Awards Report   22 September 2021

General Comments – Thank you to Gerry for all his help transitioning the awards system. There is a tremendous amount of detail in the software and of course everyone is aware of the volume of work this project entails. Gerry had to make customizations to the system to allow double awards this year. All these customizations have to be backed out now so the software will function as it has in years past. The balloting went well considering the extra detail and double awards. Even with all Gerry's mentoring I will still require his support for the 2022 year.

2021 Details – The total cost for printing and distribution of ballots was $2099.55. This does not include the cost of the on-line ballot host. 360 votes were cast and 157 (43.6%) were submitted on paper ballots. Approximately ten judges submitted paper ballots with zero votes cast as they felt garden visits were constrained by the pandemic. Eighty judges did not submit a ballot this year and I understand this number is unusually high.

Suggestions for 2022 – I received feedback from a few hybridizers regarding iris being omitted from the HM list or iris listed on the ballot in the incorrect category. I believe a hybridizers council (Not sure of the title) was formed this year. I propose sending the ballot out to the board, the registrar, the hybridizers for a one-week period of review prior to printing and publication.

Pending Actions – General Items
- Transfer the on-line ballot host account to my name.
- Coordinate the annual awards banquet of The American Iris Society.
- Contact Section and Cooperating Society presidents to be sure medals are being prepared.
- Contact medal winners to find out who will be attending/accepting, so the Convention Liaison can arrange for seating at the reserved tables at the Awards Banquet. Distribute list of acceptors to AIS president.
- Supply a list of the medal winners to the slide chair so that images of the irises and hybridizers can be shown during the presentation.