

Spring 2013 Section Representative Report

Prepared by Karen Jo Matsler

Section Representatives' Meeting. W13, New Orleans

Tom O'Kuma, chair of the meetings committee, provided handouts with information about the next several meetings, proposals from potential host institutions for the winter 2015 meeting, and the committee's recommendation to hold that meeting at the Town and Country Resort and Conference Center.

The Report of the Winter Meeting 2014 Restructuring Committee chaired by Todd Lief detailed the proposed format for a four day rather than five day meeting schedule. Todd noted the tentative nature of the 'straw schedule' and that the meeting chair is free to adjust it. Todd asked that feedback should be sent both to him and to the meeting chair. It was noted by Tom O'Kuma that a proposal will come to Council that, starting in 2017, winter meetings be held jointly with APS (the APS 'April Meeting').

Elaine Gwinn was elected Vice Chair of the Section Representatives, to take office following this meeting. Jim Nelson was elected secretary by acclamation.

Todd Lief announced that he was recruiting members for the New Faculty Workshop for Two Year College faculty, with "new" meaning five years or less

Section Officer's Exchange Highlights

Jill Marshall noted that the AAPT strategic plan expires in 2013. The plan can be found by going to the AAPT site and entering 'strategic plan' in the search box.

Members were reminded of the importance of a good website for each section since it serves as an introduction to the section for non-members. The visibility of the section in a google search can be raised by including key words, title information on each page, tags on pictures and the number of links it has elsewhere. Lee Trampleasure continues to be willing to work with sections to develop and host section sites.

The top area of concern to section members is how to recruit new members. Marilyn Gardner noted that a website that is kept up to date is very important. She will add section meeting dates to the AAPT section information page if we send that information to her. She also highlighted several resources that are available to members:

- Each member can download and freely share three articles each year from The Physics Teacher. See <http://tpt.aapt.org>
- "The Physics Educator" is an on-line blog limited to AAPT members.
- A list of free resources can be found at aapt.org/resources/pre-college.cfm or aapt.org/resources/colluniv.cfm
- E-mentoring is available.
- AAPT has e-mail discussion lists and will host section lists.

- Sections can offer CEUs via AAPT for workshops.
- States are moving in the direction of requiring HS teachers to be professionally active for continuing certification, and AAPT can help meet this requirement.

RaShonda Rosier is our contact person for the “section box” of materials we can distribute at our section meeting.

Beth Cunningham reminded us that executive officers are willing to come speak at section meetings in person or via Skype.

Discussion of what sections do to get members: One section found that offering Friday evening workshops, before their Saturday meeting, has increased membership. It was noted that getting the word out can be a challenge. One strategy is to ask vendors that have contacts in the section area to send out an announcement or to use the state HS science contact person to do the same. Word of mouth is also an important mechanism to get information out. Working with a state science teachers’ organization can be effective. Including a “what’s this apparatus?” segment in the section meeting has been popular. One section provides a section award that helps pay for the expenses to go to a national meeting.