

Section Representative's Report – Spring 2007

Winter Meeting 2007, Seattle, Washington

Section Officers Exchange

Discussion centered on the facilitation of communication within and between sections. A brainstorming session took place during which representatives were asked to come up with ideas about what expanded role the sections and section representatives should take within the organization. Some of the ideas discussed included

- the organization taking a stand on national curricular issues
- enhanced and consistent communication from the national office
- service to members
 - what is the value of the organization other than journals
 - expansion of PTRA-type programs for TYC/4YC/RUs
 - development and support for alliances between HS/TYC/4YC/RUs
- become recognized as the national voice of authority on physics education/curriculum – a policy leader

Results were collected and will be tabulated and distributed at a later date.

Section Representative's Meeting

Elections were held, with the following results:

VP of the Section Representatives: Mary Mogge

National Nominating Committee: Marina Milner-Bolotin, Tom O'Kuma:

Section Rep. Nominating Committee: Joe Spaccavento, Bill Waggoner, Oren Quist

Membership and Benefits Committee: Jeffrey Williams and David McDonald

Maria-Elena Khoury's Report

- The Winter meeting had ~3000 enrolled, 150 exhibitors
- The Physics bowl will have ~10,000 students taking the exam in April; Texas Instruments is no longer support the competition, but Vernier, Frey and AAPT are co-sponsoring
- The US Physics Team: Teachers are encouraged to order the exam and give it to their students. The first exam will be given to many students around the country; the second exam is more advanced and will be the competition for the US Physics Team.

Valerie Evans' Report

- The new member special for section members who have never joined the national organization is being extended and expanded: 6 months free followed by 1 year at half price. The offer will be available online: membership@AAPT.org
- A program is being developed to get Section officers involved, perhaps with 5-6 memberships that the Section Representative can hand out to Section officers.
- A membership list is available to Sections.
- Sections should send membership lists to the National office.

- It is recommended that Sections offer a free trial membership as well to encourage participation.
- The Announcer will no longer be published; it has been replaced with Interactions. The new magazine will have somewhat different content, with a focus on Section activities and relationships. Some of the content previously in the Announcer will go directly online.

Alan Gibson's Report

- Grants are still available to Sections to assist in carrying out activities related to teacher preparation, state standards and state certification.
- The national office has developed a speaker's list of Executive Board members and the topics they are willing to speak on. Executive Board members can travel to Section meetings as speakers with expenses paid.
- The Publications Committee has recommended to the Executive Board that the HS Physics program guidelines booklet be approved for publication and distribution.
- A Physics First informational booklet is now available.
- A planning retreat for Section Representatives at the American Center for Physics is being planned. The focus will be on the ways that Sections and the National organization can better interact and support each other.

Council Meeting

Ken Heller's Report

- The new Executive Officer, Toufic Hakim, was introduced.
- The retirement of Carol Heimpel was announced.
- It was reported that there is ongoing planning and discussion about the direction the organization will take in the future.
- The results from the planning retreat were reviewed:
 - The need to define clear goals was noted.
 - The need to determine the format of future meetings was noted.
 - The organization desires to become more focused on the current national scene.
 - The organization will be working on more effective and coherent member services.
 - An area Chairs' retreat is planned, with the purpose of looking at goals and responsibilities.
 - A Section Representatives' retreat is planned, with the same purpose as the Area Chairs' retreat
- The results of recent elections were reported:
 - Vice-President: Alex Dickison
 - Secretary: Steve Iona
 - 4YC Member-at-Large: Gordon Ramsey
 - Nominating Committee: Wolfgang Christian, Chair; Ken Krane, Laura McCoullugh, John Fitzgibbons

Treasurer's Report – Chuck Robertson

- The use of each of the funds the Organization maintains was discussed
 - The Bauder Fund is used for outreach programs
 - The Venture Fund is used for the development of materials that can be marketed
- Grant information can be found at <http://aapt.org/grants/grants.cfm>

Report from the Section Representatives - Randy Peterson

- The results of the elections held in the Section Representatives' meeting were reported (see section on Section Representatives' meeting)

Executive Officer's Report – Toufic Hakim

- The changes currently underway were reported, including:
 - new leadership
 - possible combined departments at the national office
- There is a review of new initiatives and ongoing programs taking place.
- Section Representatives' meeting reports will be posted online.
- Meeting abstracts are going to be published separately, not as part of the Interactions magazine.
- A Meetings Committee has been established to help with the planning of meetings.