

# Member Survey Results

The following slides state the purpose and summarize the results of a member survey conducted at the annual meeting in Colorado Springs, CO in 2004. A total of 215 surveys were returned from 308 persons in attendance at the meeting. Not everyone answered every question.



# Purpose of the Survey

- There is need to examine the purpose, structure and function of the Society to determine if changes are needed and to develop a vision for the future.
- Must know where we've been in order to know which direction to go.



Ecology teaches us that systems that fail to adapt to change, fail.

*"It is not the strongest of species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the ones most responsive to change."*

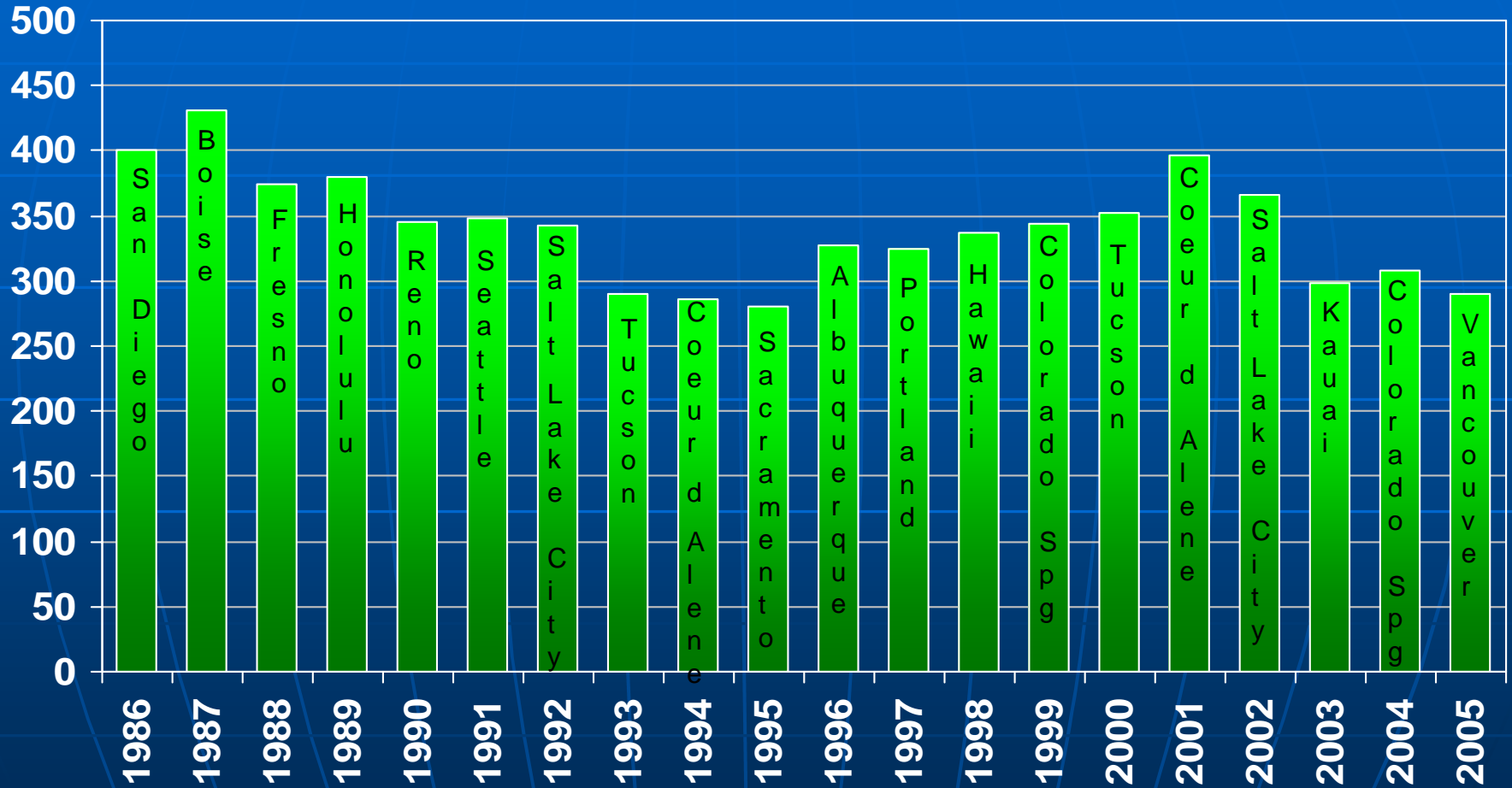
- Charles Darwin

Why should we expect organizations or institutions to respond differently?

