

Community Association Profile Survey

Here are the results from the Community Association Profile Survey conducted in June. A special thank-you to all the volunteers who found the time to complete the survey and for the many thoughtful answers they provided.

The good news from the survey, as indicated by the responses to questions 8, 9 and 20 , is that there is a core of dedicated volunteers who work hard to make our communities a better living space for all. The not-so-good news is reflected in the responses to question 7 which indicates how few people appear to be actively engaged in doing this important work.

However, as noted in a discussion at a meeting of the FCA executive, whenever there are serious issues that affect the community, many more people can be, and often are, mobilized. This was described as "when they are needed, they are, or will be there" approach to community associations..

This has certainly proven to be the case in many communities. But this mean that a CA is only important when there are important local (or sub-local) issues at stake? The question that arises is whether this is an acceptable norm and whether healthy CAs are sustainable under those conditions.

Question 23 asks whether CAs have a designated position responsible of recruiting or managing volunteers. You will see the majority answered "No.". But clearly for some communities, the task is to get more people engaged.

Does size matter?

Another query raised during the discussion at the executive meeting was whether size was a factor. One can quickly see when comparing the presence of volunteer recruiters to community size (p.12 of summary) , that the smallest grouping (less than a 1,000 households) had one of the lowest percentages (16%). That seems reasonable given the size of the community, however, the third largest grouping of communities (400 - 7000 households) had the lowest percentage.(14%) .

Overall, among all the categories and responses, there was no strong correlation of community size to any of the variable. In other words, knowing the size of the community was not a good predictor of the response to any question.

Which brings us to the most important, but not surprising finding, namely there is no common profile of a community association. We are as different as the age and composition of communities we serve and in some cases, seek to preserve. But clearly, there are many similarities in where we devote our time and effort. Because we are in some ways so similar and in other ways so diverse, it is clear that there is benefit in seeing how others do things differently and much that we can learn from each other.

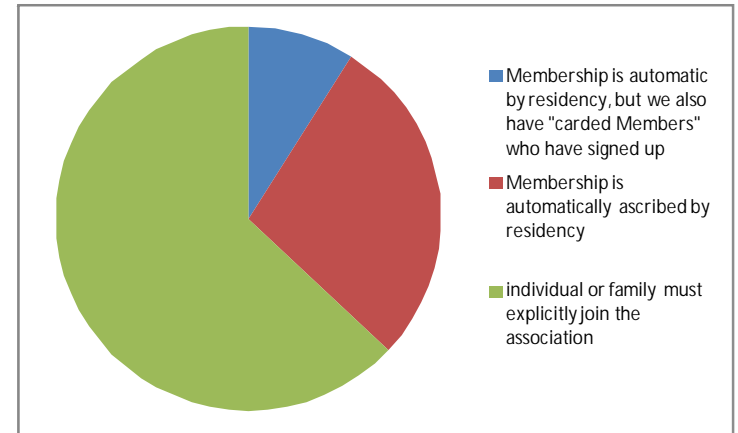
I hope these results provide useful input to the plans and aspirations of your association. If you have suggestions for follow-up surveys or suggestions on how the FCA can help your association become more vibrant and effective, please let me know.

John Chenier
Co-Chair, Communications

Q1. How is membership defined or obtained in your association?

Answer Options

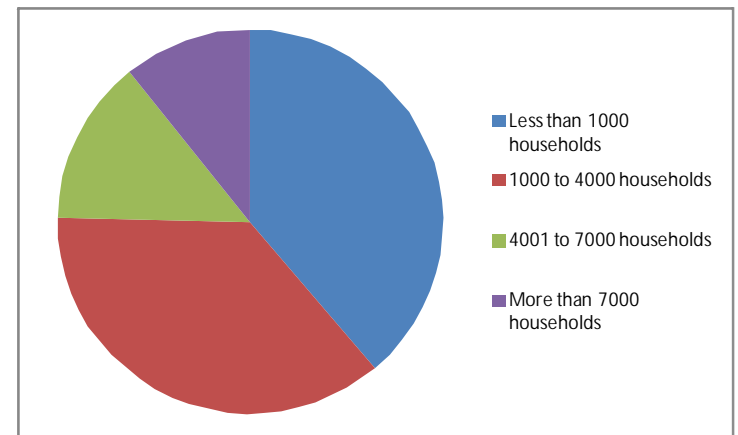
| | |
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| Membership is automatic by residency, but we also have "carded Members" who have signed up | 9% |
| Membership is automatically ascribed by residency | 28% |
| individual or family must explicitly join the association | 63% |



Q2. Approximately how many households or residences (not persons) are there in the region defined by your association?

Answer Options

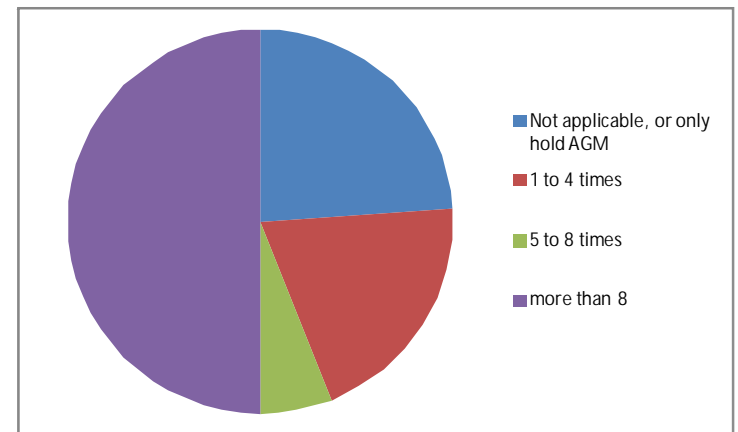
| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Less than 1000 households | 36% |
| 1000 to 4000 households | 34% |
| 4001 to 7000 households | 13% |
| More than 7000 households | 10% |



Q3. How many times does your association hold meetings other than an AGM open to all members per year?

