

## Youth Report

Spring 2017

Currently there are 456 youth members, an increase of 91 since my last report. The majority of our youth are enrolled in Classroom Iris Programs. There are 6 CIPs in Region 14, 4 CIPs in Region 18 and 1 CIP in Region 4 (which consists of three 4th grade classrooms).

We had wonderful participation in the Coloring Contest (119 entrants), and the Ackerman Essay Contest (56 entrants), most of them enrolled in the CIPs. Their teachers are using these contests to enrich the art and english curriculum.

I am happy to report that the 3 young ladies chosen for the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement will be attending the convention: winner Amberlee Pick, 1st runner up Hope Winzer and 2nd runner up Glory Winzer.

These young people, and many others who are involved in the AIS Youth Program, are successful due to the mentoring of adults in their lives, whether it is parents, teachers or other caring adults. Too many of our young members are not taken under the wing of an interested adult so that they may learn and appreciate our favorite flower. If you see a young person who is interested in irises, whether it is at a show, or a sale, by all means sign them up for the AIS Youth program, but don't let it stop there. We all need to encourage them to learn about irises, not only to grow them but to hybridize, get involved in their local clubs, join activities they can participate in, invite their friends and siblings to attend meetings. It only takes a little seed to grow a beautiful plant! Our future depends on nurturing young people to be involved in all aspects of the American Iris Society.