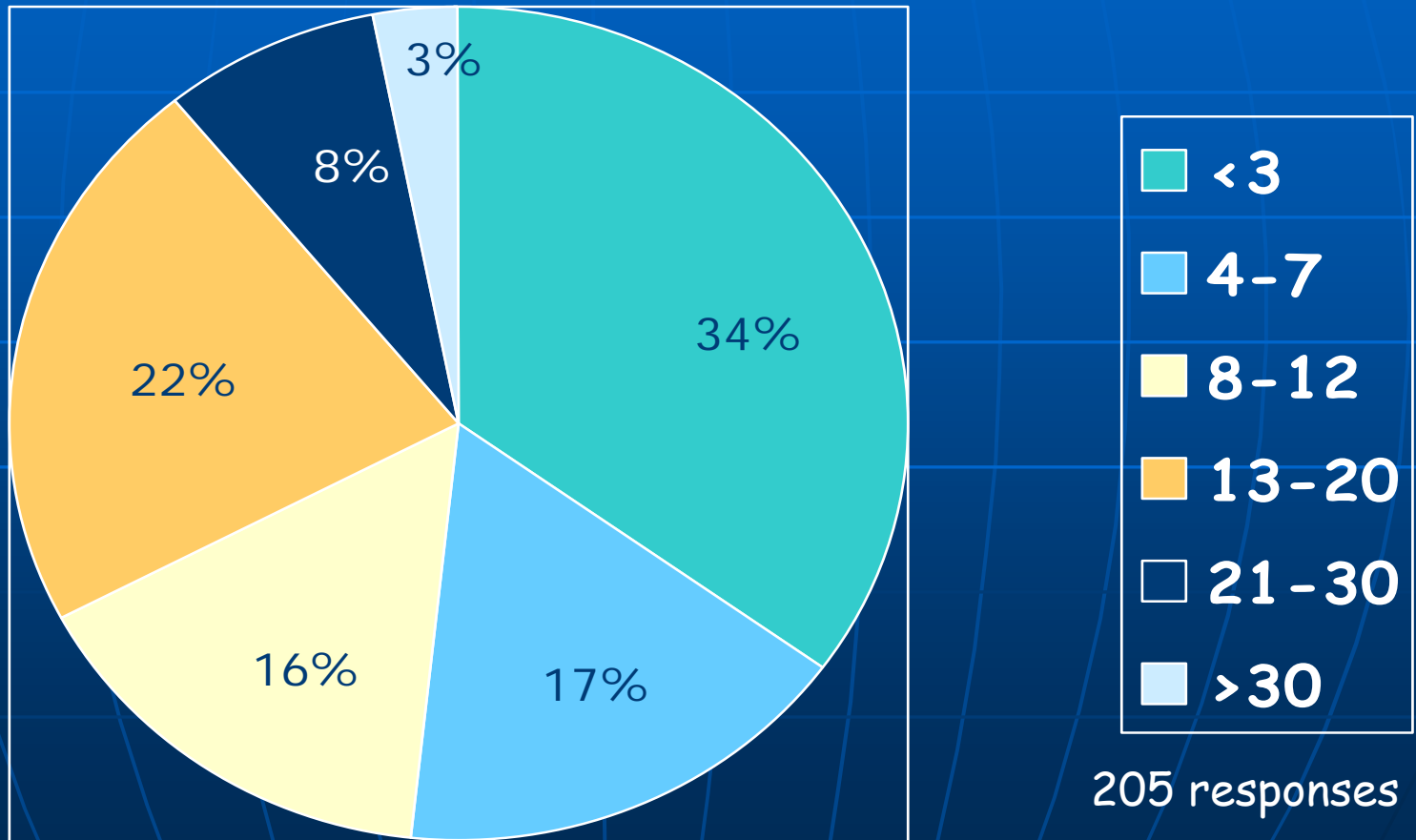
*"Even those who fancy themselves the most progressive will fight against other kinds of progress, for each of us is convinced that our way is the best way."*

