

Membership Committee

Committee Members: G. N. Cameron, A. E. Cheeseman, N. U. de la Sancha, J. M. Duggan, E. J. Finck, J. L. Koprowski (Chair), T. E. Lee Jr., S. P. Maher, S. G. Mech, J. O'Neill-Englund, M. I. Pardi, Z. Roehrs, B. P. Tanis, K. H. Thibault, T. E. Tomasi, and J. A. 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 Committee continues to work to generate materials to promote the Society. Initial thoughts were that we would purchase and resell some items to create a source of funds to support student attendance at the 2019 Centennial ASM; however, our federal tax status precludes such an approach. A proposal was approved by Society leadership to fund purchase of materials for two categories to increase the visibility of the Society to potential members and provide a welcome gift to new members.

(a) Category 1 – Potential members participating in other societies

To reach potential members that are participating in the meetings of other societies, we purchased to be given away at those meetings branded with the ASM logo, society name, and website.

(b) Category 2 – New members

To welcome new members and encourage meeting attendees to join, we generated t-shirts that were given away to first time attendees, new members, and members that join at the 2018 ASM Meeting in Manhattan, KS. These t-shirts were branded with the ASM logo and society name. The practice will continue with the 2019 ASM Meeting in Washington, DC.

(2) We proposed to Society leadership at the 2018 ASM Board of Directors that we would create an online store through Café Press that will permit ASM to design and select products that we would like to sell through the store. Café Press sets a baseline cost and the Society can create an 'up charge' that creates the proceeds that ASM nets via a monthly check. No hosting or other additional fees to the Society are sustained. We can provide any number of designs to be produced as this is a print-on-demand service with materials, production, fulfillment, shipping, customer service and returns handled by Café Press. We completed this store in a very basic form in December 2018. The store site is linked to the ASM website for members (or non-members) to purchase items throughout the year. We believe that the model is viable and will look for the committee to begin to modify the aesthetics of the site over the coming year and add more designs from past annual conferences, mammal image library and member submissions.

(3) We sent emails to welcome new members, non-members, and first-time attendees registered for the 2019 Meeting in Washington DC. Emails to non-members directed them to the Membership page on the Society website.

(4) The Committee is coordinating to support activities of the Education and Graduate Student Committee at the annual meeting to welcome new members and provide structure and support for first-time attendees.

(5) The Membership Committee will meet in the Everglades Room from 12:30 to 2 pm on Sunday 30 June 2019.

(6) John Koprowski has resigned as Chair and a new Chair will be appointed in 2019.

Action Items: None.

Respectfully submitted,
John L. Koprowski
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