Should NAACL join the CRA?

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What is the CRA?

The Computing Research Organization is a joint organization of CS departments, research labs, and professional societies that aims to set research directions, informs policymakers, and provides mentorship and support for researchers at every stage of the pipeline.

http://cra.org

Who are the members of the CRA?

- Most **CS departments** (at least in the US)
- **Industry labs** (Google, Facebook, IBM Research, Microsoft Research, Yahoo Labs, Intel, HP) and **national labs** (Lawrence Berkeley National Lab); NSA.
- **Professional societies: ACM, IEEE Computer Society, SIAM, USENIX, Canadian Association of Computer Science / Association d'Informatique Canadienne, AAAI.**

Why would we want to join?

Arguably, academic CL/NLP is currently not represented at the CRA (unless one counts the AAAI).

Although NLP is important to the industry members of CRA (Google, Facebook, IBM, MSR), and although many of our employers are members, NLP is clearly not their only focus.

We would get one board member (although this would require an additional volunteer).

What would this cost us?

From http://cra.org/about/membership/dues/#society

Minimum fees: <mark>**$6,830 total**</mark>
Maximum fees: $1.30/eligible member (i.e. from the US, Canada, Mexico)

(According to Wikipedia, AAAI has ~4000 members; I wasn't able to figure out how many members CACS/ACI has).

With around 950 eligible members, this would be **about $7.20/member.**
I assume this is too expensive for NAACL alone to shoulder (even if we disregard the current financial problems).