— Louis L'Amour  
*The Lonely Men*

# WSWS Annual Meeting Attendance 1986-2005

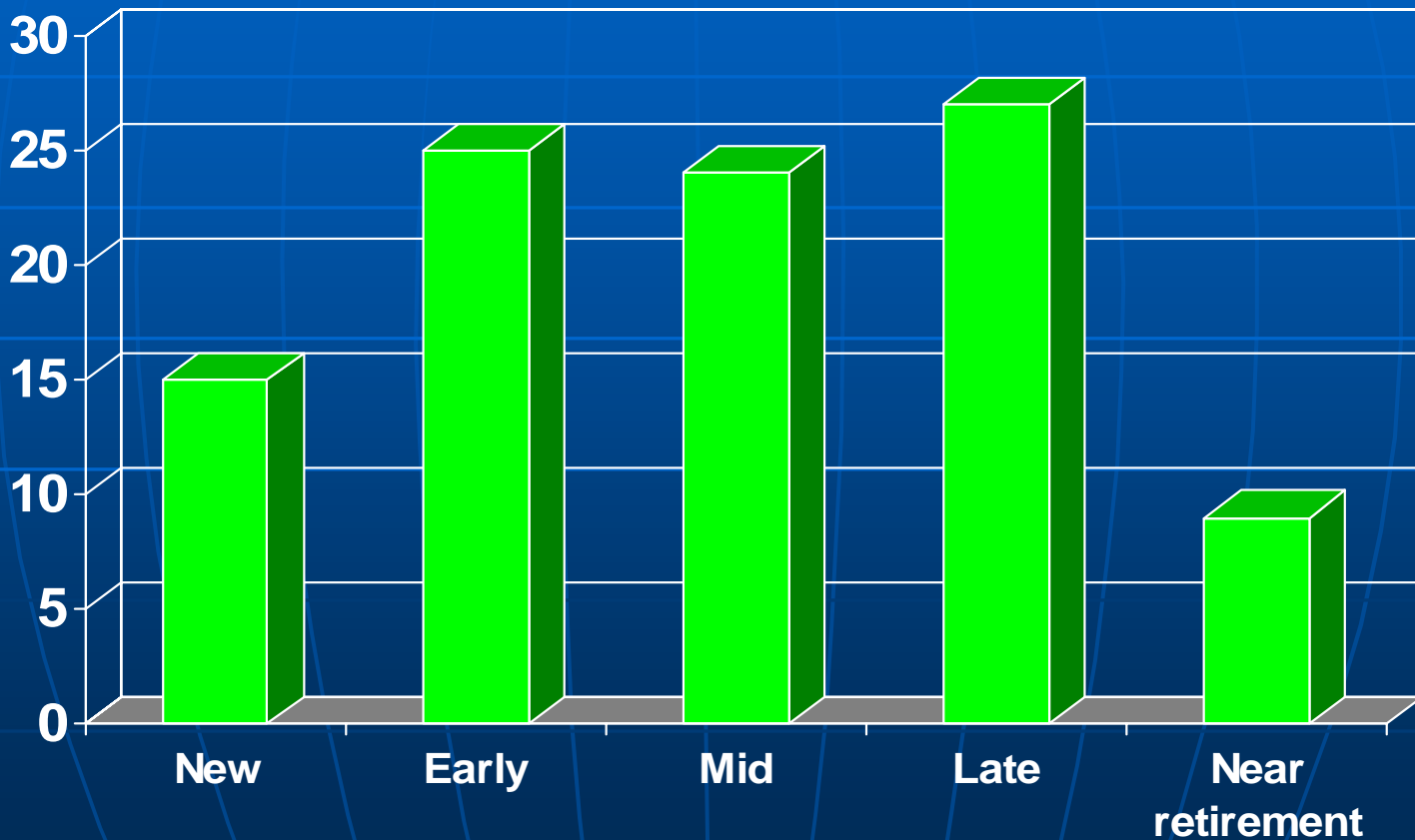


# How many years have you been a member of WSWS?



# Where are you in your career?

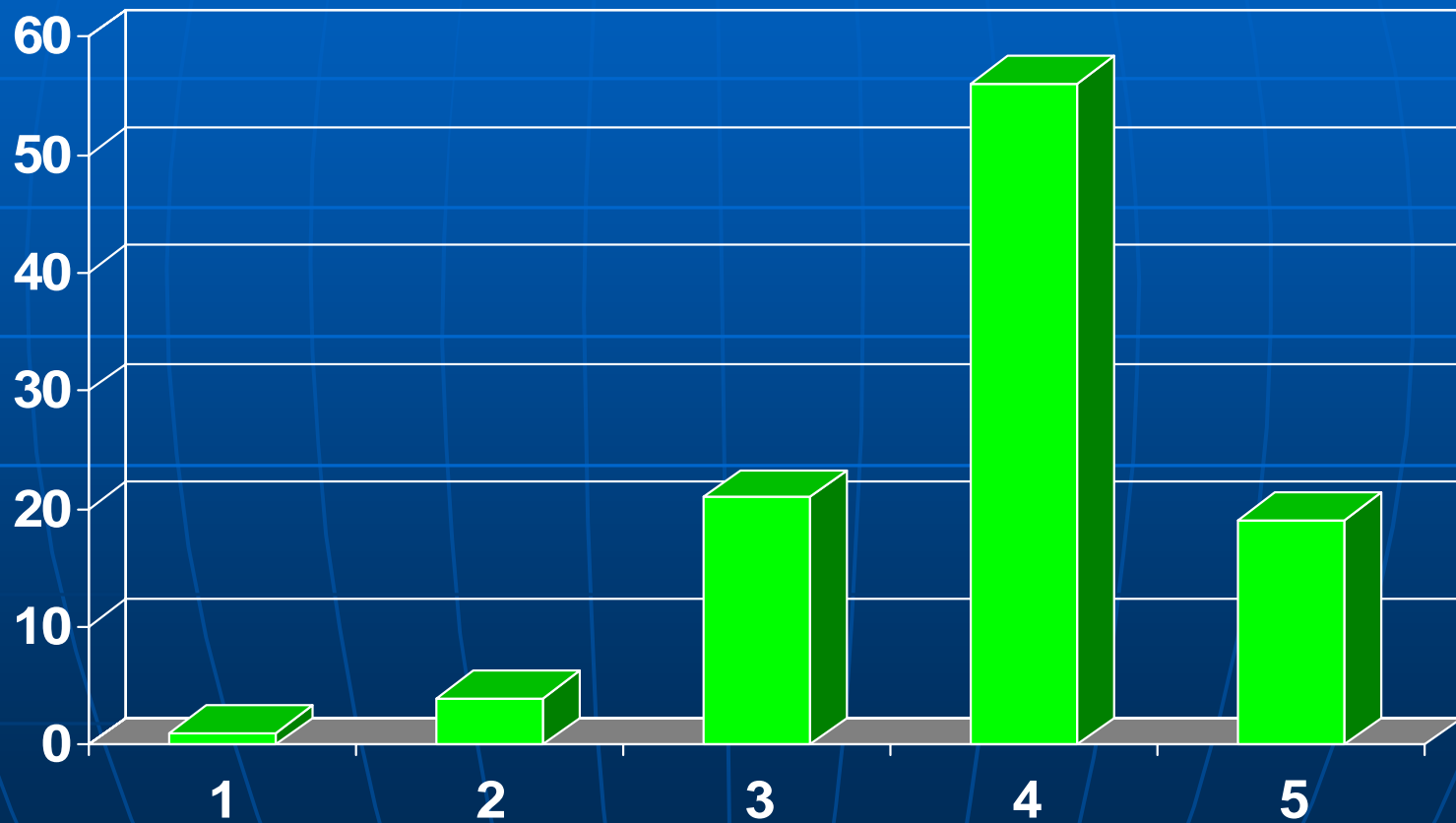
