

YOUTH_REPORT_FALL_2007

Youth membership is holding steady at just under 300 members. I have noticed that the more encouraging a club/region is, the more youth involvement, so in 2008 I will be working on getting more clubs and regions involved in getting youth members to participate, and in encouraging youth members to join AIS. By using flat rate mailing and family members to assist with the newsletters, I have kept costs down. Bulk mailing is not possible for me at this time, but may be in the future.

I have 2 proposals which I will get to later in my report.

Of the current youth membership, 96 youth members belong to one of the 4 Classroom Iris Projects (Arizona, Oregon, Kentucky and Missouri). Jean Morris is attempting to create another CIP at this time in Missouri. CIP membership represents 35% of youth membership, which stands at 272.

We have three youth members outside the United States – two in Canada and one in Australia.

In my three years as Youth Chair, I have been able to accomplish quite a bit. With the help of Bob Plank, we have established a Youth Protection Guidelines Policy, which is a good thing. Now everyone is on the same page. I presented this policy at the Oklahoma City Convention to the RVPs and the Affiliate Representatives. We have established a 'General Youth Fund' to help defray costs for projects that do not fall into the CIP and Cosgrove restricted funds. I am hoping to generate funding for a new youth ITJ. We have updated the youth website, and continue to develop the content it contains. I still hope to someday have a Youth Ambassador representing every region at the National Convention.

Proposal #1: The Oklahoma City Convention Committee is giving a one time donation of \$1100, to be used for Youth. It is their hope that these funds will pay for the registration fees for the three Cosgrove winners (first place, first runner-up and second runner-up) at future conventions, to encourage their participation. I propose that we create a new fund, YCCR (Youth Cosgrove Convention Registrations) to pay for the convention registrations of Cosgrove winners, if requested. When I notify the winners, I will mention the availability of the registration funding. Hopefully, future donations to this fund will help to offset the registration expenses of the Cosgrove winners for many years, thereby encouraging their attendance.

Proposal #2: Recently a dear man, Jimmy Jones, from Region 15 passed away while touring gardens in the south. Jimmy was a friend and colleague of Clarke Cosgrove. I have been informed that his estate intends to present an endowment of \$10,000 to the Clarke Cosgrove fund, with the condition that the \$10,000 remain untouched and only the interest from the fund be used for the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement. With the current balance in the CYF hovering around \$8,000 and donations continuing around \$300+ per year, the CYF is in good shape. The yearly expenses from the CYF are less than \$550: Winner - \$300, first runner-up \$100, second runner-up \$50, plus less than \$100 for the winner's trophy. I propose that we increase the award amounts to the following: winner - \$500, first runner-up \$300 and second runner-up \$200. Attending a convention is an expensive undertaking, and hopefully this increase will help our award winners.

Please encourage young people to grow iris. Send inquiries to me at region15youth@hotmail.com. Contact me with any questions, anytime.

Happy Irising! Cheryl Deaton, AIS Youth Chair