forward the names and contact information of new RIS members to the area directors.
- (vii) annually, send a list of RIS members, that has been sorted by area, to each area director.

(g) The editor of the *Annual Rebloom Report* shall gather, edit, and publish this report at least once a year. In addition, the editor shall

- (i) provide rebloom data to the docents of wiki.irises.org
- (ii) encourage commercial growers to enter rebloom data, especially plant zone information, into their catalogs.
- (iii) provide a free digital copy of the annual rebloom report to everyone who submitted rebloom data.

ARTICLE V Responsibilities of the Board

Section 1: The RIS Board shall have control and management of the affairs, policies, and business of RIS.

Section 2: The RIS Board will meet a minimum once a year.

Section 3: At RIS Board meetings, the members present shall constitute a quorum when a minimum of six (6) members are in attendance.

Section 4: The business of the RIS will be conducted at RIS Board meetings via an agreed upon mode of communication.

Section 5: The motions and final votes shall be recorded in the minutes of each meeting.

Section 6: Finance

(a) The RIS Board shall determine the official depository (e.g., bank) of the funds of RIS and identify the RIS Board members who may sign checks.

(b) Each account will have a minimum of two signatories: the treasurer and one other RIS Board member.

(c) Debts beyond the amount budgeted for any particular item or action shall not be incurred in the name of RIS unless authorized by the RIS Board.

Section 7: Special meetings may be called by the president, an officer, or a majority of the RIS Board when deemed necessary. The RIS Board shall call special meetings after receiving a written request signed by ten (10) members of RIS. Notice of such special meetings shall be communicated to each voting member at least fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the meeting, stating the business to be conducted.

Section 8: Robert's Rules of order will be observed at RIS meetings.

Section 9: The RIS shall represent in dealings with third parties that the American Iris Society (AIS) is not responsible for RIS obligations.

ARTICLE VI Committees

When deemed necessary, the president, with the approval of the RIS Board, may create a committee to address a specific RIS issue. The president will appoint a chair of each committee. At any time, the president, with the approval of the RIS Board, may dissolve a committee.

Section 1: Nominating Committee

(a) The Nominating Committee shall be composed of three people recruited by the vice president and approved by the RIS Board.

(b) The Nominating Committee shall nominate one candidate for each open office.

ARTICLE VIII Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended at any RIS membership meeting when approved by a majority vote of those in attendance. Amendments being considered for approval must be communicated to the membership at least fifteen (15) days in advance.

ARTICLE IX Dissolution

Section 1: In the event of dissolution of RIS, after paying or adequately providing for its debts and obligations, the RIS president and treasurer shall distribute all assets of the RIS to the American Iris Society (AIS) or to other 501(c)(3) organizations of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding provisions of a future Internal Revenue Law.

Section 2: Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a court having jurisdiction for such purposes in the county in which the principle RIS office is located for such purpose or to such organization or organizations as said court shall determine, which are organized exclusively for such purpose.

These Bylaws were approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting at the AIS National Convention, Billings, MT, _____ (date approved).