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# Meetings

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*Sigma Pi Sigma*

THE national physics honor society, Sigma Pi Sigma, held its convention at William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri, on May 4-6, 1959. The conventions of this Society are designed to be working meetings, with programs of chapter officer training, round-table discussions of chapter and society problems, consideration of national policies, review of chapter activities, and plans for the future designed to strengthen the advancement and diffusion of knowledge and interest in physics among students.

The convention program was varied, with scientific lectures, student conferences, working committees, and plenary sessions of the chapter delegates. The address of the retiring president, Vincent E. Parker of Louisiana State University, was entitled "The Big Guns of Nuclear Physics", and dealt with the history and development of the high-energy machines which play such a prominent part in today's physics research. The convention's public meeting was addressed by Merle Alexander of the National Aeronautics and Space Agency, Washington, D. C. His timely, illustrated lecture on rockets and satellites in the IGY provided much significant information on current developments in the exploration of the upper atmosphere and in space technology.

The reports of the retiring president, Dr. Parker, and the national executive secretary, Marsh W. White of the Pennsylvania State University, reviewed the progress of the national organization since the date of the last convention. The physical growth has been steady and impressive, with a current chapter roll of 100 chapters, and a membership of 2500 active and 15 000 alumni members. Seven new chapters were installed during the current academic year at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, Western Illinois University, Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, Baylor University, Linfield College, Utah State University, and Westminster College.

During the winter and spring of 1957 the Society arranged for a lecture tour to the chapters by Homer L.

Dodge, formerly of the University of Oklahoma and Norwich University. Some chapters assisted their physics departments in the program of visiting physicists arranged by the American Institute of Physics and supported by the National Science Foundation.

An important policy change approved by the convention provides for a regional organization of the chapters of the Society. The chapters were divided into ten groups, regionally arranged. A zone supervisor was elected for each region and this councilor will act as a general stimulator and coordinator of the chapters in his region. These councilors are to be elected by the zone chapters and they, together with the four national officers, will constitute the National Executive Council of the Society. The councilors provisionally elected are: George Barnes (University of Nevada), Wayne B. Hales (Brigham Young University), Wallace A. Hilton (William Jewell College), T. N. Hatfield (University of Houston), Roger M. Morrow (Western Illinois University), I. Walerstein (Purdue University), Harold P. Knauss (University of Connecticut), W. Norwood Lowry (Bucknell University), Myron S. McCay (University of Chattanooga), and E. Scott Barr (University of Alabama).

The convention approved a policy statement directing the National Executive Council to negotiate further with the American Institute of Physics toward the institution of possible joint operation of Sigma Pi Sigma chapters and student sections of the Institute. Such proposals would be designed to maintain the status of Sigma Pi Sigma as an honor society and leave the



Stanley S. Ballard, elected in May as president of Sigma Pi Sigma, is professor and chairman of the Department of Physics at the University of Florida in Gainesville. He succeeds Vincent E. Parker of Louisiana State University, who served as president of the national physics honor society during 1957-58.

present activities of the national society and local chapters substantially unchanged, while providing at the same time for mutually helpful and cooperative efforts by the Institute and Sigma Pi Sigma in the development of desirable plans for encouraging the organized groups of physics students.

Following the convention, the chapters of the Society voted upon the nominees for national officers, with the following declared elected: president, Stanley S. Ballard (University of Florida); vice president, L. Worth Seagondollar (University of Kansas); executive secretary, Marsh W. White (The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa.); and retiring president, Vincent E. Parker (Louisiana State University).

**Marsh W. White**

### *Collisions in Atomic Systems*

**T**HE deadline for abstracts of papers to be presented at the Twelfth Annual Gaseous Electronics Conference (to be held October 14-16 at the National Bureau of Standards in Washington, D. C.) has been extended to September 4. The meeting, which will consist of three days of consecutive sessions, has as its theme "Collisions in Atomic Systems". Inquiries and abstracts should be directed to the conference secretary, Lewis M. Branscomb, Atomic Physics Section, National Bureau of Standards, Washington 25, D. C.

### *Solid-State Circuits*

**P**APERS representing original contributions in "circuit properties, circuit philosophy, and design techniques related to solid-state devices" are being solicited for the seventh annual Solid-State Circuits Conference to be held February 10-12, 1960, in Philadelphia.

Sponsored jointly by the Institute of Radio Engineers, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, and the University of Pennsylvania, the meeting is expected to deal with the following general areas: micro-circuit techniques for improved speed or utilization of volume, weight, cost, and increased reliability; solid-state devices performing an integrated or alterable circuit function, i.e., counting, translation, etc.; contributions to art in flexibility, bandwidth, gain, stability, reliability, etc.; solid-state memory, storage, and logic devices such as thin films, multiaperture magnetics, twistors, and optoelectrics; contributions to solid-state microwave electronics such as parametric amplifiers, masers, and parametrons; and low-temperature solid-state electronics for memory and logic, i.e., cryoelectrics.

October 9, 1959, is the deadline for abstracts (300 words), which should be mailed to the chairman of the Program Committee, Tudor R. Finch, Bell Telephone Laboratories, Murray Hill, N. J.

### *Electronic Conductivity in Organic Solids*

**A** CONFERENCE on Electronic Conductivity in Organic Solids will be held April 20-22, 1960, at the US Army Office of Ordnance Research, which is located on the Duke University campus in Durham, North Carolina. Limited to about 100 individuals

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