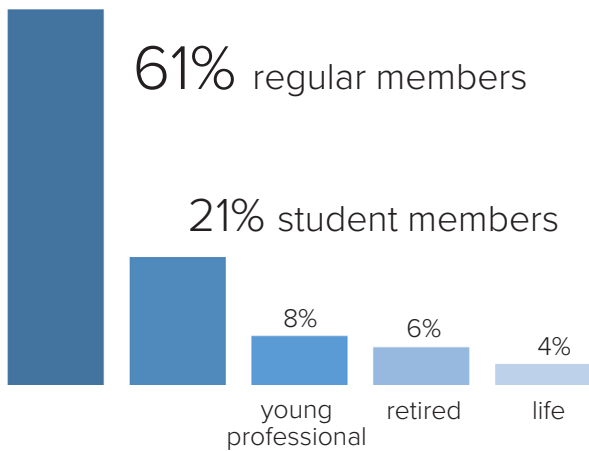




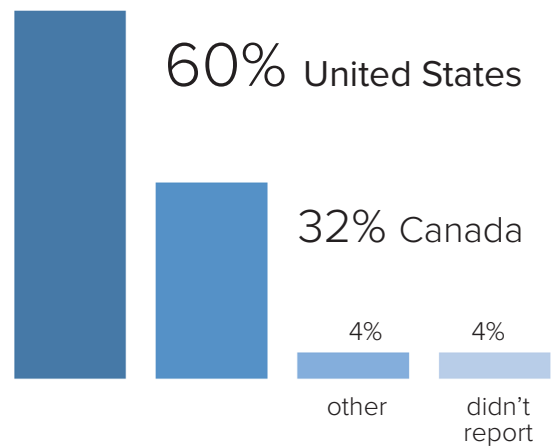
2018 Survey of IAGLR Members

In 2018, the International Association for Great Lakes Research invited past and current members to help shape the association's future via an online survey. Three hundred and thirty responded, representing all types of memberships and 15 countries. A majority of respondents were regular members, white, male, and from the United States.