% of responses



198 responses

# How well is WSWS meeting your needs at this stage of your career?

% of responses



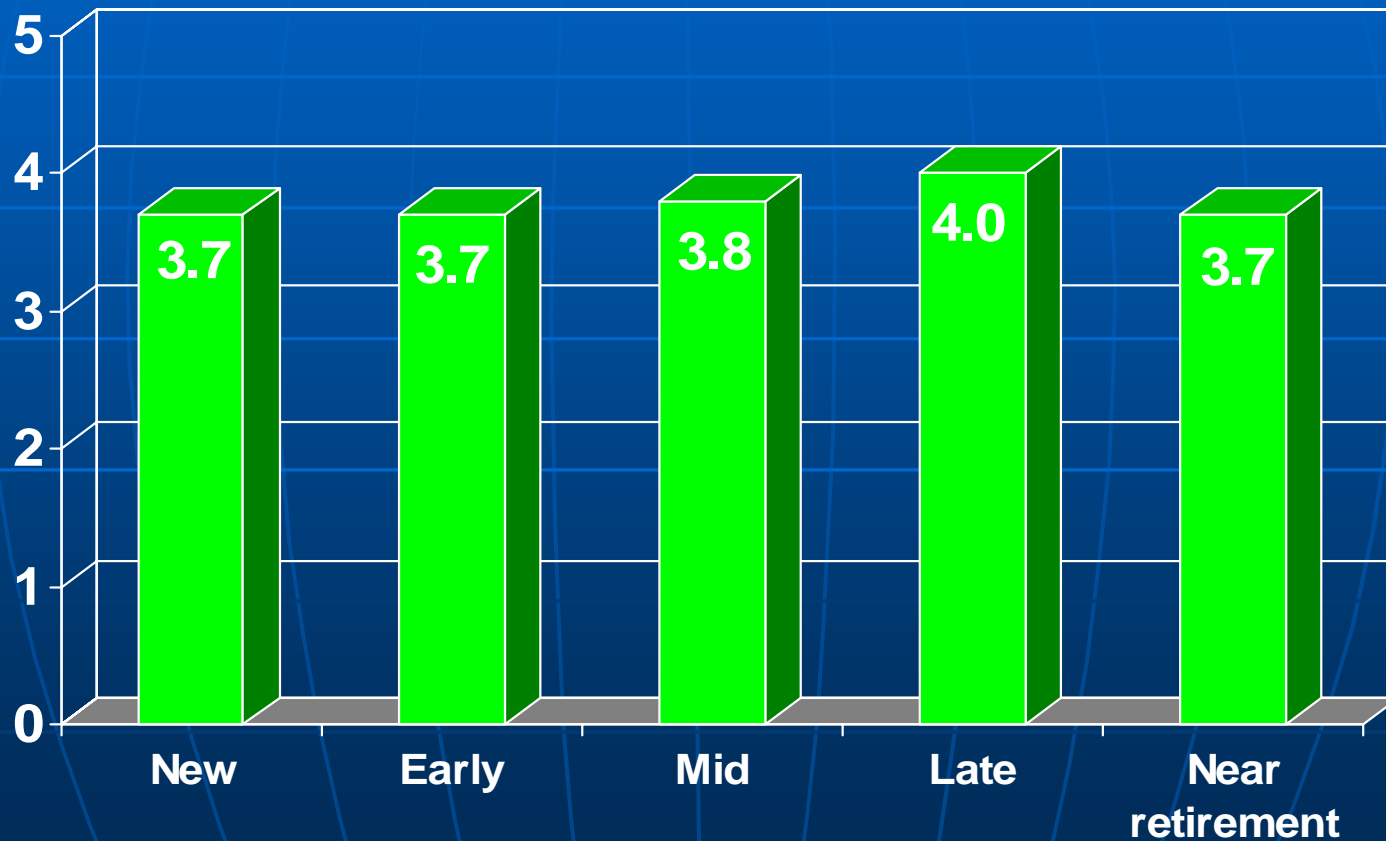
1 = low, 5 = high

200 responses, avg. 3.9



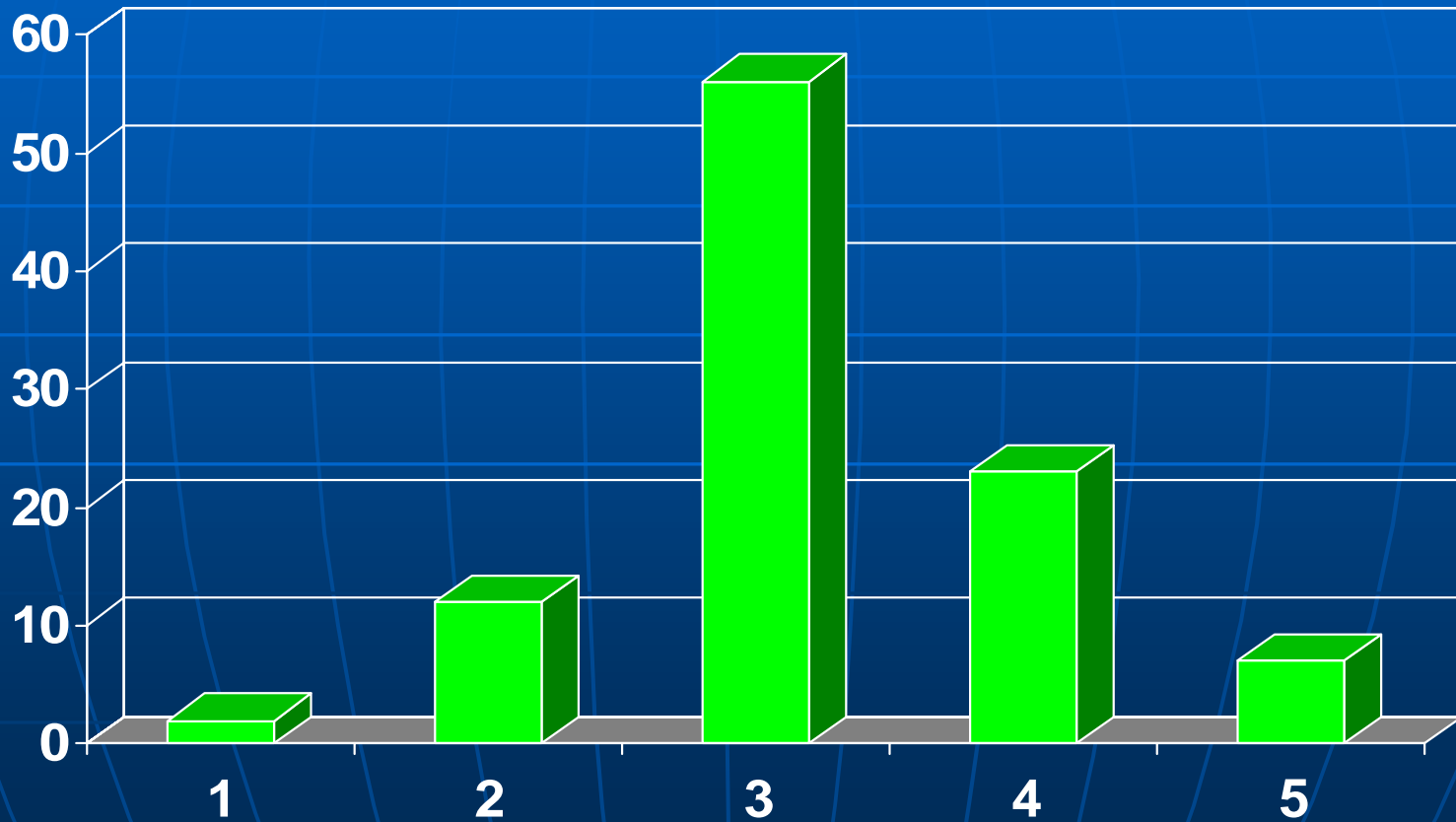
# Avg. satisfaction by stage of career

1 = low, 5 = high



# How well does WSWS identify and cultivate new leadership?

% of responses



1 = poorly, 5 = great

193 responses, avg. 3.2

# Process & Disclaimer

- Individual written comments to specific questions were grouped into one of several categories that emerged from the responses.
- Categorization of individual comments to the most appropriate category was subjective on the part of the person summarizing the responses.

