

THE PHYSICAL REALITIES OF APS: WHO, WHAT AND WHERE

From the questions APS members address to APS staff, it is clear that many members are not very clear about the differences between The American Physical Society and the American Institute of Physics, nor about the specific functions of the APS offices. What follows is an attempt to provide an overview of how the work of APS is divided among its four locations: New York Headquarters, two publishing offices on Long Island and the Washington Office of Public Affairs.

These offices and the staff who work in them carry out policies established by the APS council and assist the hundreds of member volunteers who serve on numerous committees and in the technical divisions, topical groups and geographical sections.

All members have contact with APS headquarters, where renewal invoices originate and written or telephone inquiries about society services are answered. The 23-member headquarters staff is housed in offices rented in AIP's headquarters building at 335 East 45 Street in midtown Manhattan.

Under the supervision of W. W. Havens Jr, the executive secretary of APS and professor emeritus of ap-

plied physics and nuclear engineering at Columbia University, the meetings department makes all arrangements for the society's general meetings, edits the APS *Bulletin* and provides advice and service to organizers of smaller meetings. Havens's office also provides staff support to the APS council and its committees, tabulates ballots for election results and processes nominations for fellowships. Miriam Forman, an astrophysicist at the State University of New York, Stony Brook, serves as deputy executive secretary. She oversees the membership department, which responds to inquiries, and processes all applications for membership in APS and its divisions, sections and topical groups. The membership data are then passed to AIP, which maintains a journal subscription fulfillment system for APS member and nonmember subscribers.

Treasurer's office

The office of Harry Lustig, APS treasurer and professor of physics at the City College of New York, handles the society's financial, budgetary and legal affairs. Under Lustig, the accounting staff monitors revenues and expenses and takes care of accounts

payable and receivable, in close cooperation with AIP, which manages the APS accounting system. The Treasurer's office also handles the society's investments. A personnel manager joined the treasurer's office in July.

Historically, the work of The American Physical Society consisted almost exclusively of publishing archival journals and organizing scientific meetings. Journals and meetings still account for nearly 90% of APS's efforts and budget. In the early 1970s, however, changes in public perceptions of science and in the expectations of physicists prompted APS to initiate activities to improve the public understanding of physics and to preserve the health of the discipline itself.

This new trend found expression in the organization of the Forum on Physics and Society, the establishment of a Congressional scientist fellowship program and the initiation of APS-sponsored studies of public policy issues involving technology, the most recent of which was the study of directed-energy weapons. The APS council established a panel on public affairs, and committees on education, the status of women in

W. W. Havens Jr



Harry Lustig



David Lazarus



physics, minorities, the international freedom of scientists, international scientific affairs, and opportunities in physics.

To deal with education in particular, a special office was created at New York headquarters in 1986. Brian Schwartz of the Brooklyn College physics department, the current APS education officer, helps manage the industrial summer student intern program, the local physics alliances project and high school teachers' days at APS general meetings. He is staff officer to the APS committee on education and works closely with the American Association of Physics Teachers and the education division of AIP. The other physicists in the New York office—Havens, Lustig and Forman—all serve as senior staff liaisons to several of the society's committees.

In 1983, APS opened an office of public affairs in Washington, under the direction of Robert Park, a professor of physics at the University of Maryland (see boxes). Many members of the physics community read *What's New*, a lively and sometimes controversial newsletter that Park issues by computer mail each week from the APS Washington office. Park and his staff of two keep APS members and officers informed about government actions that affect the physics community, and they help government officials and other groups to contact physicists. The public affairs office shares quarters with AIP's DC office, which includes the newly expanded education division

'What's New'

What's New is a weekly electronic newsletter written specifically for members of The American Physical Society by Robert Park, APS public affairs officer in Washington; it is read widely throughout the science and science policy community. Its purpose is to provide an "early warning" of government policy issues that affect physics. The approach is frankly editorial. *What's New* can be accessed without charge by any APS member equipped with a terminal and a modem.

The access instructions are as follows: Dial the local Telenet number; at the CONNECT prompt, hit the return key twice; at the Terminal = prompt, hit the return key; at the @ prompt, type TELEMAIL and hit the return key; for USERNAME, type GMEMBER, and hit the return key; for PASSWORD, type APS692, and hit the return key. After the current *What's New* page appears on the terminal, the user will automatically be disconnected from Telemail.

Public Affairs Office

As the Washington representative of APS, Robert Park is frequently invited to testify before Congress on a wide range of issues, or to recommend people who can give expert testimony on specific topics. His office maintains close contact with the members and staffs of key Congressional committees, as well as with officials of Federal agencies that have responsibility for science. Park serves on many Washington panels and committees.

Although keeping APS members informed remains the principal responsibility of the Office of Public Affairs, the office increasingly has sought to convey the concerns of the physics community to the public. In recent months Park has published articles and op-ed commentaries in such publications as the *Washington Post*, *Newsday* and the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and has spoken at numerous meetings.

The Office of Public Affairs provides staff support for the Panel on Public Affairs and assists various committees, such as the Committee on International Freedom of Scientists, with their Washington contacts.

Park has been described by a columnist for the *National Journal*, a weekly magazine that covers the Federal government, as "one of the best-known



Robert Park

spokesmen for science in Washington" and as "an anomaly in his profession"—"a spokesman who speaks his mind." At the time APS invited Park to set up the Office of Public Affairs in 1984 he was chairman of the physics department at the University of Maryland. He now works half-time for the office and half-time as a physics professor at College Park.

and the PHYSICS TODAY Washington bureau.

Journals production

The APS publications *Physical Review* and *Physical Review Letters* have their editorial offices in Ridge, Long Island, near Brookhaven National Laboratory. David Lazarus, professor emeritus of physics at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, is APS editor-in-chief; the resident deputy editor-in-chief is Peter Adams. Laurence Passell's article, "Getting Out the Word: An Insider's View of *Physical Review Letters*" (PHYSICS TODAY, March 1988, page 32), provided a detailed description of the editorial process at the Ridge office.

A steady increase in the number of papers submitted to *Physical Review* and *Physical Review Letters* has generated a continuous need for additional staff, and there are now nearly 90 employees at Ridge. APS's building there was constructed in 1980 and expanded in 1986, but is again facing a shortage of space.

Physical Review Letters is produced at Ridge, while manuscripts for the several sections of *Physical Review* go to AIP's Publishing Branch II in Woodbury, Long Island, for production. So does *Reviews of Modern*

Physics, which is edited at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. At Woodbury, APS rents space from AIP for its publications liaison office, headed by Margaret (Peggy) Judd. She and a staff of nine coordinate AIP's production of APS journals, working closely with headquarters and Ridge. Staff at Woodbury produce the APS *Bulletin* and other special printed materials issued by APS, and they are preparing the new APS membership database (PHYSICS TODAY, April, page 109).

APS-AIP relationship

Because of an overlap in mission and activities between APS and AIP, their similar names and identical addresses, many physicists have trouble distinguishing between them. APS was founded in 1899; AIP was formed in 1931 as a service organization for APS and other physics societies. AIP has come to provide a wide spectrum of services for its ten member societies. From the outset, however, AIP has served not only its member societies but also the physics community in general and society at large. AIP publishes PHYSICS TODAY. This section, News from APS, is written by APS staff in consultation with PHYSICS TODAY editors; APS is billed at cost for the section's production. ■