

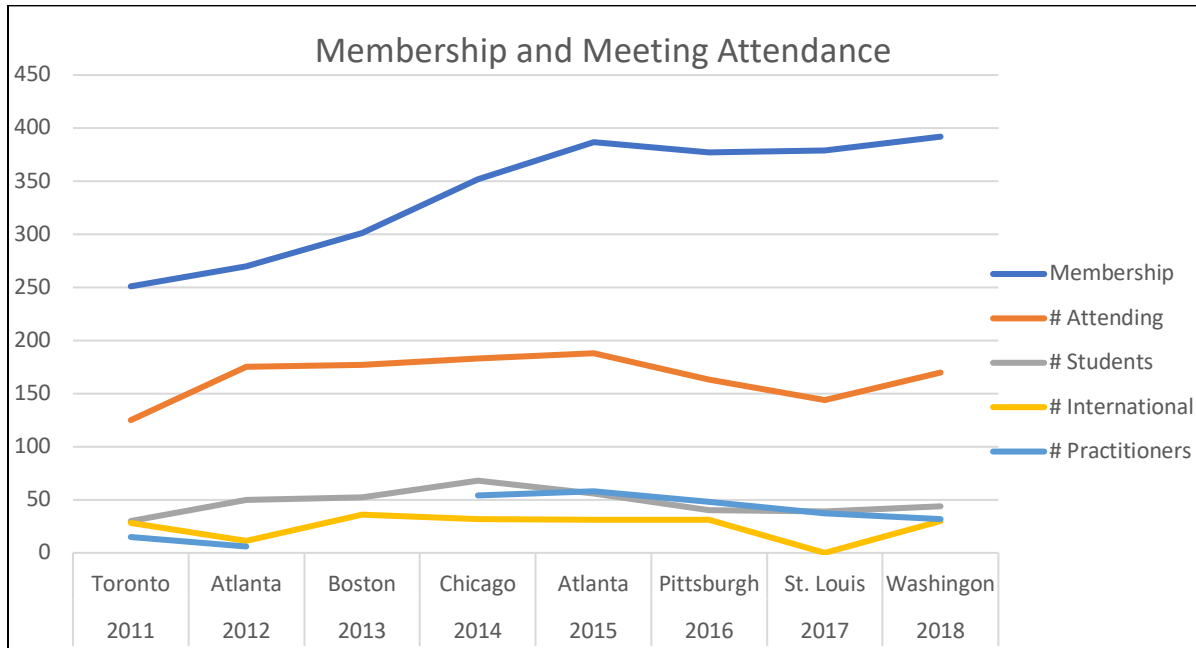
**Lucinda Huffaker / Executive Secretary  
Report for the REA Business Meeting  
November 2, 2018**

