

Awards Report, Spring 2016

Things have gone pretty smoothly with the Awards, but a little slower than I would have preferred.

The ballots were mailed to US judges on April 11. Unfortunately the extras were delivered to our home after we had left for our “Region 15 meeting and visits to old friends” trip, and so the mailing to overseas and Canadian judges was delayed until early May. The Apprentice ballots have been mailed, along with three ballots that were not received and one that has already been lost.

The updated on-line voting system has been prepared, but not yet tested or announced. I am aiming for May 10 for that. This year Apprentice judges will be able to log onto the system and vote during the voting period for regular judges. (Each judge has a UserID invisible to them that my s/w uses to keep track of who votes for what. Each apprentice is given a UserID greater than 1000 so that their votes will be easy for my tally system to ignore.)

One error in the ballot has been pointed out. 'Deal or No Deal' is on the IB HM ballot but it is actually a TB. It and 'Creative Accent' (a real IB) were originally registered as each other. The error was found a couple years later and the changes published in the R&I, but my s/w did not pick up the corrections.

The Wister Medals are being engraved and it is expected that they will be available well before the Awards Banquet. It has been agreed with TBIS that the AIS Awards Chair will have the responsibility for ordering the Wisters, and TBIS will pay for the engraving.

Next year I would like to increase the size of the ballot by one sheet of paper (four printed pages). It is getting harder and harder to fit everything in the current size. For example, this year's ballot has over 50 more TB HM candidates than in 2010. I had to do manual tweaking of font sizes in a couple places, and some other post-generation edits. This is a rather error-prone process that I would like to avoid. Another advantage to having more pages is that the on-line ballot windows will be smaller, so that fewer problems with judges missing things by not scrolling down should occur. The expected cost increase is less than \$100 and there will be no increase in postage.

Gerry Snyder
Awards Chair