Answer Options

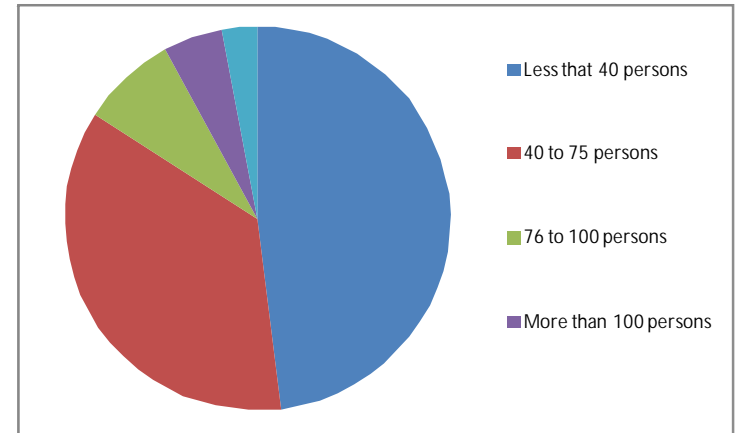
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|----------------------------------|-----|
| Not applicable, or only hold AGM | 24% |
| 1 to 4 times | 20% |
| 5 to 8 times | 6% |
| more than 8 | 50% |



Q4. How many people, on average, would you say attend your Association's AGM?

Answer Options

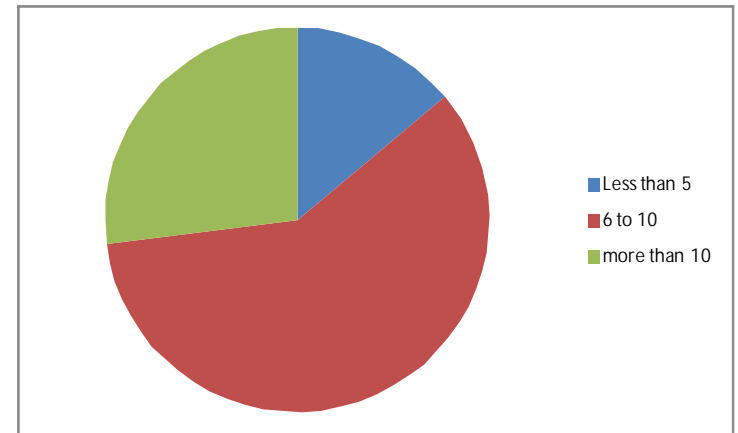
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|---|-----|
| Less than 40 persons | 48% |
| 40 to 75 persons | 36% |
| 76 to 100 persons | 8% |
| More than 100 persons | 5% |
| Not applicable, do not hold an annual general meeting | 3% |



Q5. How many people currently serve on your board of directors?

Answer Options

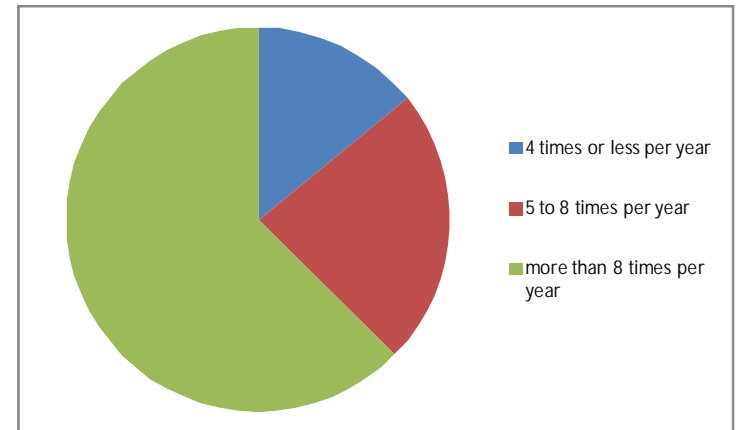
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| Less than 5 | 14% |
| 6 to 10 | 59% |
| more than 10 | 27% |



Q6. How many times does your board meet in a year?

Answer Options

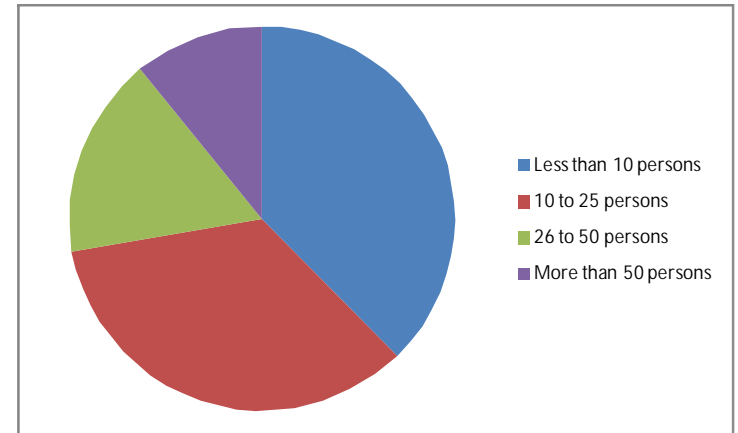
| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| 4 times or less per year | 14% |
| 5 to 8 times per year | 23% |
| more than 8 times per year | 62% |



Q7. How many individuals would you estimate to be very active in your association , including members of the board, people who serve on committees and others who regularly volunteer to work at association events?

Answer Options

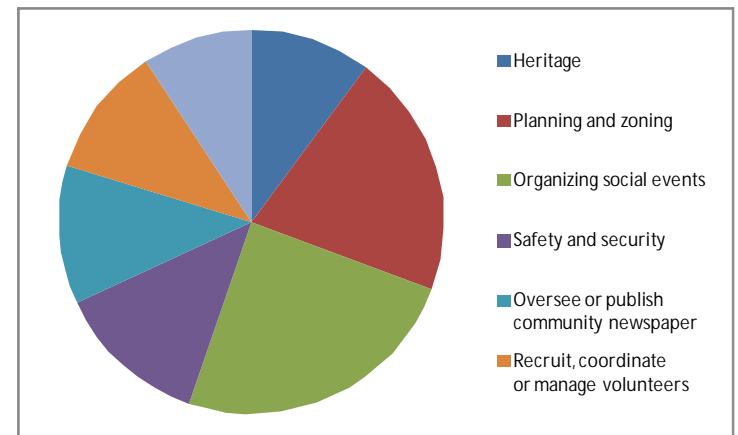
| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Less than 10 persons | 38% |
| 10 to 25 persons | 35% |
| 26 to 50 persons | 17% |
| More than 50 persons | 11% |



Q8. Please indicate the areas where members are actively engaged on behalf of your association.