**I. Annual Meeting**

**2018 figures**

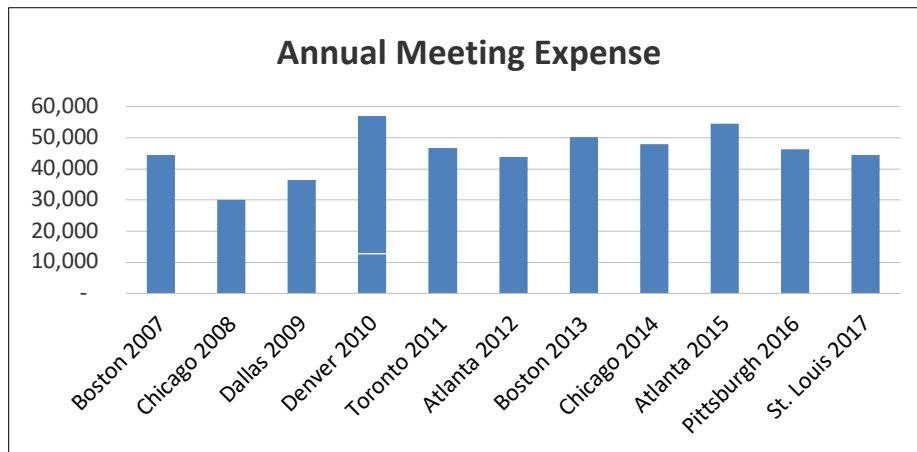
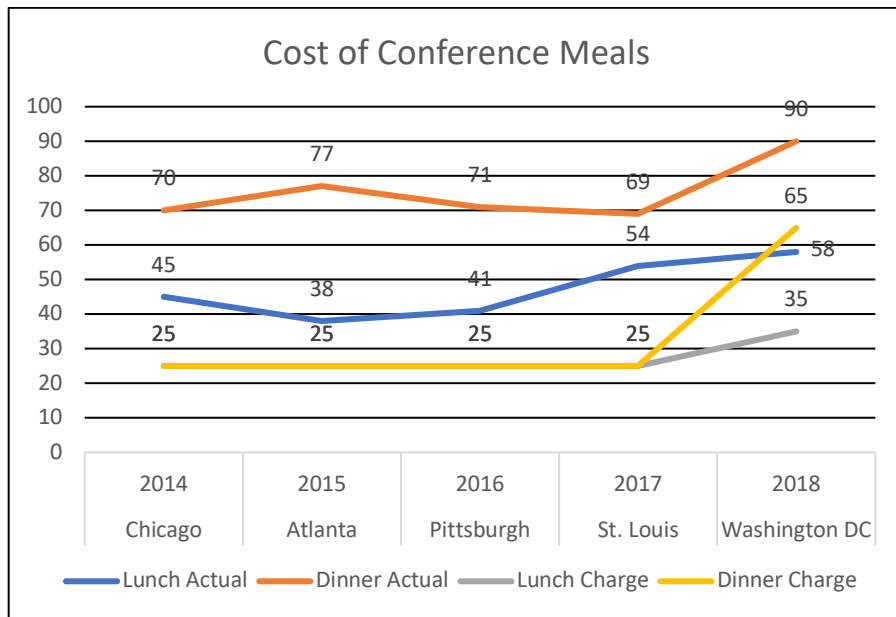
Attendance (10/26):	165		
Breakout sessions:	26		
Papers:	46	Presenters:	78
Collaborations:	7	International	28
Posters:	5	Students	25
Cancellations:	4 papers		

This year we welcome for the first time our Related Learning Organization colleagues from ALLLM (Association of Leaders in Lifelong Learning and Ministry). ALLLM is hosting a special speaker and reception on Thursday night, two breakout sessions on Friday, their annual meeting on Saturday, and a wrap-up session on Sunday. All are open to REA members. There are ALLLM members participating throughout the conference, and members from the two organizations received cross registration and membership at reduced rates.



**Meeting Arrangements**

Catering costs comprise between 60% and 70% of the cost of our annual meeting. Alternatives to catering are not an option since hotel contracts are based on a minimum food and beverage purchase amount. The contract secures meeting space and reduced rates for rooms. Below is a history of the per person cost of our community lunches and annual banquets, including the amount of REA subsidy.



Hotel Selection Criteria: major international airport, low nightly price, easy and inexpensive transportation from airport, reasonable catering prices, numerous restaurant choices, hotel concessions (e.g., free meeting rooms and internet).

**2019** - Between Dallas, Salt Lake City, Montreal, and Toronto, decided on a Canadian setting:  
**Holiday Inn Toronto International Airport** (\$139CAD/night)  
<http://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/toronto/yyzia/hoteldetail>

**2020** – Following on the heels of a positive experience at the **St. Louis Union Station Hotel** in 2017, the hotel made an excellent proposal to host another REA meeting, so we arranged to return to the hotel for the 2020 meeting (\$155/night).  
<http://www.stlouisunionstation.com/listings/union-station-hotel/>

**2021** – To be decided in the next month. Hotel proposals have not yet been solicited. Possible sites might include Baltimore, Atlanta, Raleigh/Durham, or Orlando.

