

Report of the UIRA Membership Committee
Annual Meeting 4/23/2013

As of this date, our organization is made up of 611 dues-paying members, representing 542 households. The number of members is down about 6% compared with a year ago, but that really represents essentially a leveling off compared with the drop of two years ago.

We attracted 120 new individuals this year (2012-13), representing an increase of 15% over last year. This says that we're on the way back up after the severe drop in new members last year below the year before.

We discontinued 143 members from membership for non-payment of dues, which is about the same as last year. However, what is disturbing is that 32% of those dropped were "freshmen" (first-year members). So, we need to find a way of keeping new members interested in the organization.

As some of you may remember, an ad-hoc membership committee recommended year before last that the duties of the Membership Chairperson were a bit much, so recommended that a new post be created-that of an Assistant to the Treasurer. That person would receive the dues and membership applications, and deposit the dues.. He or she would then report to the Membership Chair. The Chair would file the applications, adjust the master membership spreadsheet, add and subtract names, update the two listservs for mailings and compile statistics.

The Board asked the Committee to assess how that system was working. We all agreed it went well and the new arrangement was incorporated into the by-laws.

About 221 households get their Gray Hawks by postal mail (41% of the total). The number is important because a change in mailing rules by the UI Foundation and/or the U.S. Post Office is that if the number falls below 200, we then get charged the regular 1st-class mail rate.

Questions?

Eugene Spaziani,
Membership Chairman