

The society reviews its future role and structure

The executive and budget committees of the American Physical Society met during the Salt Lake City meeting in June for several days to review and assess the present programs and organization of the society and to consider changes for the future. A complete report of this work will be published in the August-September issue of the *Bulletin*.

During the meeting, the effectiveness of the structure of the society was assessed. Several deficiencies were noted and the level of additional staff support and membership participation required for maintaining the present

level of activity was identified. The responses of members who commented on recent articles in the *Bulletin* and *PHYSICS TODAY* were carefully considered, and an approach to future activities, perhaps on an expanded scale, was generated.

The executive committee will present to the council for its consideration at the meeting on 25 October (to be held at the American Institute of Physics headquarters) a number of resolutions proposing modifications in structure and policy changes. The intent is to experiment with a slightly altered mode of governance before substantive

constitutional changes are recommended. The group concluded that the membership did want the society to play a larger role in the scientific community than organizing technical meetings and publishing the present list of journals. Suggestions that the council return the society to the latter role were rejected. A careful approach to future programs, however, is considered clearly in order.

The executive committee expects that the society, operating under the proposed structure, will be able to consolidate its position, improve the effectiveness and efficiency of its present programs, and then be able to identify other activities appropriate for the society.

Comments and suggestions are needed by divisional and forum councillors, councillors-at-large, and all of the officers before the October meeting of the council. Specific resolutions guiding the future of the society as to its role in public affairs will be discussed by the council; as usual, this meeting is open to the membership.

Store-front physics contest



The APS Committee on Science Education for the General Public invites you to design, build and evaluate a "store-front physics exhibit." Three prizes of \$200 each will be awarded to the winners of the contest and they will be invited to present papers on their projects at a session during the joint APS-AAPT meeting in Anaheim, California, 29 January-1 February 1975.

The exhibit must present information about physics or physicists to a person who encounters it unexpectedly in his usual path. The exhibit would normally explain or illustrate one physics concept. It must be simply constructed, cheap, durable, attractive and easily replicated. Direct interaction between the members of the audience and the exhibit is considered desirable but not essential.

The entry should consist of:

1. Photographs or slides and commen-

tary on the project, under construction and completed, and of the completed exhibit on site, and the audience interaction with it.

2. A detailed description of the exhibit's purpose, of the audience for whom it was prepared, of the location where it was displayed, and of the method used to evaluate the effectiveness of the exhibit in carrying its point to the audience.

3. The evaluation of the effectiveness of the exhibit.

4. Complete directions for duplicating the exhibit.

Members of the Committee will serve as judges. Entries that do not meet the above criteria will be returned. Entries are due by 1 December 1974. For further information, or to submit entries, please write to Mary L. Shoaf, The American Physical Society, 335 East 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

New July-to-June dues billing period

The APS council has approved a motion that will change the fiscal year for the society so that the dues-billing period will now run from 1 July to 30 June. APS treasurer J. A. Burton (Bell Labs) recommended the change because it will distribute the work load more evenly over the year for the APS office staff and auditors, and the AIP subscription-fulfillment staff.

The change will occur in two steps: the dues statement that members will receive this summer will cover Society, Division and the Forum dues, and journal subscriptions for the period 1 January through 30 June 1975. Another dues bill will be mailed in March 1975 to cover the period 1 July 1975 through 30 June 1976.

The council rejected the idea of dues billing for the 18-month period 1 January 1975 through 30 June 1976 because this would disrupt the AIP's service to the other member societies and because the society officers and members would be out of touch for too long a time. □