

C&O Canal Association
Membership Committee
Will Stewart, Chair

Annual Report

Report Date: March 25, 2022

We had 826 members paid through December 31, 2021. This number is up slightly from 2020. Of this number, 374 were individual members, 253 were family, 197 patron, and 2 lifetime (a specially awarded category).

Current membership (as of the date of this report) stands at 650. Those 2021 members who have not yet renewed for 2022 (or beyond) now come to 184; I will be contacting those who have not yet renewed to urge them to do so. 11 new or rejoining members have signed on since the first of this year. We have lost some members who have moved out of the area and others through death.

In 2021 we welcomed 53 new members and 15 rejoining members (people who had been members in years past, but had not renewed for 2020). It should be noted that there was no mailing to the non-renewers of 2019 this year, so our rejoining numbers are lower than would be typical. I may still do that.

I have contacted non-members who made bookstore purchases; some of them have joined. People continue to report that their contacts with Association members is their main reason for joining; please help spread the word!

We made two proposals to amend the by-laws in 2021: the one to give the board the authority to set dues passed, but a second proposal to establish a fourth class of membership for businesses failed, even though there continues to be interest in such a category. The Board raised the dues for the first time in over twenty years.

The board set our 2022 dues at \$25 for individuals, \$35 for families, and \$50 for patrons. So far, there has been no apparent pushback on the increases.

The new membership brochure appeared in time for the WCC in August, and is now being distributed by volunteers—thank you!

After serving as Membership Chair for nearly seven years, I will be stepping down this year in order to serve as Treasurer at All Souls Episcopal Church in Washington, DC. I am in the process of recruiting a replacement as Membership Chair, and will continue to serve on the Membership Committee (primarily in an advisory capacity) and on the Finance and Special Projects Committees.

Respectfully submitted,
Will Stewart