

WHA Member Survey: Report

(Delivered to WHA Council, April 22, 2006, Washington D.C.)

A. Date of Birth:

1914-1920 (14)	1.4%
1921-1930 (71)	9.3%
1931-1940 (134)	17.6%
1941-1950 (215)	28.5%
1951-1960 (133)	17.5%
1961-1970 (114)	15 %
1971-1982 (64)	8.4%
Not Provided (16)	2.6%

B. Gender:

Female (234) 31.1% (of the 756 [of 761] respondents)
Male (521) 68.8% (of the 756 [of 761] respondents)

C. Race:

761 returned the survey; 705 responded and 56 did not respond to the race question.
609 of the 705 respondents are white/Anglo/ Caucasian/European: approx. 86.5%.
20 Native American respondents: just below 3%.
20 Chicano/Latino/Hispanic/Mexican-American respondents: just below 3%.
4 respondents identified as African-American
3 respondents identified as Asian.
6 respondents identified as "human"
4 respondents identified as "mixed."
13 respondents offered commentary on the race question.

D. Place of Residence:

California (121)	16.9% (of the 725 respondents)
Texas (49)	6.8%
Colorado (47)	6.5%
Arizona (45)	6.2%
New Mexico (39)	5.4%
Utah (28)	
Washington (28)	
Oklahoma (27)	
Oregon (22)	
Montana (19)	
Wisconsin (19)	

D. Educational Level:

Ph.D.	(433)	57.6% (of the 752 respondents)
ABD	(64)	8.5%
MA	(159)	21.15%
BA(52)		6.93%

E. Principle Occupation:

Faculty, 4yr.:	260	35.9% (of the 724 respondents)
Retired:	129	17.8%
Independent:	54	7.5%
Student-PhD	43	5.9%
Faculty, 2yr	41	5.7%
Archivist	38	5.25%
Gov. (+BLM/NPS)	36	5%
Museum/Sites	26	3.6%
Faculty, El, Mid, Hi	19	2.6%
Editor/Publisher	19	2.6%

F. Geographic Area of Interest: (Raw #, not %: NB: multiple responses allowed):

American West	645
United States	384
US Mountain West	344
US Southwest	330
US Midwest/Plains	249
US Pacific Northwest	197
Mexico	118
US South/Southeast	99
Pacific, inc. A&H	96
Americas	95
Other	57*
US Old Northwest	46
US Northeast	45
South and Central Am.	45
Canada	38

*NB: Under "other," 15 respondents put "California and 3 listed Texas.

H: Topical Areas of Interest: Raw #, not %: NB: multiple responses allowed):

Native Am/1 st nations	257	(NB: + Ethnohistory/Ethnology: 97)
Borderlands	218	
Frontier	215	
Environment	183	
Military/Exploration	147	(NB: + Exploration: 89)
State and Local	112	
Cultural/Intellectual	107	
Biography	106	
Ethnohistory/Ethnology	97	
Agriculture	94	
Social	89	
Women	89	
Exploration	89	
Political	88	
Public	84	
*Other	82	*(Mining: 12)
Fur Trade/Hunting	80	
Immigration	73	
Historic Preservation	72	
Regionalism	69	
Pop Culture/Media	64	
National parks	63	
Colonial/Colonialism	60	
Urban/Community	60	
Religion	59	
Gender & Sexuality	55	
Labor/Class	55	
Lit/Arts	44	(NB: + Art: 29) (NB: + Architecture: 27)
Tourism	43	
Canadian	41	
Oral Hist	41	
Historiography	40	(NB: + Method/Theory: 32)
Latino/a/Chicano/a	40	
Science/Tech/Ind	39	
African American	36	
Method/Theory	32	
Transportation	32	
Art	29	
Architecture	27	
Business/Economics	27	
Foreign Relations	24	
Violence	23	
Comparative Legal/Const	20	
Asian American	22	
Demog./Quantification	11	

I: Period of Primary Interest

19 th -20 th :	335 (*of the 745 respondents)
20 th	193
19 th	146
18 th -19 th	142
16 th -18 th	22
Pre-16 th	4
All periods	3

*NB: Respondents were permitted to check more than one category, so percentages are not provided here.

J. Professional Self-Identification (752 respondents)

Primarily a WH	284	38%
Not a WH but WH = Central	259	34.5%
Not primarily a historian	115	15%
Not a WH but interested in WH	94	12.5%

K: Years of Membership (657 respondents)

2-5 yrs	164
6-10 yrs	123
11-15 yrs	83
16-20 yrs	64
1 yr	60
21-25 yrs	46
26-30 yrs	44
31-35 yrs	31
36-40 yrs	21
41-43 yrs	8
Since Est	25 [i.e. for 44 years]
Other	5
Blank	87

Section II: The State of Western History**Question 1:** Western history has a significant impact on scholarship in US history:

(736 respondents)

SA	(260)	35%
A	(363)	49%
N	(58)	8%
D	(33)	4.5%
SD	(2)	
NA	(20)	
Blank	(25)	

Question 2: Western history has a significant impact on scholarship beyond US history and in other disciplines:

(731 respondents)

SA	(115)	16%
A	(320)	44%
N	(171)	23%
D	(73)	10%
SD	(8)	0.1%
NA	(44)	6%
Blank	(30)	

Question 3: The work being done in western history speaks to the concerns of the interested public:

(729 respondents)

SA	(116)	16%
A	(385)	53%
N	(129)	18%
D	(54)	7.5%
SD	(18)	2.5%
NA	(27)	4%
Blank	(32)	

Question 4: The work being done in western history speaks to the concerns of those working in museums, libraries, archives, and those interested in public programming.