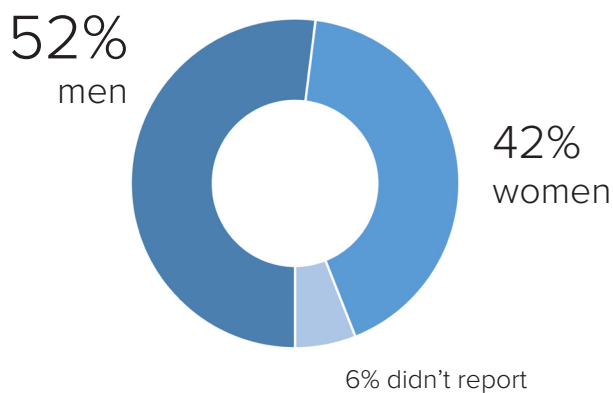
MEMBERSHIP TYPE



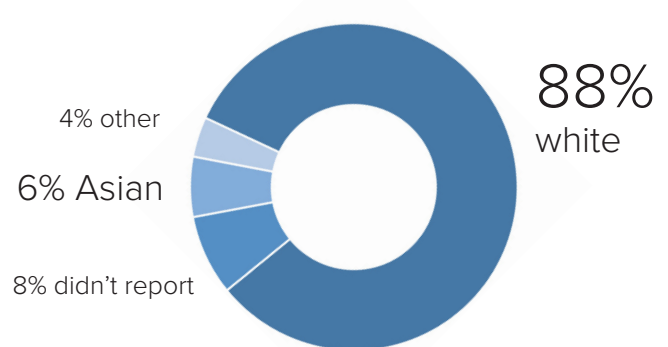
RESIDENCE



GENDER



RACE / ETHNICITY

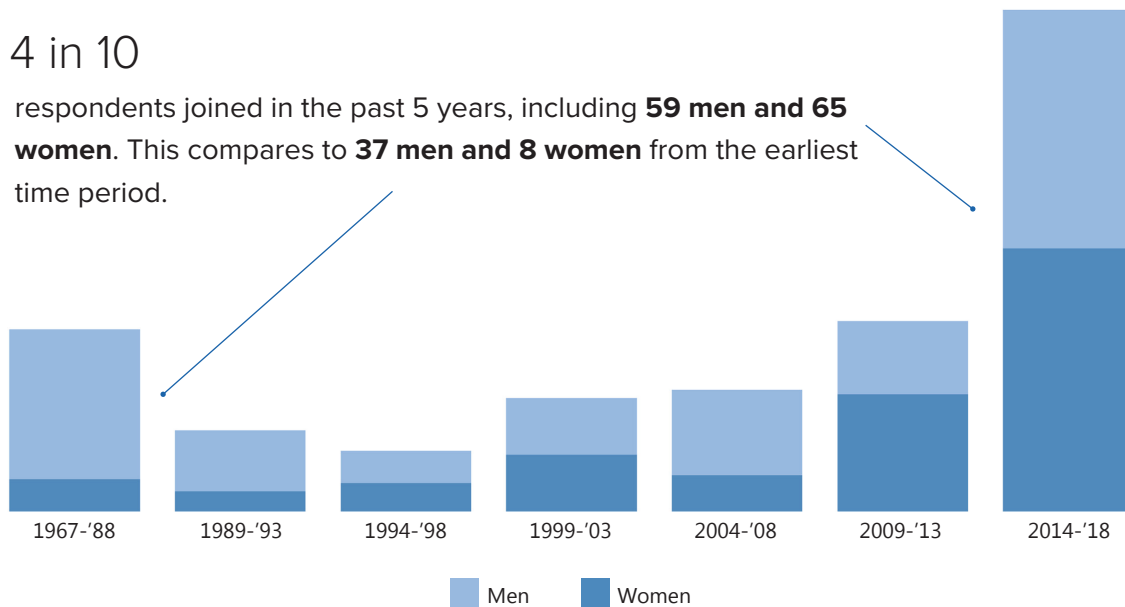


Adds up to more than 100% because respondents could choose more than one category.

YEAR JOINED X GENDER

4 in 10

respondents joined in the past 5 years, including **59 men and 65 women**. This compares to **37 men and 8 women** from the earliest time period.



We asked respondents how they first heard about IAGLR and why they joined. The top three responses for each question are noted below:

FIRST HEARD

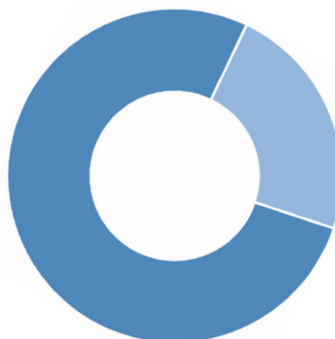
- 130 From a colleague/through work
- 107 As a student
- 42 *Journal of Great Lakes Research*