The Board is considering a proposal to change the time of the annual meeting to July and to have the meeting on a school campus. This could reduce meeting costs by at least 75% and lodging for attendees by over 50%.

**2018 Travel Awards** – 9 submissions out of 24 student presenters. Members of the Steering Committee who assisted with the selection decided to award smaller amounts to all nine applicants. Criteria used for the amounts were degree year, quality of proposal, location, other aid received, and fit with theme.

1. Bethany Addington, Asbury Seminary; Stephen Wright, advisor	\$150
2. Moon Jung Choi, Knox College, University of Toronto; Nam Soon Song, advisor	\$150
3. Daniel Hauge, Boston University; Steven Sandage, advisor	\$200
4. Emily Jendzejec, Boston College; Theresa O'Keefe, advisor	\$200
5. Mercy Langat, Asbury Seminary; Sue Russell, advisor	\$150
6. Karen Mosby, Garrett-Evangelical Seminary; Reginald Blount, advisor	\$100
7. Kyle Oliver, Columbia Teachers College; Lalitha Vasudevan, advisor	\$200
8. Sarah Reuter, University of Bonn; Bert Roebben, advisor	\$350
9. Katharina Welling, University of Bonn; Bert Roebben, advisor	<u>\$100</u>
	Total \$1600

## II. Office Administration, Communication and Finances

### New membership software

Last year at this time, the Board approved a proposal from Tenseg, our web support company, to evaluate, select, and implement an alternative membership software that would eliminate duplication and simplify workflow and our members' user experience. After careful review of available membership software, Tenseg proposed a plan by which they would develop a custom application compatible with the popular web software we currently use, WordPress. The Tenseg contract is for \$2800 over two years for development and implementation, and \$600 per year technical support. I should reiterate that this is but a token fee for technology services, and Tenseg considers their work for REA to be service to the community.

