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04) Membership and Meeting of Members

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Topic:

Topic author: rjellison

Subject: 04) Membership and Meeting of Members

Posted on: 08 Feb 2009 12:18:03

Message:

Membership:

As of May 2008, 348 persons from 62 countries had registered in ISSLR via online membership application. However, only 48 persons had paid dues through 2007 (dues were not invoiced in 2008 in lieu of conference registration). In sum, 42 previous dues-paying members attended the SLC conference, 84 other attendees indicated their primary affiliation as ISSLR, and 24 members in good-standing (2007 dues) did not attend conference. Of the 84 potential new members 36 signed up online following notices of the election. Twenty-one other persons had signed up earlier in 2008 (Jan-September).

It is not clear who should be counted as members in good-standing. I propose that of those attending the SLC meeting who indicated a primary affiliation with ISSLR (the other check box was FOGSL), only those that subsequently register via the website be considered members. If you assign membership to all (even those unwilling to make the minimal effort of registering online), there is a danger that you would never achieve a quorum in any election.

There is the other issue as to those who were in good standing, but did not attend the meeting. Do we send them dues reminders? I was trying to decrease this burden. Also, we no longer maintain a merchant services account (VISA, MC), but we could require payment by check in USD or use Paypal, or Google merchant services.

Member Meeting (5/12/08):

A general meeting of the members was held 5/12/08 and attended by ~50 persons. Jellison provided the agenda as follows:

- 1) State of the Society
- 2) Activities
- 3) Saline Systems and other publication venues
- 4) Conservation, Scientific Review, and Sustainability
- 5) Proposals for ISSLR XI
- 6) Open discussion

Jellison provided membership and financial reports indicating the state of the society. Following a brief history of the society and presentation of its goals, Jellison presented three alternatives for continuing activities as presented at the 2008 board meeting. There was animated and intelligent discussion on the future of the society with the general consensus being that we continue as present.

The drawbacks and benefits of various publication forums were discussed, four proposals for hosting the next conference presented, and other miscellaneous comments made from members. However, no formal action was taken on any items.

Replies:

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 08 Feb 2009 20:37:10

Message:

The question whether or not to send reminders to those (former) members who have not paid membership dues is directly linked to the central question discussed at the members' meeting in Salt Lake City, about the future of the society. Does a society have right of existence when it is only based on those triennial meetings, and when those meetings are attended mostly by local scientists and students, with only a very small core of loyal members (or maybe we even can say: loyal members of the Board) who come to all or to most meetings.

It is no secret that the new president of the society is basically a pessimist with respect to this question, and I understand that his vision is shared by at least some of the members of the Board. On the other hand, the general assembly clearly indicated that the ISSLR should continue on the current basis. The glorious symposium in Salt Lake City may well prove them right, and we can only hope that the next meeting will be as successful.

My suggestion is therefore that those who earlier were members should be sent a letter asking them whether they intend to remain members by paying membership dues.

Reply author: btimms

Replied on: 11 Feb 2009 04:18:54

Message:

Yes I think members who haven't paid their dues should be sent one reminder; if no favourable response then they should be struck off.

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 23 Feb 2009 21:01:10

Message:

Can we vote on this? "The board instructs the executive secretaty/treasurer to send a reminder to those members who have not paid their dues for some time; if no favorable response will be received, they will be deleted from the membership list"

Reply author: rjellison

Replied on: 23 Feb 2009 21:06:38

Message:

Second and I vote in favor.

Reply author: mcoleman

Replied on: 23 Feb 2009 22:47:32

Message:

I vote in favour

Reply author: btimms

Replied on: 24 Feb 2009 02:04:18

Message:

I vote in favour

Reply author: clitchfield

Replied on: 24 Feb 2009 09:12:26

Message:

I vote in favor.

Reply author: rjellison

Replied on: 24 Feb 2009 10:47:08

Message:

Okay - I'll send out a reminder later this week.

Reply author: Zhengmianping

Replied on: 09 Mar 2009 04:23:21

Message:

I vote in favor.

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 21 Mar 2009 06:52:33

Message:

The motion

"The board instructs the executive secretary/treasurer to send a reminder to those members who have not paid their dues for some time; if no favorable response will be received, they will be deleted from the membership list"

has been unanimously approved. Unless anyone has more comments on this topic, item 04 on the agenda can be closed, and Bob can send out the reminders, if this was not already done.

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