



AOS Disaster Relief Policy

From time to time, natural or environmental disasters, (e.g. hurricanes, tornados, floods, fire, etc.), have devastated parts of the Americas and the Caribbean, sometimes seriously affecting orchid exhibitors within certain AOS judging centers, either directly or indirectly. The AOS establishes this policy on humanitarian grounds as a small gesture of sympathy in recognition of the exhibitors' plight and it will be activated only in extreme circumstances.

In the cases where disaster occurs during the processing time of awards, as a gesture of good will and support to those who have suffered losses, and recognizing the extreme circumstances with which growers have to cope to re-establish normality, the Board of Trustees has agreed to waive award fees on awards already granted, but not yet processed.

The Awards Registrar will bring requests for an exemption from an award fee to the Board of Trustees (BoT) which, with the registrar, will review each situation on a case by case basis. In appropriate circumstances, the BoT will request the Awards Registrar to process such awards, earned at a judging center or an AOS sanctioned show, according to agreed upon conditions. In most cases this will be a complementary, one time exemption from award fees. The BoT may delegate this responsibility to the Executive Committee (EC) as necessitated by time constraints. An exemption from fees will require a majority vote by the Trustees or their delegate (the EC) taken either as a face to face or as an electronic vote.

There may, however, be exceptions to the time limits referred to above, depending on the severity and duration of the disaster event and the length of time of recovery. In a recent example, Puerto Rico (including the US Virgin Islands) was granted an extension of exemption due to the overall loss to the island and the judging center. In allowing the judging center to provide gratis awards for several judging events after the tragedy, it enabled AOS members to get back on their feet before charging for awards. Such exemptions will also be made by the Board or its delegate (EC).

Approved by the Board of Trustees at their meeting, August 23, 2018