Answer Options

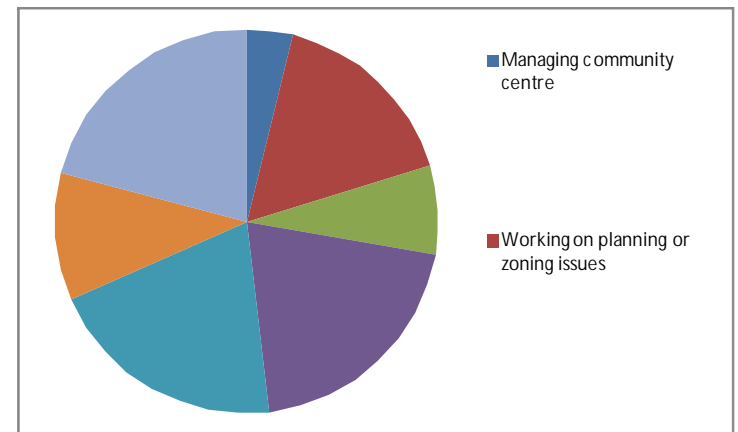
| | |
|--|-----|
| Heritage | 34% |
| Planning and zoning | 69% |
| Organizing social events | 82% |
| Safety and security | 43% |
| Oversee or publish community newspaper | 39% |
| Recruit, coordinate or manage volunteers | 37% |
| Oversee management of community facilities | 31% |



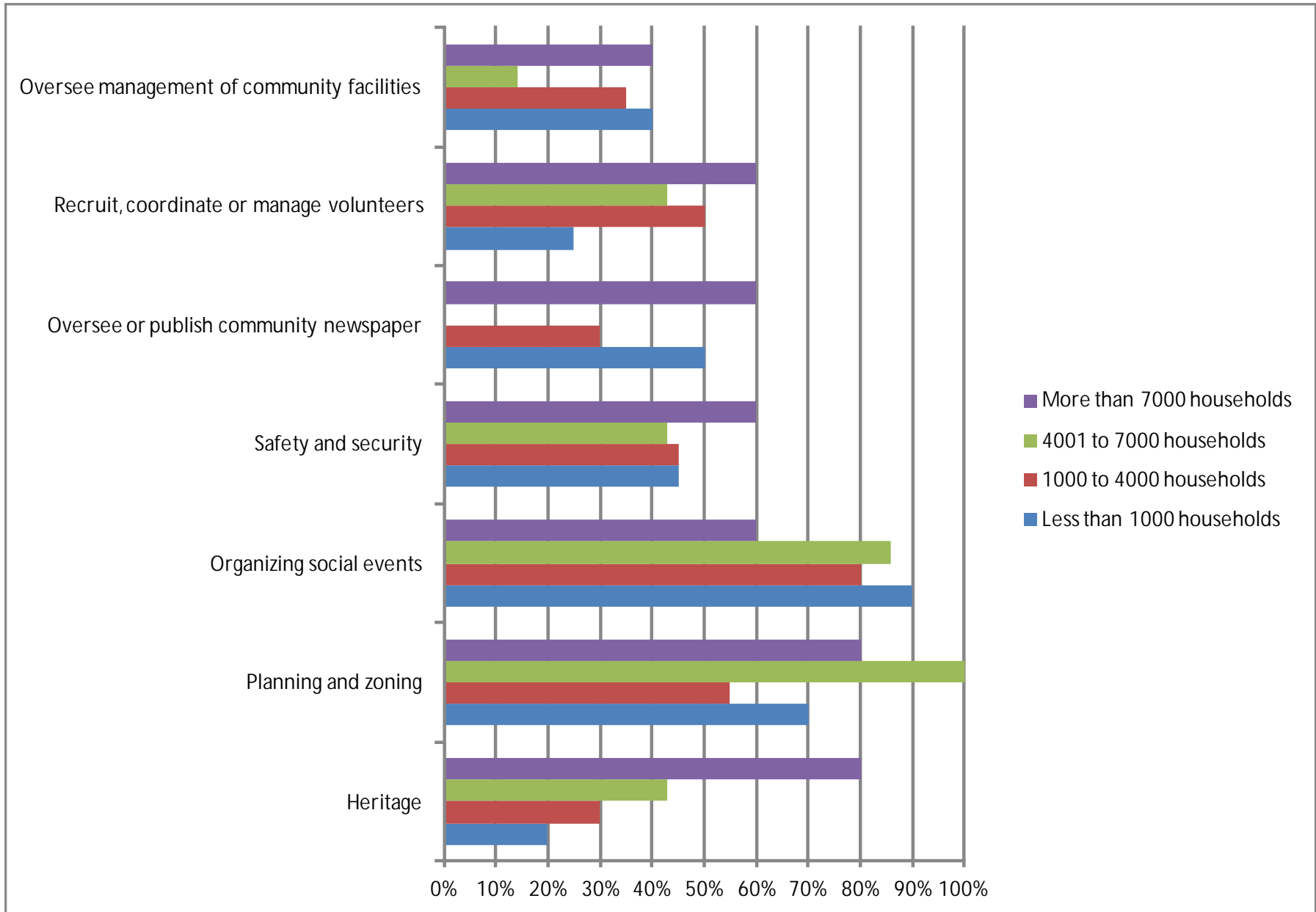
Q9. In your opinion, which of the following terms apply to the work of your association?

