

Membership committee proposal

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Background. Historically, THD membership committee activities have been limited to reporting an update on membership numbers. However the tasks of the membership committee are clearly stated in the bylaws:

9.3. Membership Committee – Shall be composed of not fewer than three (3) members, including the Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall be charged with the duty of bringing the advantages of the Thermal Hydraulics Division membership to the attention of qualified candidates.

As written, the bylaws identify an advocacy role for the membership committee. This role in recent years has not been fulfilled. As the membership numbers were rose within the Division, there was no need for recruitment and membership advocacy on behalf of the Membership Committee. Now, we however face a few challenges, as well as a few opportunities:

1. Thermal Hydraulics Division membership has begun to fall for the first time in more than a decade. It is unclear if this is an anomaly or a trend that will be realized. A few Possible causes for this drop in Division membership may be a result from:
 - a. Lack of in-person technical sessions hosted in the recent past, among others.
 - b. Lack of effort in transitioning technical content to a virtual platform when compared to other professional divisions in ANS.
2. Our international membership is very small when compared to the huge international participation in NURETH, ATH and even ANS meetings. This may be a very significant opportunity.
3. Industry participation in our division is at very low levels. This is a long term trend, that is not limited to THD. There has been for a while the question of what THD (and ANS) bring in terms of value to people in industry.
4. Finally, we have observed/heard anecdotally recently troubling signs of lack of engagement of students with the division. This is concerning for the pipeline of the division. We may have an image problem.

This is a good time to put a thoughtful, long term plan into place with the goal of increasing our membership. We would like to push for a broad effort to revitalize membership, revisit our value proposition and develop additional content creation activities. *Given active participation in the division and successful meeting organization we see as a reasonable target goal to reach 2,000 members by 2026 (2x in 5 years).*

Proposal. We propose to revitalize the membership committee by re-interpreting rule 9.3, without at the moment modifying it. After a two-year period, the EC will review the effectiveness of this proposed model, and make a decision to formally modify the rule.

The membership committee will be composed of 11 members:

5 statutory members (1-year term)

1. Chair of the division
2. Vice-chair of the division (Vice-chair of the committee)
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Past-chair of the division.

6 at-large members with 3-year terms (2 members nominated every year), including the chair of the committee.

The chair will serve a 3-year term. Special effort will be dedicated to selecting members from the following groups:

1. Industry
2. International
3. Young members
4. Students
5. Under-represented groups

The committee will be tasked to:

1. Refine value proposition and advocate membership to individual eligible and in particular to the groups listed above;
2. Work with other committees of the division to conceive activities that promote value to our membership;
3. Provide an accurate picture for the division membership in collaboration with ANS.