

## Membership Report - South Central Section 99s - October 10,2003

Submitted by Phyllis Wells, Membership Chairman

My activities since the last Section meeting in May, 2003 are listed below:

Sent a report of the meeting along with some ideas for membership recruitment and retention to all the Chapter Membership Chairmen in the Section, (very few MCs attend the section meeting)

Set up an e-mail broadcast so I could quickly communicate with the Membership Chairs.

Wrote an article on membership for the "Approach".

Compiled a list of duties for Chapter and Section Membership Chairs and sent it to all the MCs in our section. (I only had 5 responses from Membership Chairmen)

Helped Andrea Chay prepare booklet on Membership R & R which she will submit to BOD in Nov.

Monitored the Section Members at Large - their numbers have stayed around 60. 3 members did not renew. 3 transferred to chapters, and 3 new members joined.

Communicated with new members whenever I could.

Sent suggestions for changes in "New Members" page in 99s News to Publications Committee.

Monitored the Membership Directory on the web page. Suggested we eliminate the mailings from headquarters on membership and just use the web page. (this was received with mixed feelings)

Communicated frequently with Andrea Chay and Pam Saylor, International Co-Membership Chairmen.

Contacted other Section Membership Chairmen to exchange ideas and concerns.

Summary: I have had very little communication back from the Chapter Membership Chairs. What I do hear from them indicates concern and frustration over the difficulty in recruiting and retaining members. I feel growth of the organization is vital to its future and perhaps growth should become the primary focus of the organization at all levels - chapter, section, national, and international.

I would like to recognize Susie Bradley from the Houston Chapter. She keeps me informed of new members and address changes. Her chapter has gained 3 new members in just this past month. Betty Costa, High Country Chapter, also communicates frequently and is working hard at getting new members.

Section Membership Numbers:	October 2001	- 988
	April 2002	- 1014
	October 2002	- 992
	May 2003	- 995
	October 2003	- 980

I have served as Membership Chairman of the Section for the past two years. During this time I have become much more aware of the need to increase membership. At the same time I have found it difficult to identify any tangible activities that would make a difference. I am a strong supporter of the 99s and am proud of our history and many accomplishments. Sharing that feeling with others is easy, however, getting them to join and stay in the 99s is a challenge.

I shall be resigning from this position as of May, 2004. I will do whatever I can to assist my replacement.