

## RVP COUNSELOR'S REPORT

SPRING 2013

President Morris requested that I poll the RVPs regarding their regions' policy for reimbursement or payment of expenses for the RVP to attend the National Convention and Fall Meeting. He also asked if their regional by-laws required them to attend either meeting.

I have sent two emails requesting this and other information to all the RVPs and have received a response from only a few. The answers are as follows:

Region 1, Norine Veal will not be attending the convention in Dallas and did not comment on whether her region provided a reimbursement or stipend for RVP attendance.

Region 2 Donna Lowry responded that her region just cut the RVP expenses from \$1200 to \$300 and she spent more than \$1000 more in California for the convention expenses. She is hoping their meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup> will re-instate the amount to its former level.

Region 7 Sue Ann Barnes says the region pays for the early registration fee at the convention and budgets \$399 for the Fall Board meeting.

Region 9 David Kelly stated that the region pays for the convention registration.

Region 10 RonKillingsworth said that the region pays for nothing, not even stamps

Region 11 Angelique Violette says that the region does not pay for anything but the affiliates usually donate an amount towards the RVP travel to the convention.

Region 12 Helen West The region gives \$500 for RVP travel to the convention

Region 15 Winona Stevenson The region budgets \$1000 for RVP travel and an additional \$250 for Officer expense, which can be used as the RVP deems necessary.

Region 23 Frances Day says that the RVP receives a maximum of \$1000 for the Convention and \$500 max for the Fall meeting.

I did not hear from regions 3, 4, 5, 6,13, 14, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22 and 24 regarding expenses or any requirement to attend the meetings. I believe the RVPs from regions 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17, 21, and 23 have indicated that they will be in attendance at this year's convention.

The biggest concerns seem to be maintaining and gaining membership, getting new judges for training and shows, the expense and duration of conventions, and the affiliation process. It was suggested that

perhaps membership is declining in AIS because affiliates no longer need to have the majority of members in AIS because of the flat fee for affiliation.

A suggestion was made to get the Official AIS Ballot and the Symposium Ballot out earlier so that they may be utilized during bloom season. The 'proposed Official Ballot' has been on the website since January.

Region 6 published a wonderful guide to preparing for and hosting a regional event that I plan on sharing with all of the RVPs and adding to the RVP Handbook. Well written by Carol Morgan, it contains step by step instructions that, if followed, will ensure a successful event.

I will bring additional information to the Board after the RVP Counselors' meeting on Tuesday morning.

Cheryl Deaton, RVP Counselor