

Spring 2014 Board Meeting Report

AIS Director Debbie Strauss

Silent Auction

Once again Nick and I have been working tirelessly trying to get everything ready for this year's AIS Silent. We have worked hard to remind people not to throw away those iris periodicals, yearbooks, newsletters, bulletins or anything else with iris articles in print from any source. We want them all! We also want everyone to remember to donate anything that has an iris on it, don't let your heirs sell them or throw them away if they can't keep them. Please donate them to iris lovers via the AIS Silent Auction.

I have tweaked the Silent Auction Excel program, so it will now print out all the forms and lists that we need to run, itemize and tally everything before, during and after the Silent Auction.

I mailed out 80 letters to hybridizers asking for new or newer iris donations for the Silent Auction. As of March 24, 2014, I have 80 separate coupons for the silent auction. For their generosity, please help me thank, Nancy Price & Dave Silverburg, Carol & Ken Colman, Joe Ghio, Steve Kelly, Keith Keppel, Larry Lauer, Chad Harris, John & Leslie Painter, Dave Niswonger, all the Schreiner's, Ginny & Don Spoon, Jan Sacks & Marty Schafer and Tom Burseen.

In 2012 I came up with the idea for a new way to raise funds--***AIS Region Raizin' Baskets***. I hope you all know what it is by now. Each Region in the AIS is asked to donate a basket that highlights their area of the country. The idea behind these ***AIS Region Raizin' Baskets*** is to get all the local AIS affiliates (clubs) to donate local items to the Region Vice President and they will make or send a basket for the Silent Auction. The posters I make for each region are educational and show people or events from that region. This allows all of us to get to know our fellow iris lovers across the country.

Again this year we have fixed rate boxes available, as well as packing materials, so those flying can send their winnings back home. We will help the winners get their postage on and their packages to the post office.

Again, I made ***AIS Region Raizin' Baskets*** flyers for the RVPs to be handed out at the RVP meeting here in Dallas. I have board copies and ask you to help promote this endeavor in your regions, please. I also made you copies of the publicity articles have have submitted to the Bulletin.

We do need help with manning the silent auction. PLEASE consider offering to work in the Silent Auction. Nick and I would like to be able to attend a few meetings and judges trainings. It is also a tremendous chore to set it all up and distribute items to the winners and collect money, and finally to tear down. I know everyone has chores, but the Silent Auction has many many things that must be done all week and there are only two of us, we could really use a little help.

Last year after Dallas my email was hacked and was unrecoverable. So please, if you have not already done so, change my email on everything you have to debrastrauss@outlook.com

Please remind everyone you know to save those items when they are cleaning out or downsizing and donate them either for your Region Basket or mail them to AIS Silent Auction-Debbie Strauss, 2213 Hereford Blvd, Midland TX 79707-5012 or AIS Silent Auction-Nick Stewart, 2808 NW 21st Pl, Lawton OK 73505-2114. If you have any questions please contact Debbie at 432-697-6340 or debrastrauss@outlook.com.