

2016 SPRING AIS YOUTH REPORT

Youth membership is currently around 353. We lost one CIP in Region 15 due to the boys in the scout troop preferring climbing trees and shooting guns rather than planting plants.

There are 3 CIPs in Region 18 and 4 CIPs in Region 14. All are active and doing well.

The winner of the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement (CCMAYA) is Sarah M. Green from Region 21. First runner-up is Glory Winzer from Region 18. Second runner-up is Hope Winzer from Region 18. Sarah will be present at the Awards Banquet to accept her award.

There will be 4 youth members attending this year's AIS Convention, Sarah Green, Claire Harding, Jake Solms, and Colin Campbell. Both Claire and Colin are prior winners of the Cosgrove Award.

The Ackerman Essay Contest winners are as follows:

Senior Division - Amberlee Pick, Region 14

Junior Division - there was a 3 way tie for first place!

Samantha Anderson, Region 14

Ava Stanley, Region 14

Katharina Brase, Region 21

Their prizes will be to them as none are attending the convention.

I expect youth enrollment to increase once all the shows are conducted. We usually see an uptick in membership after iris shows each spring.

There are a few recommendations I would like the Board of Directors to act on.

First, I recommend that the term "Classroom Iris Project" be changed to "Classroom Iris Program". The word 'Project' has negative connotations for low income areas and could be deemed as offensive. Since the activities involved are part of a program, the term 'project' is not really appropriate.

Second, the Cosgrove account is near depletion. Last year, the Iris Society of Dallas made a generous donation to youth of \$5000 that I believe was placed in the General Youth Fund. I propose that the \$5000 be transferred into the Cosgrove account at this time.

Third, I propose that the amounts of the Cosgrove winners be lowered to the following: Winner \$500, first runner-up \$300, second runner-up \$200. Since interest rates are not helping to fund the awards, this will allow for 5 years of awards and give me the opportunity to actively search for funding of this award.

The committee chaired by Judy Keisling to investigate the proposals of Region 14 members to allow for certain youth to receive information and perks given to AIS Youth members was discussed and the following was decided:

The youth in question did not wish to become AIS Youth Members. It is not necessary to 'sell or provide' the Youth Handbook as the information was taken from the Basic Iris Culture booklet, and that booklet is available for purchase.

It would be unfair for non members to be able to enjoy the perks created for dues paying AIS Youth Members, such as the contests, prizes and awards. Information on curriculum and other projects is available to all on the AIS Youth website.