# What does WSWS offer that is most valuable or useful to you?

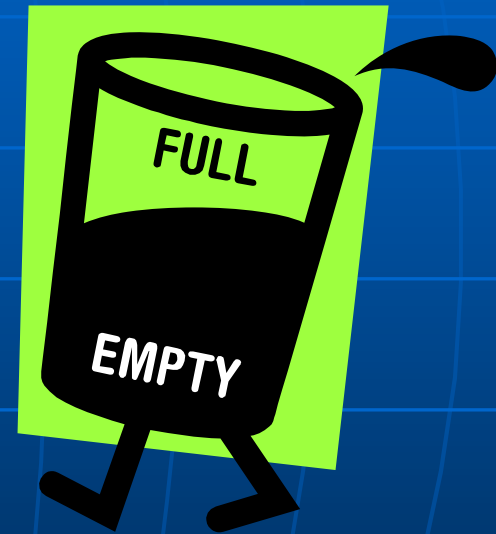
	no. of responses
■ Networking & interaction	111
■ Latest research & information	52
■ Annual meeting & symposia	24
■ Diversity, e.g. crops, range, etc.	17
■ Exposure & research feedback	15
■ Professional growth & breadth	11
■ Opportunities for students	7
■ Publications	5
■ Other individual comments	7

# What else should WSWS offer that would be of high value or use?

	no. of responses
■ Nothing; things are good as they are	30
■ More workshops & symposia	26
■ More ecology, IPM, other disciplines	19
■ Web based education	11
■ More on forests, range & invasive sp.	9
■ Focus on students & early career	7
■ Publications; new journal & reviews	7
■ More technical info on herbicides	6
■ Numerous single responses	

# Challenges, opportunities and trends in weed mgt next 5-10 yr?

- Challenges
  - 21 categories
- Opportunities & trends - 6 categories
- We must seek opportunities within the challenges



# Top 10 Challenges

% of responses

1. Invasive & noxious weeds; range, pasture & public lands; habitat & ecosystem restoration 20%
2. Funding issues 14%
3. Weed shifts & resistance; gene flow; weed genetics 10%
4. Improved cropping & IWM systems; biocontrol & non-traditional methods; integrating new technology 9%

# Top 10 Challenges

% of responses

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 5. Downsizing, retirements, lost positions; increased demands; low morale       | 9% |
| 6. Few new herbicides; fewer MOA & more generics; retaining current herbicides  | 7% |
| 7. Grow, diversity membership; attract federal personnel; control meeting costs | 5% |



# Top 10 Challenges

% of responses

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 8. Public acceptance of biotechnology, genomics                               | 4% |
| 9. Few employment opportunities   | 4% |
| 10. Influence policy, regulation, legislation; public education               | 4% |
| Honorable mention: Agency & institution cooperation; alliances & partnerships | 3% |

# Opportunities

% of responses

1. Chance to exercise leadership in invasive plant management, ecosystem restoration, range, forest, wildland weed mgt. 36%
2. Take advantage of public receptiveness to educate about invasive species, importance of weed management; exploit wildlife angle 18%

# Opportunities

% of responses

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 3. Exploit growth in specialty crops, turf & ornamentals                        | 14% |
| 3. Integration of management tools; alternative methods; weed biology & ecology | 14% |
| 3. Build partnerships and interdisciplinary cooperation                         | 14% |
| 6. Advance biotech traits, e.g. drought resistance                              | 5%  |

# Critical Issues

- Stay engaged and exercise leadership in invasive species and noxious weed issues
- Be proactive in identifying & securing funding sources for weed management research
- Be proactive in influencing policy, regulation & legislation, and engage in more public education

# Critical Issues

- Promote improved cropping and IWM systems, biocontrol and non-traditional control methods; develop & integrate new technology
- Foster and promote agency and institution cooperation; form alliances and partnerships; hold joint meetings when they make sense
- Weed shifts, herbicide resistance, gene flow, and genetics

# Critical Issues

- Diversify membership, seek a mix of scientists & federal agency personnel
- Consider meeting location, hotel and travel costs in light of increasingly tight budgets for most members

Thanks for your interest.

