

**National Membership Committee Annual Report**  
**April 2013**  
**Jacksonville, Florida**  
**Roxanne Ellis-Denby & Traci Lewis, Co-chairs**

The current committee co-chairs began their tenure in April 2012 and decided to continue with previous co-chairs goals, objectives and purpose of the Committee; which is to support the growth of the Organization. It was also believed that the focus on “the 6 R’s”: Recruiting, Retaining, Reclaiming, Refreshing, Restoring and Resources were the same foundational structure these co-chairs wanted to establish and continue as well.

The first task the Co-chairs chose to undertake was to make sure all committee members had a clearly written description of the role and responsibilities of the committee and its members. Next, several tools that improved committee function and or met the request of the Presidents during the President’s meeting were developed. Those items were: 1) a Leadership Directory; 2) a packet on successful multigenerational relationships; 3) graphs/charts that provided breakdowns of the organizational membership and gains and losses in members registered and membership dues; and 4) development of the position of the State Delegate. This position would allow for current and potential chapters and/or members to have support in a closer proximity than the Regional Liaison. Currently there are State Delegates located in CT, IL, NY, OH, CA, SC and LA. This action, along with others, are intended to help the committee in addressing challenges Chapter Presidents may have with membership issues and/or chapter growth.

The 2013 membership year ended with 49 regular chapters, 26 student chapters, 1,018 regular members, 624 student members, 4 individual regular and 4 individual student members for a total of 75 chapters and 1, 650 members. This is a decrease of 325 members from the 2012 membership year. However, numerous requests for information on how to start a chapter have been received at the national office. The committee worked with 26 potential chapters who had contacted the National Office about affiliating. Three affiliated, three chapters remain open and attempting to affiliate; and the other 20 have been closed for 2013. However, the committee will make contact regarding affiliating for the 2014 membership year immediately following the National Conference. In an effort to recapture inactive ABSW Chapters, the committee made contact with each chapter. This effort provided no yield; however, the committee will continue to work to bring back lost chapters.

The committee received several requests from Presidents regarding difficulty obtaining the required 10 members to affiliate. At the October 2012 SCM a motion was put on the floor, voted on and accepted to allow chapters to affiliate on a provisional status with 5-9 members. The committee would monitor and assist them with working to meet the required 10 members. This action allowed the organization to retain 5 chapters and 42 members. Of the 5 chapters, 3 have already moved to regular status. The committee will continue to monitor and work with the other 2 chapters in order to move from provisional status. This policy will be reviewed at the October 2014 SCM to determine its benefits and if it should continue.

Lastly, the committee chose certain goals from 2012 to continue working on in 2013. They consist of the following: 1) Increasing membership; 2) Quarterly meetings with Committee Members, Regional Liaisons, State Delegates and Chapter Leaders; 3) Assisting with student membership, as requested by the NABSW-OSA Membership Chair; 4) Implementing online membership renewal for returning chapters and individual members; and 5) Disseminating surveys and questionnaires to better address issues of the membership body.

Along with the continuation of the above goals, the committee has set a vision and established priorities for 2013. They are: 1) Membership Support and Engagement; 2) Membership Recruitment, Retention and Reclaiming; 3) Making the website work for the Organization; 4) Advocacy; and 5) Public Awareness.

The Membership Committee is committed to serving the Membership Body in a manner that is timely, focused and productive for the members of NABSW. The Committee takes its duties and responsibilities seriously and will continue to work to provide NABSW with prompt feedback, professional and efficient services. The Committee will use creativity and innovation to carry out its goals, objectives and duties as charged and will continue to work toward the growth of our organization and the advancement of our people. The committee welcomes members who are interested in the work of this committee to join our efforts to achieve this committee’s stated goals and objectives.