

Awards Report, Spring 2015

A draft version of the 2015 Awards ballot was prepared made available for review in early November 2014. No corrections or problems were reported until February, after I had prepared what I had expected to be the final ballot. Two sets of requested additions arrived within a couple days of each other and were able to be incorporated, but a third came after all the information had been sent to the printer and those iris will not get on the ballot until 2016.

All three could have been noticed years ago when the iris did not show up in the R&I's as having been introduced.

The Awards section of the Judges Handbook was edited to include recent board-approved rules changes, and to correct some long-standing errors. A link to the updated version was sent to all members of the handbook revision committee. Suggestions for clarification on a couple points from Keith Keppel were received and incorporated. The main changes:

- 1) Correction of Dykes Medal eligibility (origination in US or Canada)
- 2) Removing "at least three from each class" requirement for DM ballot
- 3) Adding "minimum of two" to HM, and explaining new rules about handling of situation when only two iris are eligible for HM or AM
- 4) Add explanation that Symposium may have its own committee
- 5) Remove bearded SPEC, SPEC-X from second-year HM eligibility
- 6) Add a little explanation of how registration after introduction is handled by the Awards system.

Arrangements were made to have Judy Keisling do the presentations for me at the Awards Banquet, and Ruth Barker handle other miscellaneous Awards functions (e.g., supplying replacement ballots as needed) while I am out of the country. Notices about the latter have been sent to the maintainers of the Bulletin, News and Notes, and the web page.

The ballot and mailing list were sent to the printer in mid February and they were mailed out on March 17 (individually to voting US judges, and the rest to me), giving me more than ample time to mail out the Apprentice and over-seas ballots, and get a supply of extras to Ruth. The printer sent me a file with the mailing labels they produced from the data I had sent them—there were 8 judges who did not appear in that file. Two have an unusual address that the printer's s/w rejected, but the other six (including our prez) are a mystery. Those ballots have been hand-addressed and mailed.

The on-line voting system is up and running, and I hope to get a mass emailing out to all judges for whom I have email addresses announcing that availability (and reminding them of their UserID and password). I am handling Apprentice judges a little differently this year, and the change will allow me to let Apprentices log into the system and explore the on-line ballot (but of course not cast votes that will be counted). This will not happen before we leave for our cruise, but I hope to get it going in June.

Email reminders were sent to those whose judgeships were in danger of lapsing for failing to renew their AIS memberships (they remain judges if they pay their dues by March 31). Over half replied that they were unaware of the situation and were going to renew immediately.

The status of the Wister Medals to be awarded this year is currently (23 March) unknown.

Gerry Snyder
Awards Chair