WHY JOINED

- 158 Conference
- 94 Professional Interest
- 81 Networking & Community

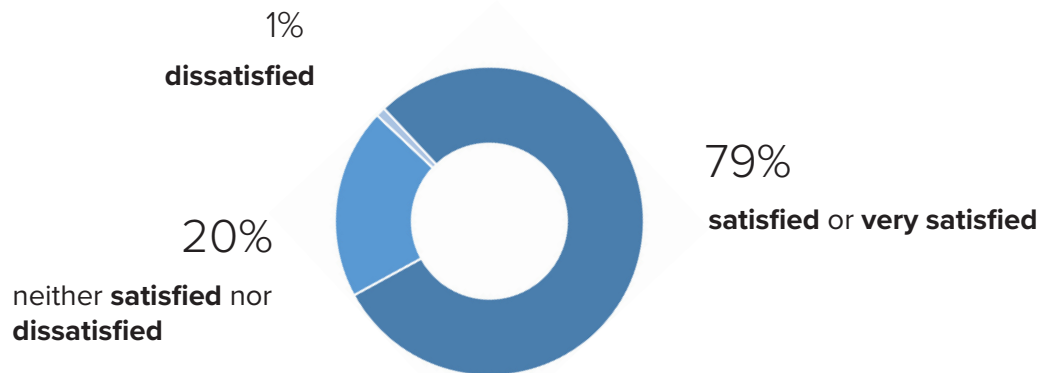
RENEWAL STATUS

77%
renewed their membership **every year** or the **majority of years** since joining. They stay for the conference, their professional interests, and the *Journal of Great Lakes Research*.



23%
sometimes or **rarely** renewed since joining. They let their membership lapse when not attending the conference, cite travel restrictions and conference and membership costs, as well as other professional interests as the main reasons.

MEMBERSHIP SATISFACTION



Respondents who are very satisfied with their membership spoke positively about the conference, the journal, networking, and the organization in general. Those who are less satisfied expressed concerns about the IAGLR community being difficult to break into, a lack of any real benefits outside of the conference, and a lack of engagement.

TOP MEMBER BENEFITS

Respondents considered the following benefits as **somewhat** or **very important**.

- 95% IAGLR mandate to promote all aspects of large lakes research and communicate research findings
- 93% Networking opportunity at conference
- 80% Discounted conference registration fee

COLLABORATION, COMMUNITY & NETWORKING

- 94% agreed **IAGLR fosters a sense of community** among Great Lakes researchers
- 25% mentioned as reason they joined
- 25% thought IAGLR does this well

Yet some respondents said the close-knit community can feel insular and that connections between the disciplines can be strained. They called on IAGLR to facilitate multidisciplinary networking and collaborations, increase and retain a diversity of members, and be more welcoming of new members.



IAGLR provides me with a network of scientists working on the issues I am working on or interested in. It is an extremely cordial group. It is an excellent organization for graduate students. It is run very well. It is open to new members and new ideas while maintaining a solid science base.

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

THE MAJORITY OF MEMBERS...



Have...

attended the Conference on Great Lakes Research	97%
presented at the Conference on Great Lakes Research	93%
read the <i>Journal of Great Lakes Research</i> *	86%
read IAGLR Email Notes*	78%
visited the IAGLR website*	67%
published in the journal	54%
reviewed an article for the journal	53%

* sometimes or often

Have Never...

served as an associate editor	91%
served as a conference site or program chair	86%
served on the IAGLR board	85%
served on a committee	81%
followed IAGLR on Facebook	77%
interacted with IAGLR on Twitter	66%
chaired a conference session	54%

IMPROVING ENGAGEMENT

When asked about their level of satisfaction with their membership, respondents suggested opportunities for improved member engagement. In particular, they noted the lack of engagement between conferences. Respondents recommended additional networking opportunities throughout the year, including the development of local chapters or subgroups.

They also noted the need to better solicit their participation in IAGLR activities. As one respondent advised when asked what IAGLR could do better, “Actively seek out members to chair conference sessions, serve on committees and journal’s editorial board, and provide peer-review for journal paper submissions.”



I don’t really *do* anything with membership, other than attend the conference.

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

We asked respondents which of the following statements they most agreed with: *IAGLR should expand its international engagement beyond Canada and the United States* OR *IAGLR should focus on the Laurentian Great Lakes*.

62%

agree that IAGLR should **expand its international engagement**



38%

think IAGLR should **focus on the Laurentian Great Lakes**

“ *I think the ‘heart’ of IAGLR should be the Laurentian Great Lakes; however, more engagement beyond Canada and the USA would be strongly welcomed.*

”

When asked to elaborate, respondents shared a more nuanced view. Internationalization would be good for science by broadening the research perspective, fostering global collaboration, and diversifying the community. On the other hand, IAGLR fulfills a critical niche in bringing together a multidisciplinary community of researchers around the Laurentian Great Lakes. Other concerns relate to the challenge of attending international conferences, competition with other societies, and IAGLR’s administrative capacity.

