divisional status and a voting representative on the APS council. The number of councillors-at-large will remain at 12.

Despite having had slight increases in their membership from 1990, the following divisions will each lose one councillor: condensed matter physics, chemical physics, nuclear physics, plasma physics, and atomic, molecular and optical physics. The topical group on computational physics and the international physics group have been converted to a division and a forum, respectively, and will each gain one councillor. The divisions of biological physics, high polymer physics and physics of beams, whose memberships all fell below the 3% cutoff when the constitution was adopted, are grandfathered through 1994.

NEUTRON SCATTERING SOCIETY OF AMERICA IS ESTABLISHED

An organization called the Neutron Scattering Society of America has been formed to represent US scientists and engineers who use neutron scattering in their research.

Neutron scattering, a technique used in materials science, condensed matter physics and other fields, requires the operation of large-scale reactors or neutron spallation sources to produce neutron beams. In the US there are major neutron sources at Argonne National Laboratory, Brookhaven National Lab, Oak Ridge National Lab and Los Alamos National Lab. The newest is the Cold Neutron Research Facility at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, Maryland (see PHYSICS TODAY, September 1991, page 17).

Because the community that uses neutron scattering is scientifically diverse, the concern arose that its interests were not being adequately represented, especially in terms of the funding of existing and planned neutron sources. One of the goals of NSSA is therefore to identify "future requirements for instrumentation and sources" and to make known those needs to funding agencies. Other goals include promoting the use of neutron scattering and carrying out educational activities.

The society is at present being run by a seven-member steering committee headed by Henry Glyde, a professor of physics at the University of Delaware. Election of executive officers will be held by the end of the year. Membership applications can be obtained by contacting Jill Trewhella, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Life Sciences Division, Los Alamos NM 87545; telephone, (505) 667-2031; fax, (505) 665-3024.

COSMOLOGY BOOK RECEIVES AIP SCIENCE WRITING AWARD

Dennis Overbye, a freelance writer, is the winner of the 1992 American Institute of Physics science writing award to a journalist for his book *Lonely Hearts of the Cosmos* (Harper–Collins, New York, 1991).

The book tells the story of astronomers' attempts to understand the structure of the universe, beginning with Edwin Hubble's 1920 discovery that the universe is expanding. It includes the personal experiences of various researchers in the field, including Allan Sandage, Stephen Hawking and Yakov Zeldovich. (See PHYSICS TODAY, January, page 72, for a review of the book.)

Overbye received a BS in physics from MIT in 1966 and did graduate work in astronomy at the University of California, Los Angeles, before starting his writing career. He has worked as an editor at *Discover* and *Sky and Telescope* magazines and as a scientific photographer. He is currently a freelance writer and a contributing essayist for *Time* magazine. Overbye previously won an AIP science writing award for his article "The Wizard of Time and Space," which appeared in *Omni* magazine in 1980.

The award, presented at the April meeting of The American Physical Society and the American Association of Physics Teachers, includes a $3000 prize and an inscribed Windsor chair.

APS ISSUES STATEMENT ON HELPING SOUTH AFRICAN PHYSICISTS

At a meeting in March the council of The American Physical Society adopted a statement encouraging APS members to cooperate and collaborate with scientists in South Africa.

In protest of the South African government's policy of apartheid, many European and American physicists have boycotted activities sponsored by the South African Institute of Physics. But there was some concern that physics in that country was being unintentionally harmed. "An academic boycott is a very different issue from the economic sanctions," says Robert Richardson of Cornell University, who drafted the statement with Alfred Msezane of Atlanta University and Miriam Foreman of the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. "If the remaining talented scientists become so discouraged that they leave [South Africa], they may not be replaced for several generations."

APS has distributed the statement to South African physicists. The text of the statement follows:

"This is a time of rapid political change in South Africa. Financial and social stresses on education, particularly science education, and on fundamental research put the future training of African scientists in jeopardy. The isolation of South African teachers and university faculty from external colleagues makes it even more difficult to train and maintain a core of qualified scientists. Thus, while abhorring the past extreme violations of human rights by the government of South Africa, The American Physical Society encourages interactions and collaborations between individual scientists of the United States and South Africa."

IN BRIEF

The XXIV International Physics Olympiad, to be held in 1993, will take place at the College of William and Mary, in Williamsburg, Virginia. The Olympiad is an annual event that brings together high school students from around the world to compete on physics examinations. Leon Lederman of the University of Chicago is heading the committee that is organizing the 1993 Olympiad, and Arthur Eisenkraft of Fox Lane High School in Bedford, New York, is the executive director; Larry Kirkpatrick and Avi Hauser are academic directors for the US team.

"Physics News in 1991," a summary of the major happenings in physics during the past year, is now available. There is a charge for shipping and handling; the first copy is $5 and each additional copy is $3. The booklet can be ordered by sending a check or money order (made payable to the American Institute of Physics) to: AIP, c/o AIDC, 64 Depot Road, Colchester VT 05446. "Physics News in 1991" has also been published in the March issue of *APS News*, the newsletter of The American Physical Society.

Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, has reinstituted a PhD program in physics. ■