

Membership Committee Report

Committee Members:

James Spencer
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Parentheses refer to Orthopaedic Section Strategic Plan (Section; Objective; Strategy)

Our most recent membership numbers find the Orthopaedic Section at 16,352 PT, PTA, and student members. This number is consistent with a dip in membership numbers that we see through December and January annually, but does note a halt in the steady climb we have seen over the past several years. One could speculate that the current economy could explain a portion of this change in upward progress.

Indicative of the above change is the January loss of a committee member who was unwilling to renew their APTA membership this year after falling on economic hardships herself. However, two members have been nominated to continue the growth of the committee. Maureen Watkins and Derek Charles should join the committee at CSM pending Board of Directors approval. With the inclusion of two additional Membership Committee Members before or at CSM 2010, the committee will achieve a total of 7 members on three-year staggered terms as designed in the Membership Committee Policy of the Orthopaedic Section Bylaws (2; D; 2).

2008 initiatives, achievements, and projects of the membership committee:

- Orthopaedic Section Partnership with APTA Members Mentoring Members
- Board approval to increase "Return to School Program" pool of participants to up to five years after graduation. (2; B; 1)
- Comprehensive CSM-based mentorship program presented to Board of Directors

Current Membership trends and the state of the national economy require that we take extra care and efforts to retain our current members and make strides to create new Orthopaedic Section members. In addition to the list below, the membership committee plans to work closely with the board of directors to develop and improve effective methods of maintaining higher membership numbers.

New and developing Membership Committee initiatives:

- Increase visibility and utilization of "Return to School Program" (2; B; 1)
- Increase awareness and usefulness of Members Mentoring Members partnership
- Exploring opportunities for section advertisement of programs and benefits:
 - Internally: *OPTP, JOSPT, Osteoblast* (2; B; 2)
 - Externally: *APTA Perspectives, PT Today, Advance Magazine, Facebook.com, My PTspace.com* (4; A; 1)
- Membership Committee to seek individuals for open positions in Chapter Liaison Network (2; A; 2)

With continued efforts, our section can make it through difficult economic times with continued increases in membership numbers.