

Chapters & Individual Members

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Status: Information

Chapters

With respect to Chapters we now have 76 active chapters and we have ten confirmed chapter applications pending. (see attachment for recently completed survey of Chapters, as requested by the Board at its July meeting).

Sub Area: Project Funding Initiative

We are through the 2006 calendar year. While we had 27 applications in the Spring Round, the Committee found that only 4 applications were to be funded (for a total of \$37,450).. We have 17 applications in the Fall Round and they appear, on an overall basis, more likely to achieve a higher percentage of funding than the Spring Round. At this point, we expect that the total amount of project funding will be in the range of \$160,000-170,000 (below the 2006 budget estimate of \$200,000).

Sub Area: Regional Bureau

For 2006, we met our commitment to establish our first regional bureau in Africa, with the hire of Dr. Dawit Bekele, who joined ISOC in September. We are replicating the same process that we used in Africa to hire a Regional Bureau manager in Latin America. We expect to have a short list of candidates by mid-November for interviewing by the entire team and including our ISOC friends in the Region (Rosa Delgado, Eduardo Diaz, Raul Echeberria, Alejandro Pisanty, Sebastián Ricciardi, and Edmundo Valenti). We expect an offer to be made by the end of November/first week in December.

Sub Area: Membership System

With respect to the issues surrounding the **Membership System** we have the information we need at hand to begin the process of examining the best way forward without any predisposition on resolution of the issue. (This information includes the survey feedback we received and also the names of chapter members who are interested in helping us through this process.) All we await now is the arrival of the new Chapters and Individual Members Senior Manager (Anne Lord, who has been briefed on the issue) and we will begin the process of determining an appropriate solution.

Sub Area: Chapter Outreach

It is clear that the Board and Senior ISOC Management desire more and more helpful chapter outreach. We have been trying to do this and the 2007 budget, as you will see, has additional resources dedicated to continuing this upward trend of chapter outreach.

Since January 1st of 2006, David McAuley has sent 34 direct notes to the chapter delegates with announcements (not including the newsletter related items), requests for feedback, notices of important initiatives/requests and the like. In addition he sends out monthly requests for newsletter information from the chapters and then sends the newsletter itself monthly. He and Terry Weigler have had many more individual contacts with chapters. In addition, in the summer of 2006 Peter Godwin and David McAuley arranged for, and Peter conducted and analyzed, an extensive, in-depth survey of chapter delegates on their latest membership database requirements, practices and preferences in the effort to resolve the membership system issue.

Moreover, Dawit Bekele has already begun the process of chapter outreach in Africa. In addition, for 2007 we have additional headcount resources in the budget for this outreach; we will have two Regional Bureaus throughout 2007 and another in all likelihood later in the year; and more focused involvement in regional meetings and the like.

a. Chapter Survey

At its July meeting, the Board noted that only about half of the chapters has voted in the last election and suggested that the ISOC staff survey the chapters to determine if they are active and in need of assistance.

A survey of the chapters was undertaken in October 2006. An initial e-mail was sent to each of the 76 chapter presidents (the Hawaii chapter has no president at this time), with a copy of the email also being sent as well to chapter officers. Follow-up calls were made and faxes sent to non-respondents (with working numbers). A reminder e-mail was sent as well to non-respondents.

As of October 30, we had received responses from 45 of 73 active chapters (presidents of three chapters reported that their chapters currently are inactive), a 62% response rate. A complete listing of the survey responses is attached. A summary of the findings:

- Chapters that voted in the past election also tend to be the chapters that keep involved in ISOC's activities. 40 chapters responded they read the chapter delegates list, while 41 read/use the monthly newsletter.
- 32 chapters said they held regular meetings or had regular contact with their members at least once per year. Another 11 reported sporadic contact /meetings.
- 22 chapters said they would submit budget suggestions.

As part of our chapter development program in 2007, we will focus on improving communications with our chapters to increase chapter participation and on providing the tools and support to assist chapters within their own communities.

Individual Members

We now have 23,670 Individual Members. This is down by nearly 900 since the last report but in the interim we have taken a close look at scrubbing out inactive and inoperable e-mail addresses (the requirement of membership). The overall upward trend appears to be continuing.

The ***Sustaining Member*** level of Individual Membership is now at 126 and progress continues to be slow in convincing members and friends of the ISOC community to join at this paying level of membership (\$75/year). Since January, we have issued hundreds of individualized appeals to known friends of the ISOC community to join as sustaining members; however, response to this campaign was moderate at best. In addition, David made special sustaining membership drive appeals in several newsletters and asked that the word be shared with Internet community networks. Appeals to become a sustaining member also were made at both IETF meetings earlier in 2006. We are continuing our direct e-mail appeals to a large number of ISOC contacts from the past, will continue recruitment efforts in San Diego at the IETF and will continue newsletter drives. Despite these efforts, we do not expect to the target number of 500 Sustaining Members.