

Secretary's Report
 Business Meeting
 July 2024

1. This year's elections occurred in early March, as foreseen by the society's constitution. We shifted to a new voting platform (ElectionBuddy) and received votes from 112 members, which compares favorably with participation rates in recent years. We welcome Maria Bach as the new at-large member of the Executive Committee.
2. Membership numbers continue to show encouraging signs of recovery following the steep decline observed a year ago. We are now close again to our pre-covid levels. Conference participation usually introduces some volatility into the society's membership. Santiago has attracted a somewhat different crowd and our challenge, moving forward, will be to retain a decent share of them as steady HES members. A few other factors may also explain the larger (and hopefully more stable) numbers: a renewal campaign targeted at lapsed members, which was run last August; automatic reminders about memberships soon to expire; and the conditionality clauses now inscribed in most of our programs, which require applicants/grantees to be HES members.

Year	Conference Location	End-of-May Membership	Year-End Membership
2015	Michigan State	?	229
2016	Duke	186	290*
2017	Toronto	197	202
2018	Chicago	266	284
2019	New York	247	265
2020	Virtual	219	223
2021	Utrecht (Virtual)	188	263
2022	Minneapolis	270	276
2023	Vancouver	196	237
2024	Santiago	246	

* 290 is likely an overestimate as this was the year that we switched from CUP to managing membership through our own website. Several shadow accounts were created to test aspects of the website.

3. The HES website went through a comprehensive technical revision and was relaunched last January. As part of the new website, we now have a space where HES members can access documents related to the society's governance: minutes, reports, budgets, action points, etc. This is intended to increase transparency and improve communication between the society's leadership and the membership at large.
4. Following a successful experience in San Antonio this year, the society will again organize a cocktail reception off the conference grounds during the ASSA meetings in San Francisco (Jan 3-5, 2025).