

YOUTH REPORT

SPRING 2015

BY CHERYL DEATON

As of May 1st, my current count of youth members is 331, which includes members in all regions except 3,10,12, 20 & 23. This is down 8 members since October 2014. We have one international member, Andra Braban, who lives in Romania. Andra is very active and enters the AIS Photo Contest every year.

There are 9 CIPs (Classroom Iris Projects), one more than last fall. 4 are located in Coarsegold, California, 1 in Cobb, California - all in Region 14; 1 in Prescott, Arizona in Region 15; and 3 are located in Missouri in Region 18; 2 at the Churchill School for special needs children, and one group of American Heritage Girls. All together, these CIPs have a total of 135 members, almost half of the youth registered in the AIS Youth program.

Region 14 has a total of 152 youth members, the most in the program. Region 18 has a total of 30 youth members, and Region 15 has 27.

Credit goes to Lorraine Nicholson, Region 14's Youth Chair, Carolyn Hoover, Youth Advisor for Coarsegold Elementary School which has 4 CIPs under her direction, Cindy Leonard, 4th Grade teacher for Cobb Elementary School, Sharon Luebkin of PAIS in Region 15, Jean Morris, Region 18's Youth Chair, Janet Kieffer, Teacher at Churchill School, and Jana Jansson of the American Heritage Girls. These adults are the reason the American Iris Society Youth Program is such a success.

Youth members pay a membership fee of \$5 (\$9 with Bulletin). At this time the dues just cover the expenses for the youth handbooks, 2 issues of the youth newsletter and the mailing costs. I purchased enough "Forever" stamps to cover mailing of the newsletter for at least 2 years, but I will be out of postage this year. Printing costs and postage are the majority of my expenses and they just keep going up. I save money by mailing CIP material Priority Mail, purchasing folders in bulk during 'Back to School' sales, and by belonging to a business group for discounts in ink and printing.

I suggest raising the cost of the youth dues to \$7.50 and \$12 with Bulletin. Dues have not been raised since 2008. I welcome your input.