by Char Tortorice, Co-Chair

The Membership Committee met several times to explore ways to retain members whose dues have lapsed and to recruit additional members, with a special emphasis on those who have retired out of the classified service.

The practice of asking board members to write personal notes on renewal reminder letters was continued. It was also recommended that all members be encouraged to sign up for longer membership levels which offer a reduced annual fee, including the six year for $100 level and the $300 lifetime membership, and help reduce the number of people needing to renew annually.

Generating membership from the classified service has been a challenge, but since the Association seems to appeal to emeriti more strongly than non-emeriti retirees, it was recommended that we concentrate on getting the word out that classified employees are eligible for emeritus status and letting them know the process. The information is on the UWRA website and is part of the information distributed by the benefits office when people come in for retirement counseling.

The Committee also recommended that it is again time to do a mass solicitation letter to emeriti who have not yet joined the Association, but this effort will be delayed until the new personnel system has worked the bugs out of preparing emeriti lists.

Membership Committee members during 2012-13 were Gary Johnson and Char Tortorice, co-chairs, along with Rick Daluge, Bob Dye, Jim Hanson, Nan Kunde, and Ann Wallace (ex officio).