

Digital Program Coordinator  
Interim Report – Fall 2020  
INFORMATION ONLY  
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The requests for our PowerPoint presentations have fallen off dramatically. I believe that to be due to the COVID-19 situation with few in-person meetings. Though lovingly maintained and edited, some of these presentations have become outdated. The availability of excellent webinars, locally produced programs, and judges training sessions have also contributed to the decline of interest. Although I will continue to maintain and update those that are updateable (e.g., Dykes Medal Winners) it seems the right time to move forward with some ideas we have discussed.

I also continue to want the PPTs to be edited, narrated, and distributed in video formats. Some PowerPoint presentations would also be suitable for an educational exhibit at a show or sale if set up to run in a loop.

#### INTERVIEWS

In the past, interviews with some masters of hybridizing and behind the scenes contributors were recorded or memorialized in some other way. One of these presentations is an interview with Barry Blyth. It is a PPT in text format. When introduced that was great, but now with tools like Zoom, we can easily record a video interview. Simply reading text from the screen is not the best use of that technology. I am in conversation with Mr. Blyth about a zoom presentation. I expect that will be happening soon and will be recorded for wider distribution.

I expressed a desire to record interviews when I first was appointed to the job. Doing it on site with good video and audio was my original thought. I purchased a wireless lavalier mic set with the intention of doing this at our Centennial Convention. Being together in-person would have been a great opportunity. The in-person interview is still preferred, however the expense is, in many cases, prohibitive and, until the COVID virus allows, impossible.

The silver lining of our current situation is that Zoom interviews provide the next best thing. I intend to pursue this! I have sent out a few invites as trial balloons.

#### JUDGES TRAINING

October 24, 2020, Region 2 held a JT classroom session with Bob Hollingworth. As we developed it, it became clear that offering this to a wider audience just made sense. This was very successful. Fifty-three people signed up to attend. There were connection issues with 2 people and some who signed up did not attend. Post Zoom reports show that 48 people completed the session with Dr. Hollingworth.

Virtual Judges Training has provided an opportunity for those who could not fulfill their requirements in the era of COVID. We might want to further investigate the use and distribution of these programs. In my region there is a shrinking pool of judges and access to training is one contributing factor. I am in no way suggesting that the virtual experience is a complete substitute for the in-person experience. However, a reasonable balance could be explored. Making these available to judges who cannot be available at a scheduled time needs to be addressed. To make this session available, I recorded it and added some opening and closing credits using iMovie. Uploading it to my own YouTube channel, I made it only accessible by a direct link, not visible to the public. An email to those who had signed up included the link and an editable copy of the test.

#### CENTRAL ARCHIVE PLACE

AIS is producing webinars. Regions and Local affiliates are producing virtual shows and using Zoom to conduct business as well as sharing presentations. Yet more Regions and locals would welcome the assistance of AIS to use online/digital resources. These many efforts can be shared and having AIS be the resource and assistant to centrally store and make available these programs will be another feather in our cap, another reason for people to join AIS.

#### CONCLUSION

Just as the AIS Image Coordinator has evolved and led us into the age of required images, so has the area of Digital Programs. Working together to make sure that the various efforts presently underway to produce digital experiences would be a great way to strengthen and promote the organization.