Answer Options

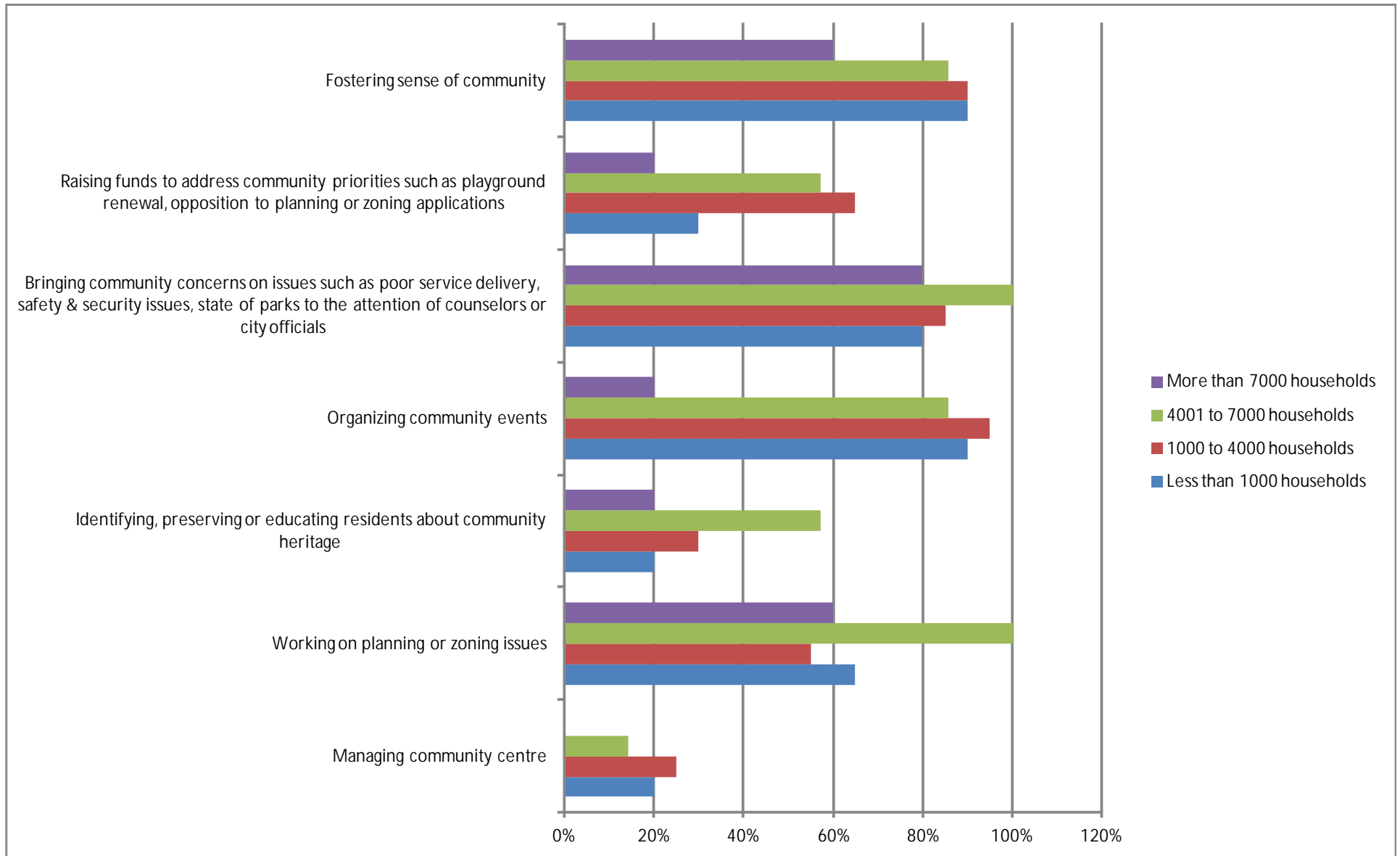
| | |
|--|-----|
| Managing community centre | 16% |
| Working on planning or zoning issues | 67% |
| Identifying, preserving or educating residents about community heritage | 31% |
| Organizing community events | 83% |
| Bringing community concerns on issues such as poor service delivery, safety & security issues, state of parks to the attention of counselors or city officials | 83% |
| Raising funds to address community priorities such as playground renewal, opposition to planning or zoning applications | 44% |
| Fostering sense of community | 86% |



Q 8. Please indicate the areas where members are actively engaged on behalf of your association. - Comparing responses by size of community



**Q 9. In your opinion, which of the following terms apply to the work of your association?
Comparing responses for perceived raison d'être to size of community**

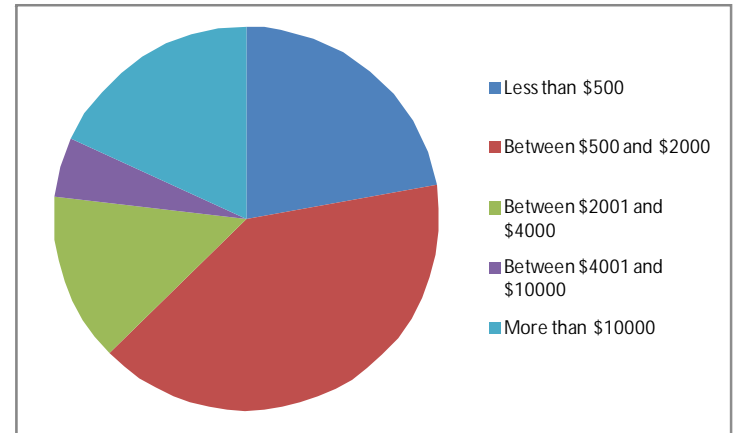


Q10. What is the annual expenditure budget of your association?

Answer Options

- Less than \$500
- Between \$500 and \$2000
- Between \$2001 and \$4000
- Between \$4001 and \$10000
- More than \$10000

- 22%
- 40%
- 14%
- 5%
- 18%

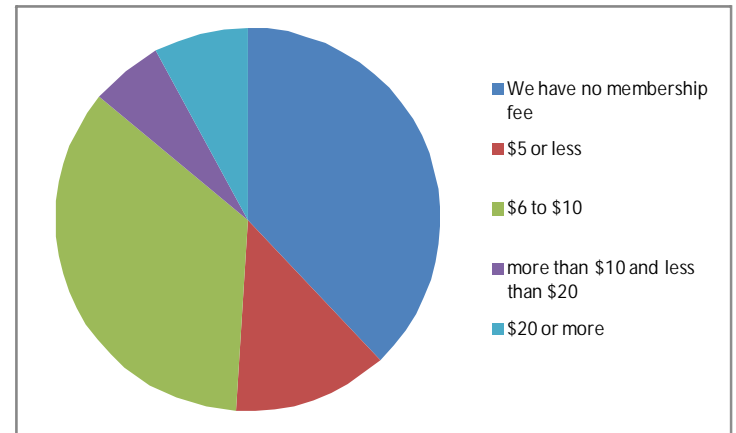


Q11. What is the membership fee at your association?

Answer Options

- We have no membership fee
- \$5 or less
- \$6 to \$10
- more than \$10 and less than \$20
- \$20 or more

