

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER TO BE LAUNCHED IN 1992

In 1992 The American Physical Society will launch a monthly membership newsletter entitled *APS News*, and members will be able to select which issues of the *Bulletin of The American Physical Society* they wish to receive.

The newsletter will consolidate the news currently published in the *Bulletin* and the "News from APS" section of *PHYSICS TODAY*. Beginning in January members will receive *APS News* in addition to the *Bulletin*. In July members will begin receiving only those issues of the *Bulletin* that they have selected.

Responding to growing concern about the size of the *Bulletin* and the scope and value of its content, the APS council approved the new publication at its April 1991 meeting. The decision was based upon recommendations made by the APS Task Force on Membership and Meetings Publications, appointed in December 1989 and chaired by Neil Ashcroft (Cornell University). The APS executive board met in June to decide the distribution and pricing of the newsletter and the *Bulletin*.

APS News will feature society news, announcements and selected reports from officers, governing bodies, committees and task forces. Letters to the editor will be included to allow members to voice their concerns on issues specifically related to APS. Preregistration, housing and travel forms for general and subunit meetings of APS will also be included in *APS News*. The *Bulletin* will continue to publish standard meetings-related material: preambles, epitomes and programs of APS meetings; maps and other information on meeting sites; abstracts for invited and contributed papers; and the annual index.

All members will receive *APS News* free of charge. The annual APS Membership Directory, which had been published as an issue of the *Bulletin*, will now become an issue of *APS News* and will be free. The *Bulletin* will be reformatted so that each issue corresponds to only one meeting; members will be able to

select which issues they wish to receive on their 1992-93 membership dues bills. Members will receive both publications free until July 1992, when the current fiscal year ends.

Because the new procedure for subscribing to the *Bulletin* will increase subscription processing costs, there will be a moderate charge for each issue of the *Bulletin* ordered. (Previously the *Bulletin* was sent free to members.) To compensate for the new subscription charges, the annual membership dues will be reduced by the average cost of a single issue (about \$5). APS anticipates that the charge to meetings budgets for publishing abstracts in the *Bulletin* will decrease dramatically, because the printing and mailing costs for each issue will be lower.

"Members will save money on dues and abstract charges, and APS meetings will save on printing and postage costs," says APS Treasurer Harry Lustig (City College of New York). "Everybody wins. The only loser is the US Postal Service."

According to Ashcroft, many APS members mistakenly believe that *PHYSICS TODAY* is published by APS; actually it is a publication of the

American Institute of Physics, and usually only one or two pages per issue are devoted to news about APS. December 1991 will be the last issue of *PHYSICS TODAY* to include the "News from APS" section, but the magazine will continue to be sent to APS members, as it is to all members of the nine other AIP member societies, for \$2.00 per individual per year. The task force urged the society to maintain the strongest possible cooperation between the two publications, because it was felt that the continued health of *PHYSICS TODAY* is "very much in the interest of APS."

Many of the respondents to the 1990 APS Membership Survey said they would prefer a separate, smaller newsletter rather than the existing *Bulletin* and would like the option of selecting individual issues of the *Bulletin*. (For further discussion of the survey results, see the *Bulletin*, October 1991.) "We recognize that there is a need for better communication between the APS leadership and members," says APS Executive Secretary N. Richard Werthamer of the survey results. "The creation of *APS News* is a prime example of the society's response to that concern."

APS UPDATES SURVEY FOR MINORITY PHYSICISTS ROSTER

The APS Committee on Minorities in Physics is expanding the amount of information included in the Joint American Physical Society/American Association of Physics Teachers Roster of Minorities in Physics, a database the committee maintains that lists minority physicists working in the US. A questionnaire has been mailed to those currently enrolled in the roster to obtain additional information, such as current research interests, career goals and the types of work they do.

Created in 1987, the roster is used as a mailing list for the committee's newsletter and as a resource for national laboratories, corporations

and academic institutions wishing to announce job openings. APS membership is not required for enrollment. The expanded database will allow more sophisticated searches to be performed, and the committee also plans to use the new information to do demographic surveys of underrepresented minority physicists.

The questionnaire will be printed in the November issue of the *Bulletin of The American Physical Society*. Minority physicists are encouraged to complete the questionnaire and return it to APS, 335 East 45 Street, New York NY 10017. The information is confidential and for APS internal use only. ■