

Membership reaffirms the role of Fellow in the Society

The members of The American Physical Society rejected an amendment to its constitution calling for discontinuing Fellowship as a class of membership. While a majority of those voting were in favor of this amendment, it failed to receive the necessary two-thirds vote required to modify the constitution. Of the 10 075 members who voted, 5383 voted "yes" and 4429 voted "no"; the remaining votes were either missing, not marked or invalid.

After extended discussion during the last meeting of the Council in San Francisco, the Fellowship Committee was directed to determine the role Fellowship might play in the future of the Society and to examine the question of uniform criteria among the Society's divisions for advancement to Fellowship status.

Marvin L. Goldberger of Princeton University, the vice-president elect of the Society, will head the Fellowship Committee during 1978. William Brinkman of Bell Laboratories, David Lind of the University of Colorado and Ward Whaling from the California Institute of Technology will also serve on the committee.

Fellowship is the oldest class of membership in the Society, the founders of the APS having been 59 Fellows selected for their research contributions. The category of Member, with much less stringent criteria for admission, was added in 1905. Until revisions were made in the Society's constitution in 1971, only Fellows could become elected officers of the Society, and they continued to pay higher dues than regular Members until 1973.

During the past few years, it has become the practice to refer nominations for Fellowship to the appropriate technical division of the Society for review and recommendation. Each division has established independent criteria (generally based on research and scholarship) that serve as guidelines in evaluating the credentials of candidates. The Executive Committee, on behalf of the Council, then received recommendations from the divisions and acted upon them. Those denied advancement to Fellowship could request a review of their case from the Fellowship Appeals Committee. This committee also considered the candidates whose nomination papers could not be



Four of the Founding Fellows of the APS in 1908: Albert Michelson (left), Robert A. Millikan (top center), Henry Gale (right) and Carl Kinsley (bottom center). Photograph by Marguerite O'L. Crowe, reproduced here by courtesy of the AIP Niels Bohr Library.

referred to a single, appropriate division.

When the constitution was revised again in 1975-76, the charge to the Committee on Fellowship included the development of uniform criteria for advancement to Fellowship throughout the Society.

However, the question of continuing Fellowship as a class of membership was raised again in Council in October, 1976. (Council debates on the meaning of Fellowship and the proper requirements for its attainment had gone on regularly since the 1950's and probably occurred before that as well.)

The matter was referred to the Fellowship Appeals Committee, which reviewed the records of the Society and sought advice from the Council. It then presented a report to the Council containing its findings: that orderly and expeditious steps be taken to discontinue Fellowship as a membership distinction. Since the Council was divided on the issue, it was decided to present the problem to the entire membership of the APS. The Committee on the Constitution and By-Laws was accordingly directed to prepare suitable amendments to the constitution (*Bulletin of the American*

Physical Society, April and September 1977 issues).

Now, Fellowship as a class of membership in the Society will continue and recommendations from the Committee on Fellowship are expected this year.

APS seeks new editor for *Physical Review Letters*

David Lazarus of the University of Illinois, Urbana, has been appointed chairman of a search committee to find a replacement for James A. Krumhansl, chairman of the editorial board and editor of *Physical Review Letters*, who resigned to become Assistant Director for Mathematical and Physical Sciences and Engineering at the National Science Foundation. Krumhansl, George A. Snow of the University of Maryland, G. King Walters of Rice University and Joseph Weneser from Brookhaven National Laboratory will also serve on the search committee. Members who wish to suggest names of possible candidates for the position are asked to write directly to David Lazarus, Department of Physics, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801. □