

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Report for the ASOR Board of Trustees Meeting, April 21, 2012

Submitted by Jennie Ebeling, Vice President (Membership)

ACTION ITEMS

Collapse the Institutional Membership Sub-Committee and Individual Membership Sub-Committee into a single Membership Committee.

Reappoint Membership Committee members:

Gary Arbino (Class of 2012), Teddy Burgh (Class of 2013), Britt Hartenberger (Class of 2012), and Randy Younker (Class of 2013).

Membership Report

As of March 31, 2012, the total number of ASOR members stood at 1506, a record number; compare this to March 1, 2011, when the membership number stood at 1392 (then a record number). Andy Vaughn reports that our numbers have been growing consistently at 8% per year for the past five or six year. Meanwhile, membership numbers have been dropping in other learned societies similar to ours. New members have come in through several recent membership drives run by Kevin Cooney and his staff in the Boston office. On behalf of the Membership Committee, I would like to thank Andy, Kevin, and other staff in the Boston office who have put so much work into increasing ASOR membership in recent years.

As of March 30, 2012, ASOR has 81 paid-up institutional members. Compare this to 85 institutional members in both spring and fall 2011. This number has been trending downward during the past several years and the Membership Committee has talked about ways to increase institutional membership in the future.

Membership Committee Updates

At the ASOR annual meeting in November 2011, members of the Membership Committee had a great discussion with Kevin Cooney about increasing membership and other initiatives. We discussed ways to 'untie' membership from the journals but it was felt that now was not time to do this. The Membership Committee will work with Kevin on social media initiatives this year to benefit ASOR members, including soliciting blog posts from senior scholars that describe their history of involvement in ASOR and why ASOR is important to them. We continue to discuss the kinds of benefits ASOR could offer to students and potential lay members.