Awards and Symposium Report

Despite a significant delay due to family health issues, things are in pretty good shape. I expect to send the Awards ballot to the printer shortly after the convention, and have on-line voting available at the same time.

There is always a lot of extra work in the first year when someone takes over an ongoing project, but the files and SQL queries supplied by Ruth Barker and her daughter Maggie were a big help, as was the fact that I had already been doing the on-line voting.

I checked the new HM candidates by going through both the 2009 and 2010 R & I's and found a very few that needed to be added or removed (errors in the foreign-hybridized, USA-introduced-first status). A few additional were pointed out from the first candidate ballot, but a more significant problem with that ballot was that a procedural error led to several iris at the beginning of a category being listed with the previous one, or at the end of a category being listed with the next one. I have since carefully analyzed which tables each step needs, and which ones it generates, and have automated the process to make sure things are done in the correct order. I am confident that particular error will not happen again.

Since both the printed ballot and the data for the on-line voting are generated together, there are fewer chances for disagreement between the two than there used to be. There has been an upgrade to the system I use for running the on-line voting, and the incompatibility with the most recent versions of Internet Explorer has been removed (with the older version of my s/w, IE users had to switch to Compatibility View—which could be hard to find in the menu system, use another browser, or use the printed ballot).

The Symposium ballot has been generated. The tabulation sheets for the RVP's and the on-line tabulation system for them will be done after the Awards ballot has been taken care of after the convention.

Gerry Snyder, Awards and Symposium Chair