

AIS Awards – Fall 2015

Another year with no catastrophes. In other words, a success.

The 2015 ballot was ready early enough that it got mailed before our trip “The Big Stupid,” (to US judges by the printer, and to overseas/Canadian and Apprentice judges by me); and former Awards Chair Ruth Barker handled mailing out the couple of replacement ballots that were needed. Judy Keisling presented the awards at the banquet in the spring.

The on-line voting went well, but I had hoped that this would be the first year that on-line voting outnumbered voting by paper ballot, and instead the numbers were pretty much the same as last year (~45% on-line and ~55% paper). After the voting deadline I modified the s/w to allow Apprentices to sign in and vote, and sent them an email inviting them to explore the system, but only one has done so.

A draft of the 2016 ballot has been prepared, and will be sent to the usual suspects soon if it has not been sent out already. This year there will be no voting for the AB (<50% Aril) HM award, since there is only one candidate.

I have exchanged emails with Hugh Stout, president of TBIS, and they will be paying for the Wister Medals at least this year.

A request was made by a hybridizer for an official window to be made for hybridizers and introducing sellers who missed the deadlines for announcing introductions to get their irises on the ballot. It was declined. John Jones and I handle these kinds of situations on a best-efforts basis, but making anything like a late deadline official is really the wrong thing to do. Also, the early availability of the draft ballot helps to handle some of the problems associated with late notifications.

A request was also made by the hybridizer to change the on-line ballot (in June or July, months after the paper ballot had been printed and mailed) to add some irises that had not been introduced properly. Having the on-line and paper ballots different seemed unacceptable to me, not to mention the fact that many judges had already voted on-line. So that request was not acted on.

Gerry Snyder
Awards Chair