

Membership Committee

Membership for the year has stayed consistent without any major hurdles. I am encouraged that we are adding more Regular, Junior, and Associate members to the society. This shows a true sign of growth which I for one would like to see continue. As I requested last year, I would like this board to consider creating a two year Artistic Student Membership, similar to what is available to scientific glassblowers. This would be offered to those who are actively enrolled in an accredited artistic program and would have two years of eligibility. Once the two year period has ended the member must choose, if wanting to continue as a member, between an Artistic and Associate Membership.

There is still work that must be done to make applying for membership on line easier for everyone involved in the process. We must have more mandatory fields asking simple questions such as: 1) Are you a scientific glassblower 2) How long have you been working as a scientific glassblower 3) A brief timeline of your experience and the type work you have been doing. This alone will save confusion when choosing which category best fits your level of experience before a payment is made.

Something else that needs to be discussed is the possibility of offering the option of having the Fusion Journal sent to members electronically. I think for some members, especially International, we could offer a saving which would primarily be the difference in shipping cost. With the rising cost of mailings this could be a way of holding down cost for something that is not an added value to our members. The difference for all other members would not be as substantial and would be simply a matter of choice between a hard copy or an electronic copy. A small saving could be discussed if the board sees this as a point of interest.

I have also been working with the Awards Committee and the Outreach Committee on establishing clear directions on exactly what is needed or expected of Student and Junior Members to qualify to various awards that are being offered on an annual bases. Our goal was to have a clear understanding of what was expected for these awards and common due dates was successful. I would like to thank Jason Craig, Outreach Committee Chair and Steven Anderson, Awards Committee Chair for this effort.

Here are the current numbers for this year:

Regular	256
Junior	32
Lifetime	7
Associate	80
Student	12
Retired	52
International	40
Artistic	12
Total	491

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Dobos, ASGS Membership Chair