

Membership Committee

Committee Members: J. Brant, H. Brookhart, F. Cervantes, M. Cramer, E. Finck. N. Formozov, M. Gannon (Chair), J. Hanson, A. Janicki, D. McCullough, I. M. Ortega, K. Phelps, A. Reed, S. Reeder, B. Ross, S. Weyandt.

Mission:

The Membership Committee tracks current membership trends in the Society and is involved with both membership recruitment and retention. In addition, the committee works with Allen Press to correct membership bookkeeping problems that arise.

Information Items:

(1) Current membership figures as reported to the Membership Committee from Allen Press on 15 April 2007 are shown on the following pages of this report.

Readers should note that numbers reported here are different from numbers reported in previous membership reports. Delinquent members paying back dues for membership often cause those membership figures to increase even though the calendar year is over.

Current Membership Figures

Type	Description	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
ENJ	Emeritus Member-No Journal	158	158	158	154	149
HONOR	Honorary Member	10	11	12	12	12
HONORNJ	Honorary Member-No Journal	1	1	1	1	1
HONORPATRON	Honorary and Patron			2	2	3
LIF	Life Member	628	633	637	636	631
LIF	Life Member-Full Payment	2	6	1	0	1
LIF06	Life Member			0	3	5
LIF06	Life Member- Full Payment			3	0	1
LIF1	Life Member- 1st Install	11	5			
LIF106	Life Member- 1st Install			6	8	5
LIF2	Life member-2nd Install	7	8	4		
LIF206	Life Member- 2nd Install			0	6	6
LIF3	Life Member-3rd Installment	6	8	6	2	1
LIF306	Life Member- 3rd Install			2	0	6
LIF4	Life Member-4th Installment	8	6	8	6	2
LIF406	Life Member- 4th Install			0	2	0
LIFNJ	Life Member-No Journal	13	12	14	15	20
MEM	Member	1691	1486	1466	1322	1168
MEMDEV	Member Developing Country			45	47	45
MEMNJ	Member-No Journal	1	2			
MEMO	Member- Online Only			125	212	210
PATR	Patron Member	62	64	62	60	59
PATRNJ	Patron Member-No Journal	2	1	1	2	2

SPONS	Sponsored Member			37	16	26
STUD	Student Member	500	543	552	484	391
STUDLIF106	Student Life- 1st Installment		13	2	0	3
STUDLIF2	Student Life Member-2nd Instal			9	0	0
STUDLIF206	Student Life- 2nd Installment			1	2	0
STUDLIF3	Student Life Member-3rd Instal			0	7	0
STUDLIF4	Student Life Member-4th Instal			0	0	4
STUDO	Student online only			22	22	34
TOTAL		3100	2957	3176	3021	2785

These numbers should differ from those in the annual report of the Secretary/Treasurer. That report contains all members who are still on the roster, including those that are three years or less delinquent in dues payment. The numbers above includes only those members who are active and have paid dues for that year.

It has become evident that our membership numbers have stabilized around 3000. There have been slight fluctuations around this number for several years now. We can expect that our membership numbers for 2008 will be about that of 2007. Last year in April, at the time that the report was written, we had 2710 members as compared to 2785 in April of this year. This is an increase of 75 members for 2008 when compared to the same period in 2007.

(2) Sponsored Membership – The Sponsored Membership Program is now in its 4th year. The numbers of sponsored members reported with this year’s data are not consistent with numbers reported in the past years and presented in past membership reports. We will work with Allen Press to correct these numbers and get an accurate accounting of this program.

(3) We are also working with the International Committee to update this program and answer concerns presented to us about the program from sponsors.

Action Items:

(1) The membership committee is composed of members from all aspects of ASM membership (undergraduate and graduate students, international members, life members, new members, etc.). We have heard from the various segments of the membership on the proposed changes to the bylaws and have discussed these issues at length. The Membership Committee makes the following request to the President, President-Elect and the Board, to consider as an action item.

Members are concerned about one proposed bylaw change, and one bylaw change they would like to see included. We ask that the Officers of the Society address these issues to the membership in the first Members’ Meeting this year, and allow for some discussion and response before calling for a vote on the bylaw changes.

(A) Proposed bylaw change – eliminating the need for approval of the

Membership before increasing dues. Members of ASM have questioned the reason why they would give up oversight of the Board on this issue, and why the Board feels it no longer needs to seek the Members approval before raising dues. Many members can see no logical reason or advantage to the Society for the Members to give up this oversight after nearly 90 years, and at a time when there are concerns over declining numbers.

(B) The change Members would like considered – Members have approached the Committee and expressed concern that in this day of electronic communication and advanced technology, we are still holding elections at annual meetings and only those members who can attend the meeting are allowed to participate. Many societies have gone over to mail or electronic voting for officers and board members, so all of the Members have an opportunity to participate in elections and governance of the society. ASM has not yet considered this option. Each year we have roughly one fifth of our total Members who attends annual meetings and only these individuals are allowed to nominate officers and vote. The vast majority of our Members who cannot attend the meeting in person, are not permitted, under present rules to participate in the voting process. Much of our membership is international or students, who cannot afford to attend meetings on a regular basis, but have expressed a desire to participate in the governance of the Society. We ask the Board and Officers of ASM to consider this point, address it with the Members (both those who can attend the meeting this year as well as those who do not), and strongly consider a change in the bylaws that allows all Members to vote in elections.

Respectfully submitted,

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