

WERTHAMER IS APS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY DESIGNATE; WILL TAKE OFFICE IN 1991

On 1 June N. Richard Werthamer became executive secretary designate of The American Physical Society. His appointment was approved by the APS council at its meeting on 28-29 April. In January 1991 Werthamer will become executive secretary, succeeding William W. Havens Jr, who is retiring. Werthamer was chosen by a search committee chaired by Val Fitch of Princeton University, who was APS president for 1987-88.

Werthamer is a theoretical physicist by training, and he has been involved in industrial research management and planning. Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1935, Werthamer received a BA in physics from Harvard in 1956 and a PhD in physics from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1961. He was a research associate at the University of California, San Diego, from 1961 until 1962, when he joined the theoretical physics research group at Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, New Jersey. He has done research in low-temperature condensed matter physics, particularly superconductivity and liquid and solid helium.

Werthamer was selected to be an APS Congressional Fellow in 1973, the first year the fellowship program was offered. Taking a leave from Bell Labs, he spent the year with the staff of Ohio Representative Charles Mosher, who at that time was vice chairman of the board of the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment. Werthamer helped set up the OTA's energy program and worked on energy legislation with the House Committee on Science and Technology.

After his return to Bell Labs, Werthamer moved to AT&T as a corporate planning supervisor. From 1976 to 1978 he was chairman and chief executive officer of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, a government agency that awards contracts for the development and use of alternative energy sources. In 1978 he joined Exxon Corporation, where he was

responsible for, among other things, evaluating the company's \$700 million research and development program. From 1983 to 1989 he was with Becton Dickinson and Company, a manufacturer of medical products, as executive director of a \$43 million limited partnership that funded the development and commercialization of advanced medical diagnostic systems and as director of external technology development.

Werthamer has been active in APS for many years. From 1975 to 1978 he served as a member of the APS Panel on Public Affairs, which at the time was directing the release of the first APS study, on energy conservation, and was undertaking another study, on nuclear reactor safety. He was an APS councillor-at-large from 1975 to 1979. At present, he is a fellow of APS and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Werthamer has also served on a number of Federal government and academic committees dealing with science and technology issues.

"I am very honored to be selected to replace Bill Havens," Werthamer said in a recent interview. "Bill's dedicated and able administration has kept APS growing and abreast of the times." A new set of challenges and needs now confronts APS, Werthamer said. "The officers and staff of the society all seem to see the issues clearly and to agree on the goals. My task will be to move forward effectively to accomplish them." Among other things, he would like to see the *Bulletin of The American Physical Society* revised so that it provides news of APS activities in a readable format, in accordance with the recommendations of the task force on membership and meetings publications.

Werthamer said he wants to help APS "continue to expand its stature and influence in national and global scientific affairs while maintaining its strong tradition of service to its members through journals, meetings and other programs."



N. Richard Werthamer

"The world of physics research is becoming increasingly complex," Werthamer said, "and APS will have to be increasingly active." For example, APS should continue to serve the needs of the growing number of physics subdisciplines, he said.

Regarding the prospective relocation of APS headquarters to the Washington, DC, area, Werthamer observed that the move presents an opportunity to increase the society's visibility. "It will be a challenge for APS officers and staff to make the most of that opportunity," he said. He suggested that one way to do this will be to expand APS's practice of issuing policy-related studies, which in the past have been recognized for their "clarity of analysis and objectivity of their recommendations and conclusions."

"We can build on the respect that policy leaders already hold for APS," Werthamer said. "The feeling I have is that APS will be welcomed in Washington." ■