

MEMBERSHIP AND APPRAISAL COMMITTEE REPORT, 2005

The Membership and Appraisal Committee this year distributed the new posters and bookmarks designed by our former chair and the committee. There was a very favorable response to these excellently designed and very colorful posters with illustrations from former AJB covers.

The committee discussed how to increase membership for the coming year. Most of us believe that attracting new student members is the key to increasing our membership over time. The committee chair sent a memo to all of the section chairs to ask what specifically they do for students. Some sections have student awards which are all posted on-line, but other sections provide money for students to attend meetings, banquet tickets and other items. We received very few responses from section chairs, but believe that some of this information should be added to the BSA website in the future to attract student attention.

The BSA is holding a discussion session for students at the Austin meetings for brainstorming about how students can become more actively involved in BSA. Our committee feels that this is a step in the right direction.

Please refer to Bill Dahl's report on the status of the BSA for membership numbers. See several recommendations therein detailing potential ways to increase the membership. Several improvements to the website have added involving outreach to teachers (Botany 2005 Education Forum) and items of interest to students (Dave Spooner's "What an adventure, this is my career" story), and the job postings continue to be important. The idea to attract noon-professional members seems to be a good one. We are unsure of the amount of \$20 as being a fair price when students pay \$30. It will be interesting to see how many potential members this would involve.

We still have one position vacant on the committee and attempts are being made to fill this position for the coming year.

Ruth Stockey