

SETAC NA Membership Committee Annual Report: 2010/2011 Activities and Accomplishments

SETAC NA Membership Committee: Tom Augspurger (Co-Chair), Doris Vidal-Dorsch (Co-Chair), Travis Schmidt (Vice-Chair), Tim Canfield, Nathan Dodder, Hiran Dutta, Dominic Hauck, Ruth Hull, Peter Jensen, Tyler Linton, Ferrella March, Brenda Rashleigh, Judith Virginia Rios Arana, Paul Sibley, Ilya Slizovskiy, Charles Wong

In coordination with: Greg Schiefer (SETAC NA Executive Director)
Barbara Knight (SETAC NA Membership Specialist)
Rick Scroggins (SETAC NA Board Liaison to Membership Committee)
Miguel Mora (SETAC World Council Membership)

Committee changes: In late 2010, Tom Augspurger and Doris Vidal-Dorsch became co-chairs (replacing Brenda Rashleigh who remains active on the committee). Travis Schmidt became the vice-chair. In 2011, Shelly Anghera and Wendy Hovel stepped down from the committee and Dominic Hauck and Nathan Dodder joined. An invitation was extended to Omar Zapada to join the committee.

Meetings: Membership Committee business was conducted around four conference calls (01/20/2010, 04/28/2011, 07/14/2011, and 10/20/2011). We had face-to-face meetings at the SETAC conferences in Portland (11/09/2010) and Boston (11/15/2011). Meeting notes are all available on our SETAC Communities [Membership Committee website](#).

Accomplishments:

- 1. Outreach to Human Health Risk Assessors:** Ruth lead an effort (initiated the previous year) which culminated in the formation of a Human Health Risk Assessment Advisory Group. A well-attended interest meeting was held 11/09/2010 followed by designation of advisory group chair, SETAC NA BOD liaison, and a steering committee. Following a report that the group was meeting regularly, Membership Committee involvement ended.
- 2. Membership Committee SOP:** Our SOP was revised, reviewed by SETAC NA BOD and SETAC WC. The revised SOP is posted on our SETAC Communities site.
- 3. Support for translation of outreach materials:** Working through our SETAC WC Liaison, we urged that membership materials be translated into other languages. SETAC WC supported the initiative; a Spanish translation brochure was received positively at the Mexico Focused Topics Meeting. Our request encouraged translations beyond English and Spanish; SETAC WC will be moving strategically on this, taking advantage of opportunities like the Mexico meeting to push translation of materials as needed.
- 4. Outreach to Mexico:** SETAC NA Membership Committee members had leadership roles in planning, fund raising, and conducting the SETAC NA Focused Topics Meeting in Merida, Mexico. The meeting was very successful and served as a springboard to increase participation in SETAC by scientists and managers in Mexico.
- 5. Contacts with terminated and lapsed members:** Our contacts in July resulted in over 40 renewed memberships. The committee outlined a more desirable approach to this activity in the future; we will get lists of lapsed members only, but more frequently from the SETAC Office. The goal is to contact members prior to termination so they can still renew on-line. In addition to retaining some members, this activity has been valuable in obtaining feedback on the reasons that people leave and to find opportunities to incentivize retaining membership.

- 6. Outreach to Desert Southwest Chapter:** Membership Committee contacted leaders of this chapter to offer our assistance in motivating participation in a regional chapter serving a large geographic area, but small population.

Work in progress:

- 1. Another group of ~ 200 terminated and lapsed members began December 2011.**
- 2. Coordination with Senior Resources Group (SRG):** Membership Committee coordinated with the SRG, Regional Chapters Committee and the Mentoring Committee throughout 2011 in an effort support the SRG. We worked hard to find a champion for this group within its membership, but that approach was only productive in identifying people who were ready to serve but not coordinate the SRG. We are compiling the feedback received over the last year to facilitate Mentoring Committee / SRG interaction. This will include listing the people anxious to serve, the tasks identified as good fits for the SRG, and the contacts within the Mentoring Committee to facilitate better utilization of the SRG.
- 3. Benchmarking SETAC benefits against other societies:** With SETAC NA Office, we developed and tested an on-line survey of costs and benefits provided by other natural resource science and management professional societies. The survey tool was modified and is now in use. Doris is leading a team, with SETAC NA BOD participation, to populate the survey. Target data for completion is March 31, 2012.
- 4. Membership Satisfaction Survey and Retention Survey:** We are recruiting a leader to help a group design and conduct a survey of current members to determine what they like or dislike about the society to improve our understanding of current members needs and to keep SETAC sharp on how needs change. Target data for completion is March 31, 2012.

We propose to let the professional society benchmarking , membership satisfaction survey, and the feedback received from non-renewing members guide the types of outreach targeted by the Membership Committee in 2012. In addition to what we might learn from these surveys, some activities discussed in 2011 that require prioritization for potential action in 2012 include:

- Following-up on the momentum of the Mexico meeting to encourage SETAC NA participation by government and business sectors in Mexico
- Recruiting additional members from all levels of government
- Retaining students and others that join at an annual meeting (trial memberships)
- Recruiting non-members that attend focused topics meetings

Report submitted by: Tom Augspurger and Doris Vidal-Dorsch