A VOICE FOR THE GREAT LAKES

IAGLR’s top benefit is its mandate to promote all aspects of large lakes research and to communicate research findings. A full 95% of respondents considered this important, with 71% indicating it as very important. Respondents

suggested IAGLR take a more active role in being a recognized champion for the Great Lakes and communicate with a wider audience, including policymakers, resource managers, and the public. This role would encompass the

association being not only a credible source of information about the Great Lakes, but also their advocate, as long as such activity is conducted from a solid science base.



Wouldn’t it be great if IAGLR was seen as a voice fighting for Great Lakes conservation and research in Great Lakes states, provinces, and federal governments.



We asked respondents several open-ended questions so they could more freely share their thoughts. We captured the top themes that emerged in the following word clouds, along with comments that illustrated these themes.

WHAT DOES IAGLR DO WELL?



“

Coordinates well with its membership. Promotes Great Lakes issues. Disseminates scientific data to a wider audience. Provides a 'home' for people working on large lakes to foster beneficial interactions.

Attracting a range of researchers from different disciplines with interests which intersect.

Gives a friendly forum for students to learn and grow.

IAGLR puts on good conferences, publishes a good journal, and helps foster a Great Lakes research community.

I find the journal to be excellent, with high quality research and scope.

Organize conferences that bring together passionate researchers in a smaller environment that allows for great chances to interact and discuss collaborations.

”

WHAT COULD IAGLR DO BETTER?

“

Improve recognition as the authority on Great Lakes (stronger science-policy linkages, experts, renew/generate position or policy papers).

Attract under-represented groups into the society and profession.

More networking opportunities outside of conferences.

Foster diverse ideas and concepts.

The journal needs to become freely accessible after a period of time (2 to 4 years) in order to be relevant to non-academics.

Streamline the conference. There are too many competing sessions happening at the same time.

Increase their presence in the scientific community and communicate more broadly to those outside the scientific community.

”



* c&o: communications & outreach



WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT IF IAGLR ...



“

Had more interaction with the non-science general public to show how important lakes are, and their environmental status is critical to us all.

Had dedicated space for Indigenous TEK contributions at the conference and in the journal.

Was the first place policy makers and scientists thought of when seeking information about Great Lakes.

Maintained the feeling of a small, welcoming community, but also encouraged greater participation and attendance from great lakes researchers around the globe.

Could decrease the number of concurrent sessions at the conference so that duplication is reduced and attendees can see more presentations.

”

PROFESSIONAL NEEDS & CHALLENGES

“

Consistent funding.

Well-trained and qualified staff.

Limited access to funding and instrumentation, which severely limits my ability to do the research.

Developing interdisciplinary research. We often still work in silos.

Staying on top of all the information that is out there.

Not enough time.

Few jobs available for fully qualified professionals in our basin.

Rewarding researchers for more than just publishing - need reward systems for outreach, work to transfer science to end-users.

Hazing has no place in our academic or professional worlds and needs to be stopped.

”





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the following people who made this survey possible.

The **330 members and former members** who took the time to complete the survey, as well as those who helped test early versions.

The 2018 Member Survey team:

Susan Daniel
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Outreach Committee Co-Chair

Owen Stefaniak
Student Board Member

Laura Tessier
Student Board Member

Allison Vogelsong-Zejnati
Communication & Outreach Committee Co-Chair

The International Association for Great Lakes Research is a scientific organization made up of researchers studying the Laurentian Great Lakes, other large lakes of the world, and their watersheds, as well as those with an interest in such research.

With its mission to advance understanding of the world's great lake ecosystems, IAGLR is uniquely positioned to foster the connection between science and policy, a connection vital for effective management and protection of the world's large lakes.

International Association for
Great Lakes Research
Ann Arbor, MI
iaglr.org