(732 respondents)

SA	(198)	27%
A	(376)	51%
N	(86)	12%
D	(21)	3%
SD	(5)	0.7%
NA	(44)	6%
Blank	(29)	

Question 5: As reflected in the job market (academic or public), western history is healthy

(730 respondents)

SA	(25)	3.5%
A	(209)	29%
N	(230)	31.5%
D	(123)	17%
SD	(18)	2.5%
NA	(124)	17%
Blank	(31)	

Question 6: As reflected in the realm of publishing (books and articles), western history is healthy

(729 respondents)

SA	(165)	23%
A	(433)	59.5%
N	(78)	11%
D	(29)	4%
SD	(8)	0.1%
NA	(19)	2.5%
Blank	(29)	

III: A. WHA Conference Attendance

(713 respondents)

Zero in 5	(216)	30%
1yr in 5	(135)	19%
2yrs in 5	(126)	18%
3yrs in 5	(85)	12%
4yrs in 5	(69)	10%
Past 5yrs	(82)	11.5%
Blank	(48)	6.5% (of the 761 total respondents)

III: B: Factors contributing to decision to become a member, maintain membership, or attend annual conference:

The figures below draw percentages from all 761 responses (including those that are Blank for a particular question (no percentages for blanks, although they run 11% to 17%). These figures, just for convenience of generalizing, lump 1 and 2 to get at "Important" and 4 and 5 to get "not important." Percentages are not provided on the middle "neutral" answer, since the point here is to underscore "strength" of sentiment in response (important or not).

Factor 1: WHA annual conference, location

1+2 = 46.4%

4+5 = 22%

Factor 2: WHA annual conference, timing

1+2 = 29.6%

4+5 = 34%

Factor 3: WHA annual conference, costs

1+2 = 28%

4+5 = 33.9%

Factor 4: Conference program and sessions

1+2 = 52%

4+5 = 14.1%

Factor 5: conference meals/meetings for special constituencies

1+2= 7.4%

4+5= 57.6%

Factor 6: Conference receptions, pres lunch, annual banquet

1+2= 8.8%

4+5= 58%

Factor 7: Conference tours

1+2= 22%

4+5= 39.3%

Factor 8: Book exhibits

1+2= 42%

4+5= 20.9

Factor 9: Social collegiality at conference

1+2= 57%

4+5= 11.8

Factor 10: Intellectual exchange and collegiality at conference

1+2= 67%

4+5= 9%

Factor 11: Opportunity to participate in WHA governance

1+2= 10.6%

4+5= 55.3%

Factor 12: Reputation of WHA as open

1+2= 38.6%

4+5= 21.5%

blank= 17.2% the highest blank rate....

Factor 13: *WHQ*

1+2= 59.8%

4+5= 9.9%

Factor 14: *Montana: The Magazine of Western History*

1+2= 44%

4+5= 29.6%

Factor 15: WHA Newsletter

1+2= 28.1%

4+5= 30.5%

Factor 16: WHA website and communications

1+2= 14.3%

4+5= 45.6

Factor 17: WHA annual membership dues

1+2= 17.2%

4+5= 36.4%

Ranking of Factors, Positive to Negative

1. Factor 10: Intellectual exchange
2. Factor 13: *WHQ*
3. Factor 9: Social collegiality
4. Factor 4: Program/sessions
5. Factor 1: Annual conference location
6. Factor 14: *Montana*
7. Factor 8: Book exhibits
8. Factor 12: WHA reputation as open
9. Factor 2: Annual conference timing
10. Factor 15: WHA Newsletter
11. Factor 3: WHA annual conference costs
12. Factor 7: WHA annual conference tours
13. Factor 17: WHA annual membership dues
14. Factor 16: WHA website and communications
15. Factor 11: Opportunity to participate in WHA governance
16. Factor 6: Conference receptions, presidential lunch, annual banquet
17. Factor 5: Conference meals/meetings for special constituencies

III B: Commentary

Location (factor 1) seems to be important; timing (factor 2) seems less important, as does cost (factor 3). Factor 4, the conference program (which may have as much to do with whether a respondent is on the program as with whether the program as a whole looks interesting) is one of the most significant factors. Factor 5, meals/meetings for special constituencies, seems unimportant in people's decisions to attend WHA meetings. Factor 6 (Conference receptions, presidential luncheon and annual banquet) seems similarly unimportant, as do conference tours (Factor 7). However, the book exhibits (Factor 8), social collegiality (Factor 9) and intellectual exchange (Factor 10), all seem quite important (especially 9 and 10). Factor 11 (opportunity to participate in WHA affairs/governance) seems relatively unimportant as a motivating factor. Factor 12 (reputation of WHA as an open, professional organization) does not seem to be a vital factor. Factor 13 (*WHQ*) seems very important (receiving the second highest positive score), and Factor 14 (*Montana*) less so, though still significant (receiving the sixth highest positive score). Factors 15 (WHA Newsletter) and Factor 16 (WHA website and communications) did not score high on the importance scale. Factor 17 (annual membership dues) does not register a very positive score.

of Survey Mailed ____ # of Surveys Returned: 761. Return Rate = Approximately __%