

Membership Committee

Committee Members: G. N. Cameron, J. Demboski, J. Duggan, J. Eggleston, E. J. Finck (Chair), A. Ferguson, J. D. Hanson, S. Maher, S. McLaren, S. Mech, D. Schmidly, K. Thibault, B. Tanis, T. Tomasi, and J. Yunger.

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) The Membership Committee was reconstituted under the direction of President Ed Heske. We were charged to attempt to stop the loss of members and increase communications with members and potential members. To begin the task, the Chair met with Nick Dormer at Allen Press to see how the Committee and Allen Press could better interact. The interface between our Committee and Allen Press has been the best in years, due to the responsiveness of Nick to our requests. We also were involved in the development of a membership survey (**for details see the April 2013 ASM Newsletter**), the development of member benefits (**see below and on the ASM website**), increase exposure on Facebook and Twitter, and the beginning of monthly communications from President Heske, the ASM Newsletter.

(a) Recruitment

In conjunction with Allen Press and President Heske, the Committee sent personal statements and a letter from the President to 1542 Contributing Authors and 543 Corresponding Authors. We participated in a recruitment competition initiated by President Heske.

(b) Retention

In conjunction with Allen Press and President Heske, the Committee sent personal statements and a letter from the President to 394 lapsed 2011 members and 308 unrenewed 2012 members. We responded to former members' concerns about the ASM and their reasons for not continuing membership. We also concentrated an effort to increase retention of Grants-in-Aid members.

(c) Member Benefits

The Committee undertook the task of attempting to identify the tangible benefits that a member receives from ASM. At present, the list of tangible benefits, **which are listed on the ASM website**, of membership exclusive to members includes:

As a member of ASM, you are sustaining a vital forum where information from various scientific disciplines is shared and integrated through a single nexus: mammals. Your membership supports ASM activities such as production of the *Journal of Mammalogy* and *Mammalian*

Species, organization of our annual meetings, and fostering the next generation of mammalogists through our student programs. ASM recognizes contributions to Mammalogy through our various awards and promotes the interests of mammalogists through the activities of our committees. For example, ASM committees review and accredit systematic collections, regularly review and revise mammalian taxonomy, provide taxon-specific guidelines for animal care and use in research, and promote mammalian conservation through resolutions and position letters.

Specific benefits of membership include:

- Access to Society Publications
 - Current [Journal of Mammalogy](#) (JM) on-line and/or in print
 - Current JM Table of Contents emailed prior to publication
 - Digital access to entire run of JM from 1919-present
 - Digital access to [Mammalian Species](#) accounts
 - Discount on [Special Publications](#)
 - Access to images from Mammal Image Library
- Waiver of [page charges](#) associated with publishing in JM
- Annual meetings of ASM
 - Discount on registration
 - Showcase of cutting-edge research
 - Unparalleled opportunities for networking and professional development
 - Opportunities to influence statements regarding public policy put forth by the Society
- Student benefits:
 - Reduced membership rates
 - Eligible to apply for [Grants-in-Aid of Research](#)
 - Eligible for [student fellowships and awards](#)
 - Eligible for student [travel awards to annual meetings](#)
 - Recognition of outstanding student research through [Graduate and Undergraduate Student Honoraria Research Paper Awards](#)
 - Student-oriented professional development and networking activities at annual meetings such as evaluation of student presentations, student social, workshops, and the Meal with a Mammalogist program
- International mammalogist benefits:
 - Reduced rates for members from developing countries
 - [Latin American Student Research Grants](#)
 - [Oliver P. Pearson Award](#) for professional recognition of Latin American Mammalogists
 - “Buddy System” allows ASM members for whom English is not their first language to have assistance editing manuscripts submitted to JM
- Members’ Services pages (currently under development, planned for 2013)
 - Free posting of job announcements on the ASM Job Board
 - ASM Blog where members can ask other members for advice about methods, share field experiences, and post new information about emerging issues or technical advances
 - A wiki site where members share information on potential funding sources

- Communication with other members and the Society
 - Access to ASM Facebook, Google+, LinkedIn, and Twitter accounts for instant communication and announcements
 - Monthly updates about upcoming events, deadlines, and Society business
- Eligible to contribute to the Society
- Opportunity to run for ASM office
- Voting rights in elections
- Serve on standing committees and gain valuable professional experience
- Be nominated for awards
- Selection of ASM annual meeting sites

Action Items: None.

Respectfully submitted,

Elmer J. Finck

(efinck@fhsu.edu)