

## Membership Committee

**Members Present:** Zeb Blanton (Chair), Lawrence Goodridge (Past Chair), Jeffrey Lejeune, Susan Linn, and William Huntley.

**Board/Staff Present:** Ruth Petran (Board Liaison) and Lisa Hovey (Staff Liaison).

**Number of Attendees:** 7.

**Meeting Called to Order:** 3:00 p.m., Saturday, July 7, 2018.

**Minutes Recording Secretary:** Zeb Blanton.

**Old Business:** Discussion around the lack of participation on the Membership Committee was identified last year as being scheduled too early on Saturday. Many of the members are scheduled to arrive later in the day or are active in other activities or PDGs. It was noted that the Board acknowledged and agreed this from our Recommendations last year, however, the date and time was never changed. The Chair will take ownership of this to find a better date and time to hold our meeting. The other recommendations from last year were reviewed and discussed. The recognition awards have been referred to the appropriate PDGs.

**New Business:** The committees reviewed the handouts on membership and are pleased that we have a steady growth in most areas, except Canada and Mexico. With a 30% or more decrease, emphasis for an action plan needs to be created and implemented.

Membership for Canada has suffered over the past few years. Speculation identified the possibility it's due to most of the emphasis for conferences and events occurring in the U.S. The last meeting held in Canada was Calgary in 2006 and Toronto 1992 and 1975. It's difficult to promote membership for a country where the overall majority of the events are held in the US.

The international membership is taking a small dip and should be monitored to ensure we do not find ourselves losing more over the next few years. The European Symposium appear to be a positive way to grow membership in Europe; however, without a deeper dive into the actual numbers increased and lost in each country it's held, it's hard to determine the actual success or challenges to growth there.

The Committee discussed the potential targeting of professional organizations like DVMS and their annual events to represent IAFP and promote membership.

The Committee discussed the increases in total membership and while we are happy there is a steady growth, no real indicators can be identified as to why.

### Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Put a greater emphasis towards an Annual Meeting in Canada.
2. We would like to have a designated representative on the Committee for LATAM (especially Mexico) and the Student PDG.
3. For future reporting, we would like to see the membership numbers listed separately for Canada and Mexico. Also, all remaining of Central and South America are now listed as LAT-AM, AsiaPac and Europe, Africa and Middle East combined.
4. For future reporting, we would like to have the numbers for Student membership included in the reporting.

**Next Meeting Date:** July 21–24, 2019, Louisville, KY. Date and time to be determined once the arrangements Committee can review other options for our future dates for meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 4:11 p.m.

**Chairperson:** Zeb Blanton.