Our annual payment to Tenseg for 2019 and 2020 will be

2019

\$6,000 – Web Support

\$1,400 – Development and transition to new software

\$2,000 plus travel – Annual meeting

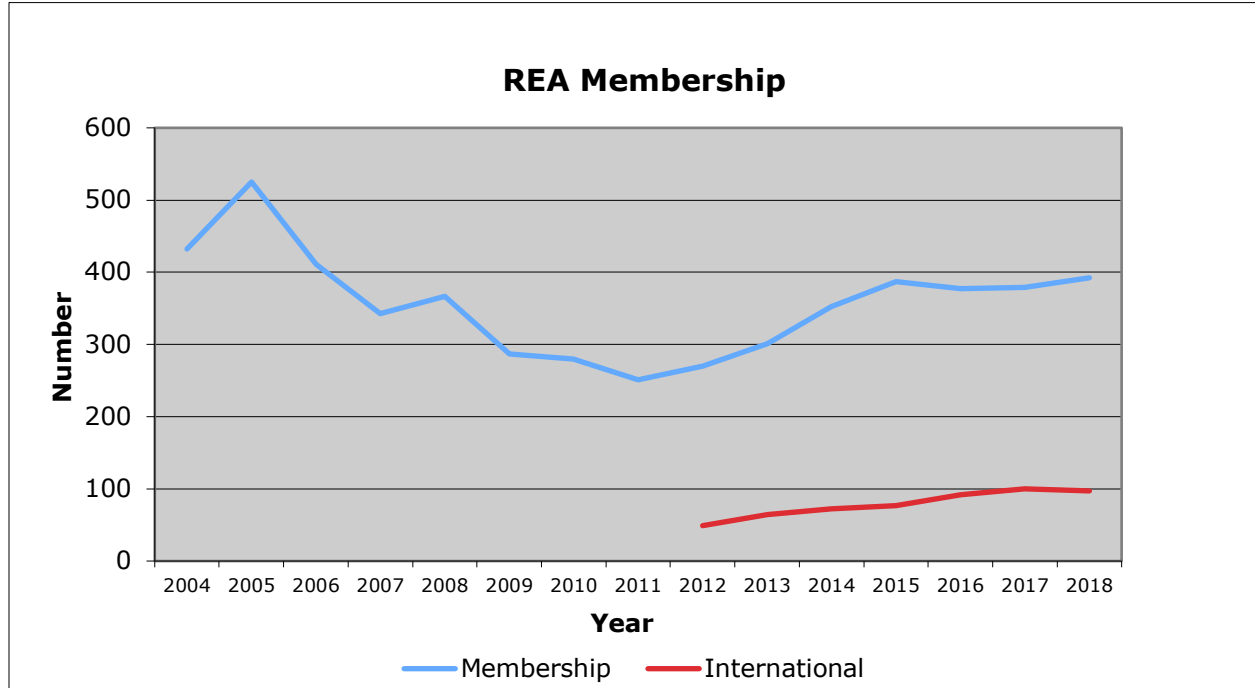
2020

\$6,000 – Web Support

\$ 600 – Database Support

\$2,000 plus travel – Annual meeting

## Membership Data – numbers remain steady



### III. Board Participation and Support

#### Board meetings

The Board of Directors meets twice annually, once in February or March (Thursday through Sunday) and again at the annual meeting (Thursday and Sunday). The Board has discussed the cost efficiency of the winter/spring meeting, but the consensus continues to be that meeting over the period of a few days allows important discussion of complex issues and long-term planning.

In addition, since March the Steering Committee has undertaken to meet monthly by web conference. The primary task for those conversations has been to follow progress on planning the annual meeting and preparation of a proposal for structural changes in governance for Board discussion in November.

**2019 retreat** - Thursday dinner, February 7, through Sunday noon, February 10, north of Atlanta at Ignatius House Jesuit Retreat Center <http://ignatiushouse.org/about-us/ignatius-house-facility/>. Transportation from airport is by shuttle or Marta-plus-Uber.

#### New Advancement Committee

The Board has appointed, in accordance with REA Bylaws, a new Advancement Committee. The Chair of the Committee will serve for a term of three years. Committee members will be appointed for three-year terms as well. The Advancement Committee will assure that the Association has effective programs for development, member relations, and marketing and communications so as to maximize the effectiveness and sustainability of the Association. A Chair and two members of the committee will take office January 1, 2019.

## **Nomination Committee**

In an effort to align the nomination process with Board discussions last November and March, we solicited names from Board members and generated additional names to create a robust list of nominees representing many types of diversity. Names were associated with vacant positions, some with multiple positions. The list was then circulated among the committee for a series of three votes, narrowing the list each time. When the final roster was established, it was circulated among all Board members for comment and approval. Individuals were contacted one by one until acceptance was attained for each position and a complete slate was achieved. The slate will be voted on by the Board at their November meeting. View the 2019 slate here:

<https://religiouseducation.net/rea2018/news/>. Briefly, this is the slate that will be voted on:

Vice-President and Program Chair-Elect	Boyung Lee
Chair, Proposal Selection Committee	Hosffman Ospino
Chair, Committee on RE in Public Life and the Global Community	Christine Hong
Chair, Advancement Committee	Jose Irigaray
Student Representative	Gina Robinson
Member, Harper/Wornom Committee	Josh Lunde-Whittler
Member, Committee on RE in Faith Communities	Dawn Alitz
Members, Committee on RE in Public Life and the Global Community	Lakisha Lockhart
	Michael Shire
Members, Committee on RE in Academic Disciplines and Institutions	Almeda Wright
	Joung Chul Lee
Members, Advancement Committee	Barbara Davis
	Tamara Henry

I end with a word of appreciation to Mary Hess for her wisdom and good-natured willingness to share the innumerable tasks associated with keeping REA in motion.

Thank you for another year of meaningful work with good people!

Respectfully submitted,  
Lucinda Huffaker