- 38%
- 13%
- 35%
- 6%
- 8%

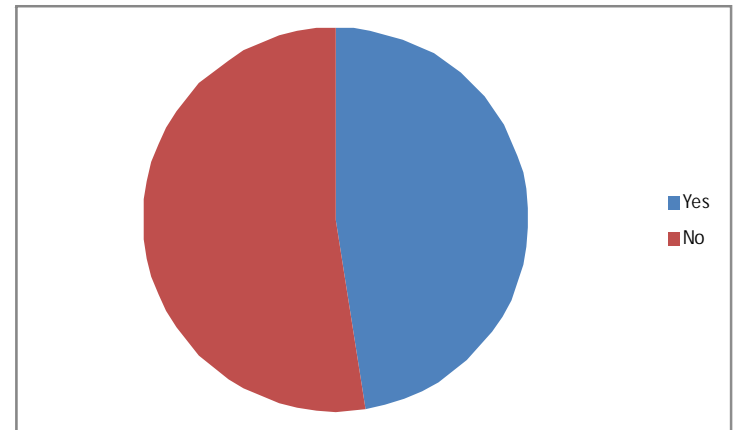


Q12. Does your association manage a skating rink on behalf of the city

Answer Options

- Yes
- No

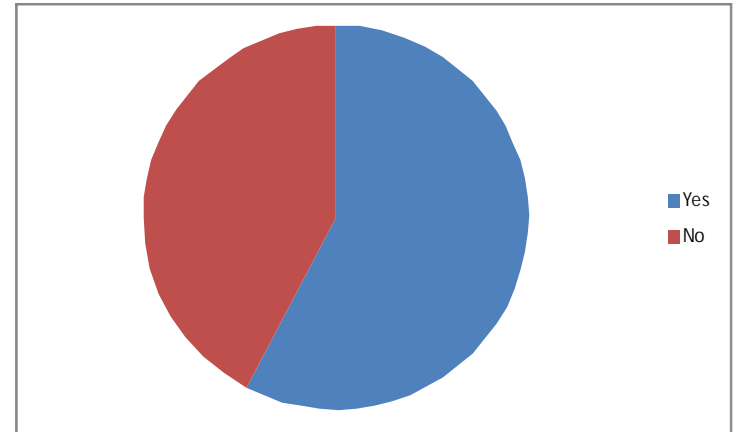
- 47%
- 52%



Q13. Does your community association undertake specific fund-raising activity?

Answer Options

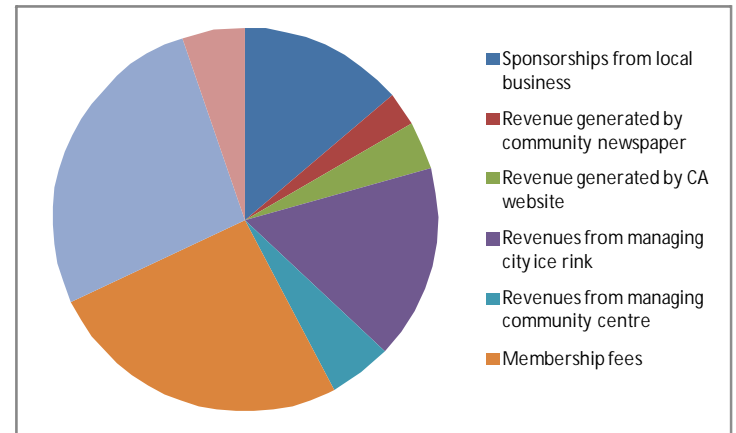
Yes 56%
No 41%



Q14. Indicate the sources of funds for your CA

Answer Options

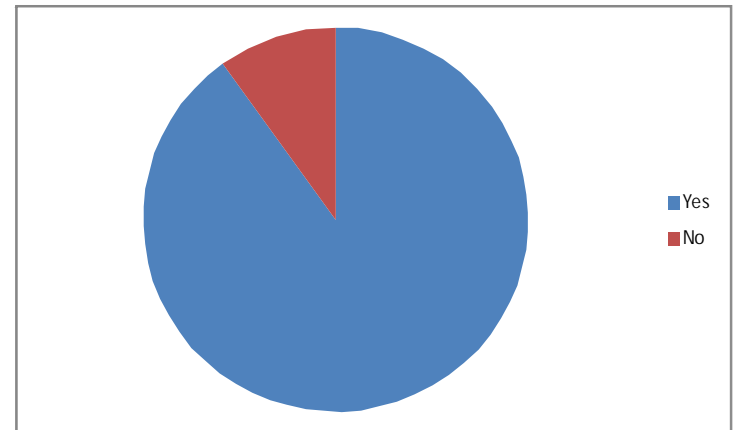
Sponsorships from local business 34%
Revenue generated by community newspaper 7%
Revenue generated by CA website 10%
Revenues from managing city ice rink 40%
Revenues from managing community centre 13%
Membership fees 63%
Donations and voluntary contributions 66%
Contributions from your councillor's budget 13%



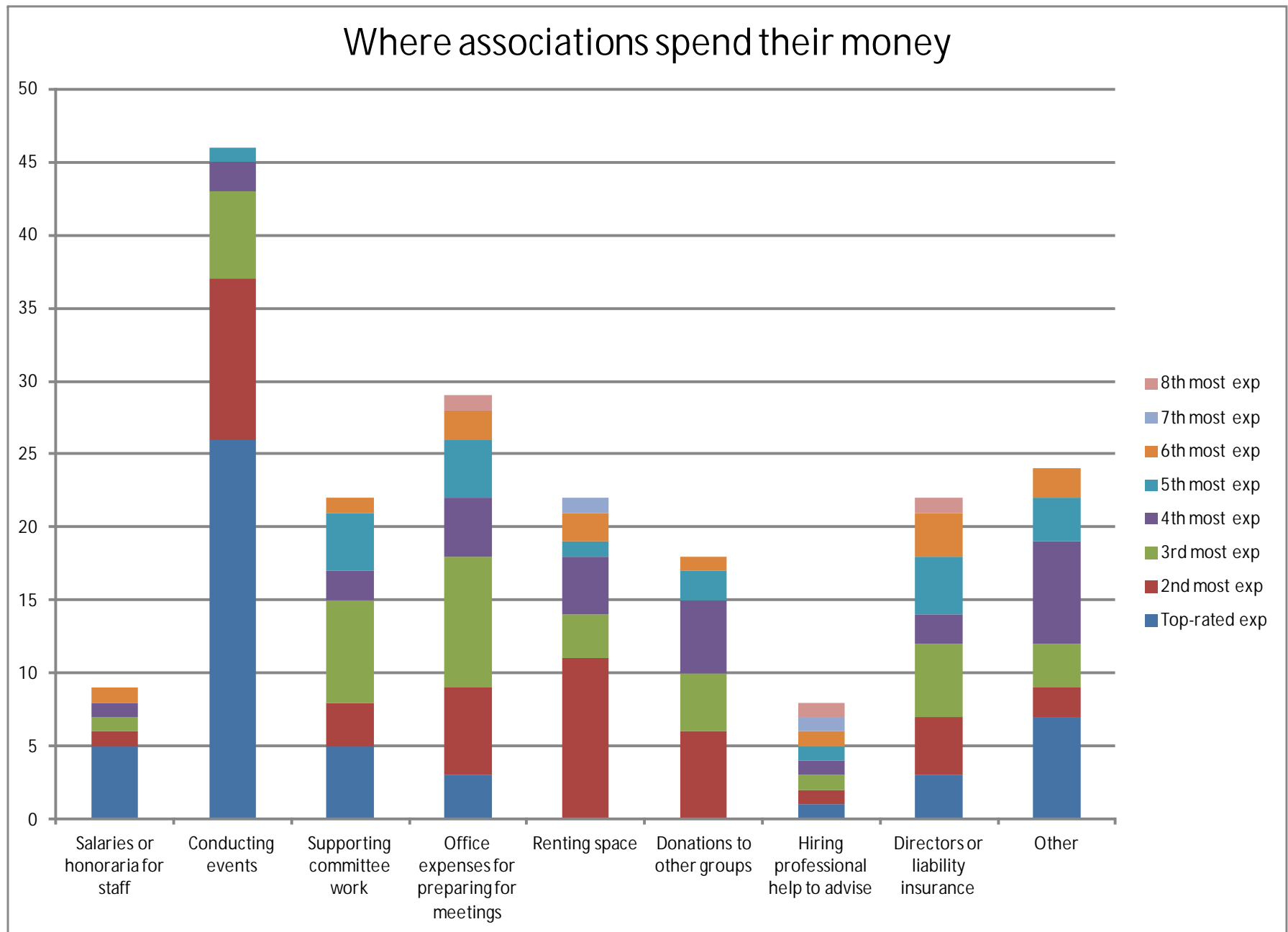
Q18. Do members of your association have regular contact with city officials other than those in the councilor's office?

