

# Awards Report – Fall 2014

Voting went smoothly this year. The number of judges not receiving ballots dropped down to normal levels (two, one of whom is a snowbird and the ballot may have just gone to the wrong address). There was only one occasion when the on-line system had a hang-up (down from three or four last year) despite an increase in the number of judges using it. This year it was a virtual tie, with just four more paper ballots being submitted than on-line voters.

Two changes to the Awards system were proposed this summer, and both received Board approval. The motions were:

*1) "In any given year, where there are only two eligible cultivars for any Award of Merit or Honorable Mention, both cultivars shall be placed on the ballot, with one vote for each judge, resulting in one winner in that class."*

*2) "In cases where there would otherwise be fewer than three irises on the ballot for the Dykes Medal in any iris class, the most recent earlier winner(s) of the Special Medal in that class that have been dropped from the Dykes Medal ballot shall be added back to the ballot in order to bring the number of candidates up to three."*

Because I wanted rapid action, I tried to propose the smallest possible changes that would make the rules more reasonable. More than one Board member thought that giving an iris more than three years of Dykes eligibility was unfair to other irises, and I certainly see their point. I did not want to use up more weeks of email voting space for a redo, but I am now proposing the following as a replacement for the second motion above:

*"The requirement to have at least three cultivars in each iris class on the Dykes Medal ballot is dropped. No special action shall be taken if any class has fewer candidates because of either a) an iris in that class winning in its first or second year on the ballot, or b) the Special Medal in that class having been won by an iris originating outside North America and hence not eligible for the Dykes Medal."*

I expect that by the time of the Fall meeting a draft version of the 2015 ballot will have been prepared and made available for review.

Gerry Snyder  
Awards Chair