

Membership Secretary Report

IASPM Executive Committee 2011-2013

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1. Membership

During my time as Membership Secretary I have been working side by side with Treasurer Violeta Mayer in the organization of membership data. Following up on the work begun by former Executive Committees, one of the main goals has been to build and maintain a functional relationship with branches and individual members, in order to manage international data. Since we don't have a centralized membership database system, we have been working with previous years' membership lists sent by branch treasurers to IASPM International. Based on 2012 records, membership appears as follows:

From 2013 on, we are asking branch treasurers to upload their membership lists directly to Google Docs. As such, we hope to be able at some point in the near future to manage internationally undercurrent membership data. A challenging mid-term project would be to generate a system in which branch treasurers could manage their lists (keeping in mind proper practices regarding privacy) within the frame of an international membership list.

2. IASPM Branches [section from the Executive Committee report]

During the two-year period of this Executive, a German-speaking branch of IASPM (IASPM D-A-CH) was formed in 2012, the abbreviation D-A-CH representing the countries Germany (D), Austria (A) and Switzerland (CH). IASPM D-A-CH acts as a bridge between German- and non-German speaking scholars within the field of popular music. A cornerstone in the branch's activities is to facilitate international and interdisciplinary networking among German- and non-German speaking scholars within the field of popular music. The officers are:

- Chair: Susanne Binas-Preisendörfer
- General Secretary: Oliver Seibt
- Membership Secretary/Treasurer: Kerstin Klenke
- Web/Publications: David-Emil Wickström
- National Representative, Germany: Maria Hanáček
- National Representative, Austria: Anja Brunner
- National Representative, Switzerland: Thomas Burkhalter
- Conference Coordinator: Immanuel Brockhaus
- Advisory board: Jan Hemming, Christoph Jacke, Julio Mendivil, Jens Gerrit Papenburg, Sandra Passaro.

The Executive warmly welcomes the new Branch to the community!

During the past two years some people interested in creating a Caribbean branch and a Greek branch also approached us. We hope to follow up these initiatives during the next term.

Unfortunately, the branches from Portugal and Bulgaria were dissolved; some members have adopted individual membership or have joined other IASPM branches.

3. Mailing List

At the last IASPM General Meeting in Grahamstown 2011, it was decided that the mailing list will be limited to IASPM members only. In October 2012, we informed subscribers of the mailing list about this decision, which subsequently raised a heated debate among current participants subscribed to the mailing list.

We have partially succeeded in implementing the decision. The first step was to generate a more efficient membership database system along with every branch Executive Committee. Other actions have been as follows:

I have been progressively adding current members to the mailing list.

I have tried to avoid email duplications, so we can easily manage the ratio between members and subscribers.

There are nearly 900 email addresses subscribed to the mailing list as of June 22nd, 2013.

Last May, I went over the list of people subscribed to the mailing list and approached approximately 150 subscribers whose membership situation was not clear for us, at least from 2011 on.

They were asked to approach either their (former) branches or IASPM International in order to update their membership and maintain their subscription to the list. Many of them replied and are in process of renewing their membership (I would like to clarify that many of the people I initially approached were actual members, some of them have recently renewed their membership in 2013).

Until now no one has been removed from the mailing list by our initiative.

I have come to understand that most of the people are willing to renew their membership and I think we should continue to support their decision.

Since this is an on-going process, I hope we can complete it during the next term.

4. International Delegates and Branch Conferences

As decided during the last General Meeting, the Executive instructed the Canadian branch to refund all membership fees to the international delegates who were required to subscribe to the branch in order to attend the conference in 2011. At the last Canadian branch General Meeting held in Hamilton in May 2013, it was informed that this instruction was put in place. In addition, during the past two years we have helped branches to verify IASPM membership for international delegates participating in branch conferences.