

Membership Committee

Committee Members: H. Brookhart, F. Cervantes, M. Cramer, R. Debaca, E. Finck, N. Formozov, M. Gannon (Chair), J. Hanson, L. Ilse, A. Reed, S. Reeder, B. Ross, M. Silva, S. Weyandt, G. Wilson

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 2005 are as follows:

	<u>Description</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
ENJ	Emeritus Member- No Journal	160	155	158	158
HONOR	Honorary Member	12	13	10	11
HONORNJ	Honorary Member- No Journal	2	1	1	1
LIF	Life Member	606	622	630	638
LIF1	Life Member- 1 st Installment	9	10	11	5
LIF2	Life Member- 2 nd Installment	10	8	8	6
LIF3	Life Member- 3 rd Installment	8	7	6	7
LIF4	Life Member- 4 th Installment	11	8	8	5
LIFNJ	Life Member- No Journal	14	13	13	12
MEM	Member	1867	1804	1711	1486
MEMNJ	Member- No Journal	0	2	1	2
PATR	Patron Member	58	62	62	62
PATRNJ	Patron Member- No Journal	3	2	2	2
STUD	Student Member	402	461	505	461
STUDLIF1	Student Life Member- 1 st Installment	0	0	0	10
TOTAL		3162	3168	3126	2866

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 include only those members who are active and have paid dues for that year.

Numbers for 2002 – 2004 may differ from those reported in previous Membership Committee Annual Reports. The numbers in the table above reflect all individuals who paid their membership for each year as of 15 April 2005. This includes some members who were delinquent in previous years, but have since paid back membership. Therefore the numbers reported above may be slightly higher when compared with the same membership year numbers those in previous reports.

Readers should note the steady decline in regular membership (MEM) in the table above between 2002 and 2004, with no appreciable change in other membership categories. Between 2003 and 2004 we saw a net decrease (TOTAL) of 42 active members. Membership numbers for 2005 are running just about the same as those of 2004. At this time last year we had 2855 members as compared to 2866 the same time this year.

(2) Membership Recruitment

Sponsored membership - In August of 2002, the Membership Committee proposed that we implement a sponsored membership program. This program began in 2004 and is now in its second year. During 2004 the program saw 23 new members, who were sponsored by current ASM members. Currently, that number has grown to 45. Sponsoring a new member can now be done on line using the ASM Business pages. Sponsors will receive a pin recognizing their contribution to the Society and their efforts on the part of membership recruitment.

As previously stated, membership numbers for 2005 are running comparable to 2004. However 45 of those members are due to the new Sponsored Membership program. If we exclude those 45 sponsored members, who would not normally become members had they not been sponsored, we would be running another membership deficit (we would be down about 34 members as of this date). With this recruitment program, we should expect membership numbers to hold near those of 2004 at years end.

Student life membership - In 2003 at the urging of the Membership Committee, the Board of Directors approved a student payment schedule for life membership. Students can take as long as 8 years complete their life membership payment, instead of the usual 4 years. Ten student members have chosen to begin life membership payments using this option.

(3) Membership Retention

The Membership Committee has been paying attention to what we hear from both new and long time members of ASM, and are attempting to find ways to answer questions, solve membership problems, and encourage active participation by our membership.

As requested by the membership, Membership Committee members attending our annual meeting will continue to be visible in the future. Those members present will be asked to identify themselves with a Membership Committee ribbon on their name tag, so both old and new members will know whom they can approach with membership issues, questions, and comments.

The Membership Committee Chair has been working with Allen Press to improve on-line renewal. This has been met with great enthusiasm particularly by our international members (roughly 23% of our total membership). We expect that as word spreads, more and more individuals will be using this system to renew membership and place orders for publications. In particular the Membership Committee Chair would like to thank Christy Classi of Allen Press for her diligent attention to the ASM both in processing new members and in solving problems for old members.

Action Items: None

Respectfully submitted,
Michael R. Gannon, Chair
(mrg5@psu.edu)