Answer Options

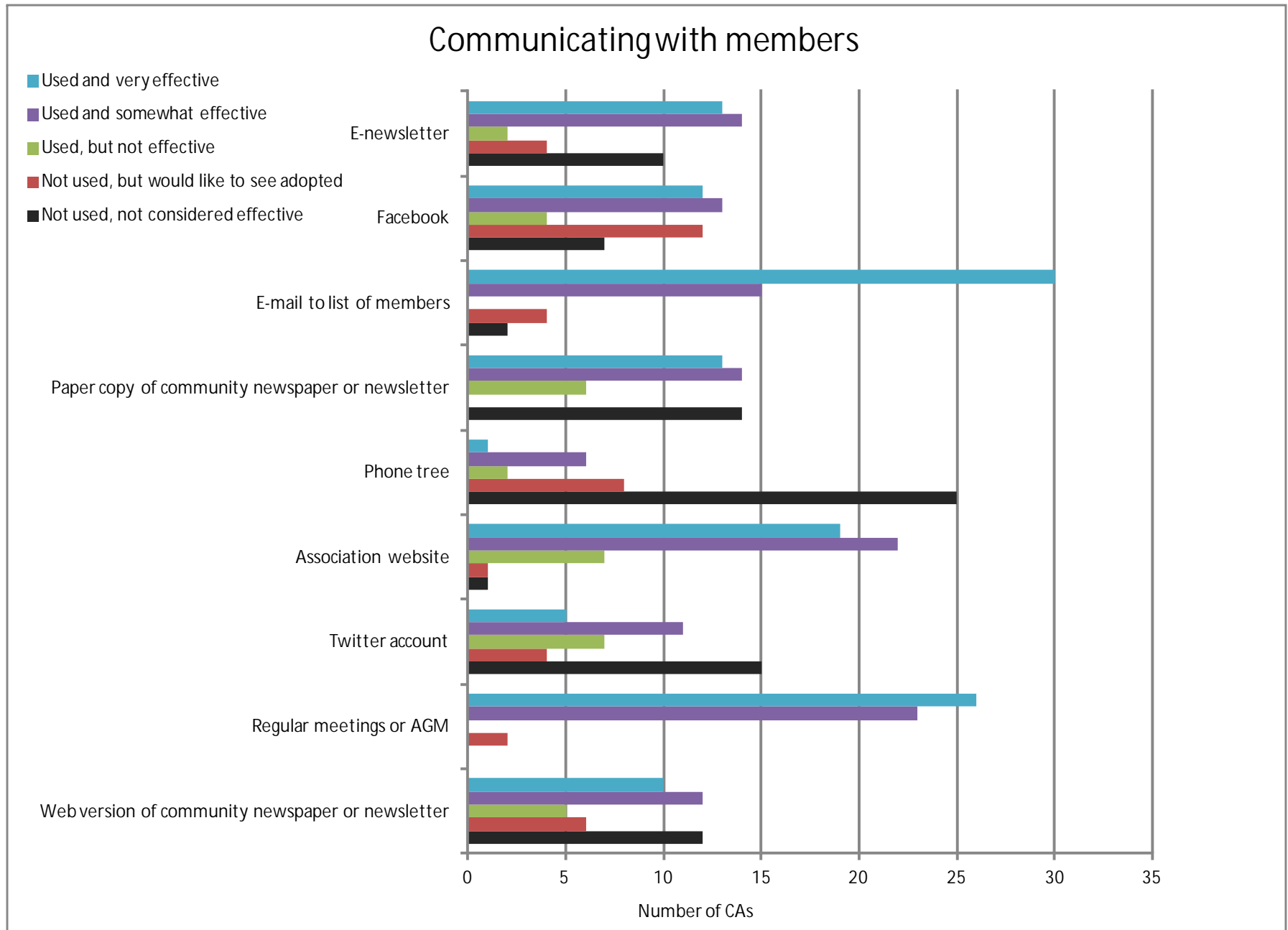
Yes 90%
No 10%



Q15. Where does your association spend its money? From the following list, rank where your CA spends money, with 1 being the item on which you spend the most



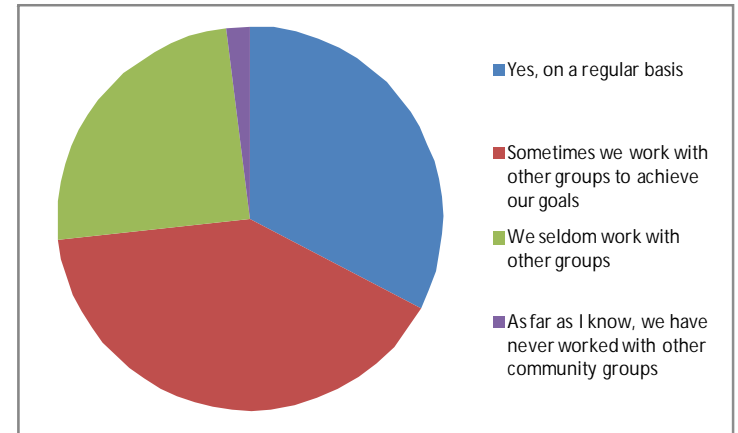
Q16. Please indicate from the list below which of these media your association uses and your estimate of the importance these play in fulfilling the purposes and objectives of your association



Q19. Does your Community Association have regular contact and collaborate with other citizens' associations or groups?

