

Committee on Membership, Report for 2005

The 2005 Committee on Membership was made up by Virginia R. Brown; Chair, Anne Catlla; Student Representative, Craig Davis, Janet Conrad, Judy Franz, Richard Haight, Kobljar Jackson, Zheng-Tian Lu, Robert Young, and Cha-Mei Tang.

The Committee met twice in 2005. A list of issues addressed this year is included below.

Membership Statistics:

APS member counts continued to increase slightly for 2005. The official 2005 APS Membership count, taken in January, was 43,462, an increase of just over 200 from 2004.

Membership Benefits & Programs:

- The Committee oversaw the addition of an online join for new APS members, including the free trial student membership application. In addition to joining, members can add subscriptions and units online and register for meetings.
- The creation of an Online Directory by Affiliation was added to the individual member search during summer 2005.
- A Student Survey was sent to approximately 8,300 domestic student members to gather feedback on the Society, along with benefits and services. Results will be compiled and forwarded to the 2006 Committee on Membership for review and any necessary action.
- A new benefit was added for members. Staff worked with Elsevier to offer a book discount, 30% off Science & Technology Books and 40% off specials offered quarterly. The program will be reviewed after 9 months to see if additional publishers should be approached regarding the additional benefit offers.
- An updated GEICO contract for a new five year term, with increased inquiry fees and sponsorship, was negotiated and approved.

Over the last five years, membership has continued to show a steady increase. Most of the increase is attributed to growth in the student member category. The Committee on Membership will continue to work with the Membership Department staff to investigate ways of retaining these student members, as well as members in all categories.

Virginia R. Brown, Chair, COMem, 2005
Trish Lettieri, APS Director of Membership