

AIS Affiliates Chairman's Report for Fall 2006

AIS Officers & Directors:

October 10, 2006

First I'd like to apologize for being almost impossible to reach between the AIS Convention and now. During the summer and early fall I'm afraid my job and Zebra Gardens take all the time and energy I can muster. If I survive long enough, I'm hoping retirement will free up enough time to at least read and answer my e-mail during the summer.

The following is a breakdown of some of the updated data on affiliates:

1. There are presently 178 approved Affiliates, and this is one less than reported at the Spring meeting since one club in Region 22 dissolved.
2. Of the 179 Clubs that originally applied for affiliation, 136 had their fee waived and 43 paid their \$50 fees (total fees \$2150.00). The breakdown of the clubs whose fees were waived is: 111 for 50% AIS membership, 25 with 40+ AIS members.
3. The breakdown of membership in the RVP affiliates report for the 179 affiliates was 4,330 (4,696 in 2005) AIS members and 3,699 (3,767 reported in 2005) non-AIS members. (Please note that these numbers are overstated because many people belong to more than one society!)
4. Between the Spring meeting and now, 2 RVPs have asked for help in "setting up affiliates" and since I didn't download my e-mail for the last month until yesterday, they are still waiting to hear from me.

Number 4 brings up a frustrating issue for RVPs and myself since when people ask for help in "setting up an affiliate", they are really asking for information on how to organize a new club and not how to affiliate an existing club. While I can provide information on the affiliations process, the RVPs need to advise a new club on how to organize in accordance with each individual state's requirements. Between now and the Board meeting I'll devote time on identifying an approach to disseminating more information on this process.

Also, I've been advised by Madam President that she has received feedback from RVPs saying that the instructions on affiliations fee waivers weren't clear. Call me biased, but I don't agree, so I'm attaching copies of my letter of instructions and both forms that were "supposed to be used" for the 2006 affiliation process. I was aware that several RVPs had unnecessary problems with the fee waivers, because they used the forms from 2005 instead of the "new and improved" 2006 version that I supplied to them. Please review attached instructions and forms to see if you believe additional clarification on the terms for affiliations fee waivers is required.

Other than the discussion items above, I have no suggestions or motions to place before the Board at this time.

Sincerely,
Brad Kasperek, AIS Affiliates Chairman