Answer Options

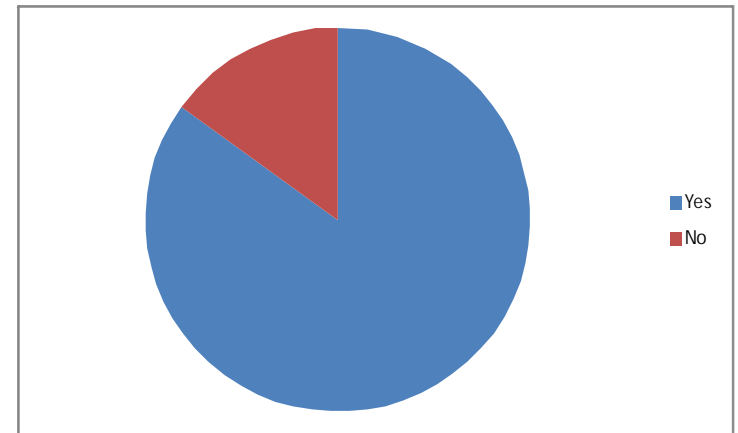
| | |
|--|-----|
| Yes, on a regular basis | 33% |
| Sometimes we work with other groups to achieve our goals | 41% |
| We seldom work with other groups | 25% |
| As far as I know, we have never worked with other community groups | 2% |



Q20. Have you held a formal elective position of Treasurer, Secretary, VP or President in your association?

Answer Options

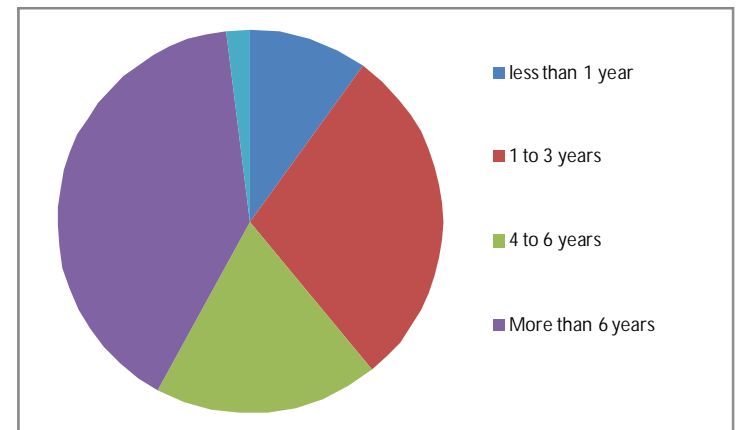
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| Yes | 85% |
| No | 15% |



Q21. How long have you served, in any capacity, on the board of your association?

Answer Options

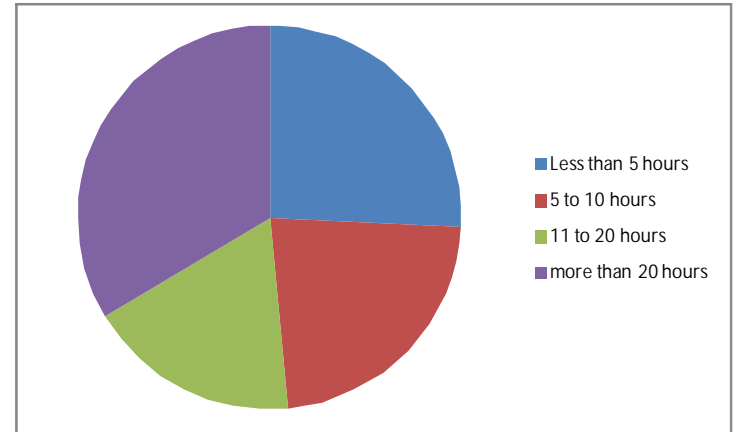
| | |
|---|-----|
| less than 1 year | 10% |
| 1 to 3 years | 29% |
| 4 to 6 years | 19% |
| More than 6 years | 40% |
| I have never served on the board or executive of my association | 2% |



Q22. How many hours on average, per month, did you spend on association related activities over the past 12 months?

Answer Options

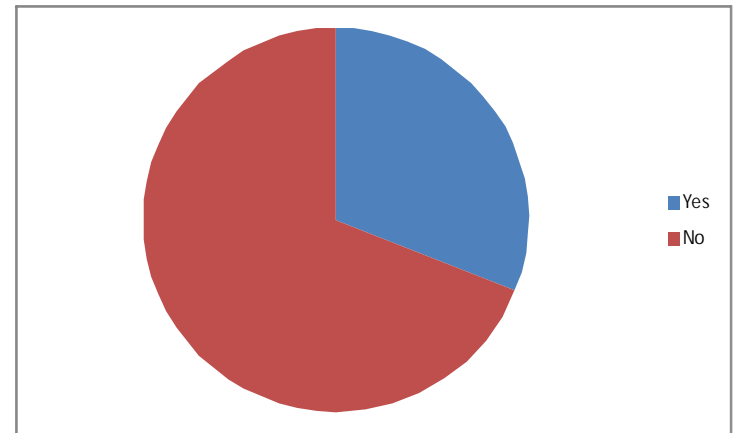
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| Less than 5 hours | 26% |
| 5 to 10 hours | 23% |
| 11 to 20 hours | 18% |
| more than 20 hours | 34% |



Q23. Does your CA have a specific person responsible for recruiting or managing volunteers?

Answer Options

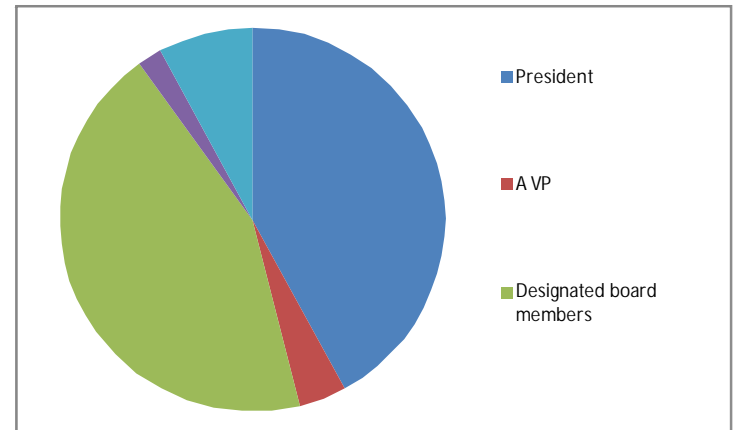
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| Yes | 31% |
| No | 69% |



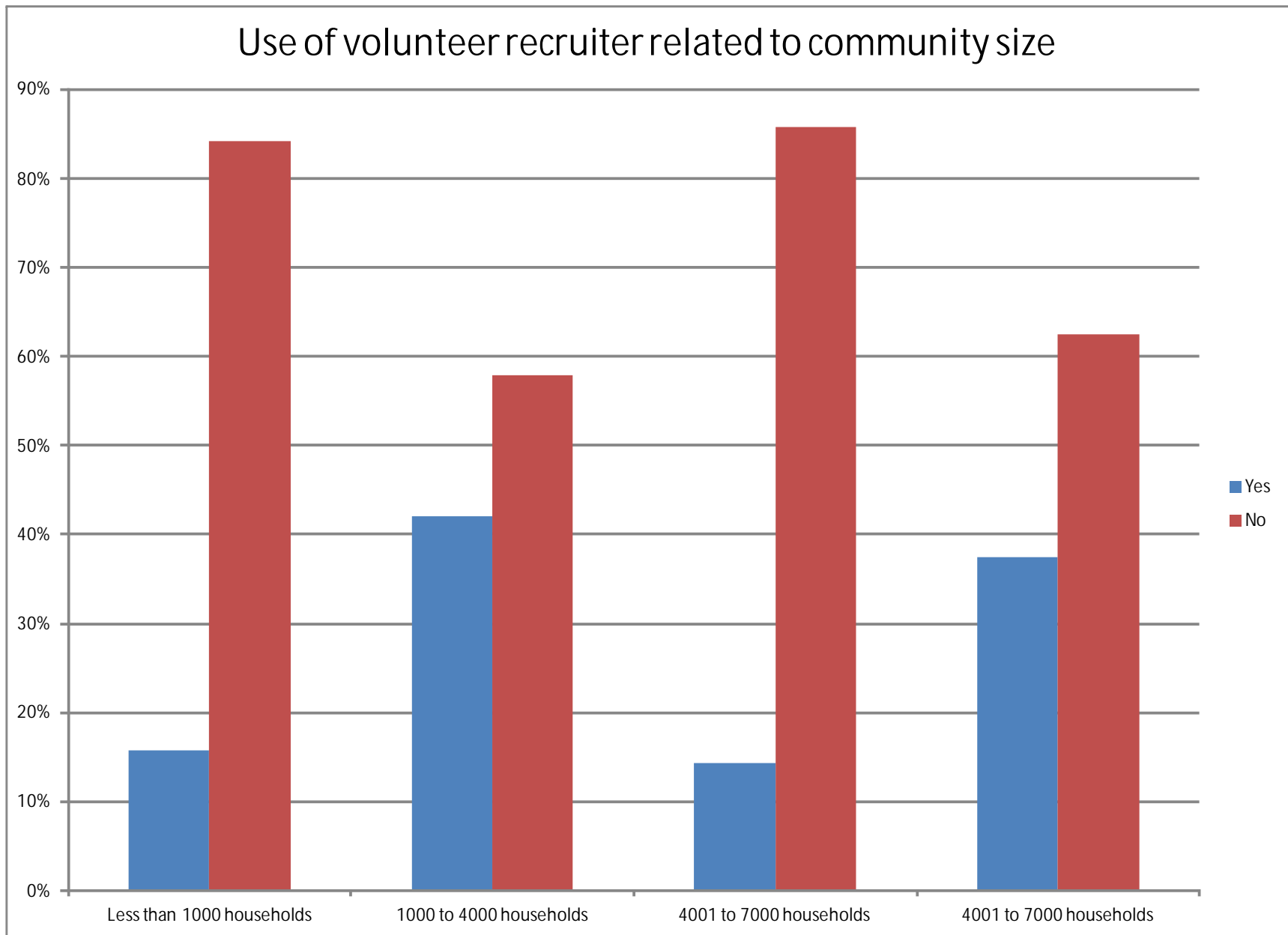
Q24. If your association is a member of the FCA, who is your regular representative?

Answer Options

| | |
|---|-----|
| President | 42% |
| A VP | 4% |
| Designated board members | 44% |
| Other volunteer | 2% |
| Don't know whether we are an FCA member or don't know who is our representative | 8% |



Q23. Volunteer coordinator and size of community



List of Community Organizations that responded

| Communities responding | # of Responders | Communities responding | # of Responders |
|---|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| Action Sandy Hill | | New Edinburgh Community Association | |
| Beacon Hill Community Association | 2 | Old Ottawa East Community Association | |
| Beckett's Landing Community Association | 2 | Overbrook Community Association | 2 |
| Belltown Neighbours Association | | Qualicum-Graham Park Community Association | |
| Blackburn Hamlet Community Association | | Queensway Terrace North Community Association | |
| Britannia Village Community Association | 2 | Queenswood Heights Community Association | |
| Canterbury Community Association | | Riverview Park Community Association | |
| Cardinal Glen Community Association | 2 | Rockcliffe Park Residents Association | |
| Carleton Heights and Area Residents Association | | Sarsfield Community Association | |
| Carlington Community Association | | Tanglewood-Hillsdale Community Association | |
| Centrepointe Community Association | | Vanier Community Association | |
| Centretown Citizens Community Association | | Vernon Community Association | |
| Champlain Park Community Association | | Woodpark Community Association | |
| City View Community Association | 2 | Woodroffe North Community Association | |
| Civic Hospital Neighbourhood Association | | | |
| Convent Glen/Orleans Wood Community Association | | Organizations responding | |
| Copeland Park Community Alliance | 2 | Citizens for Safe Cycling | |
| Dalhousie Community Association | | Greenspace Alliance | |
| Faircrest Heights Community Association | | | |
| Fallowfield Community Association | | | |
| Findlay Creek Community Association | | | |
| Fitzroy Harbour Community Association | | | |
| Friends of James and Bay | | | |
| Glebe Annex Residents Association | | | |
| Glebe Community Association | | | |
| Glens Community Association | | | |
| Greely Community Association | | | |
| Half Moon Bay Community Association | | | |
| Hampton Iona Community Group | | | |
| Hearts Desire Community Association | | | |
| Heron Lakes Community Association | | | |
| Hintonburg Community Association | | | |
| Huntley Community Association | | | |
| Island Park Community Association | | | |
| Kanata Beaverbrook Community Association | | | |
| Katimavik-Hazeldean Community Association | | | |
| Lincoln Heights-Parkway Community Association | | | |
| Lowertown Community Association | 2 | | |
| Manotick Village and Community Assn | | | |
| March Rural Community Association | 3 | | |
| McKellar Park Community Association | | | |