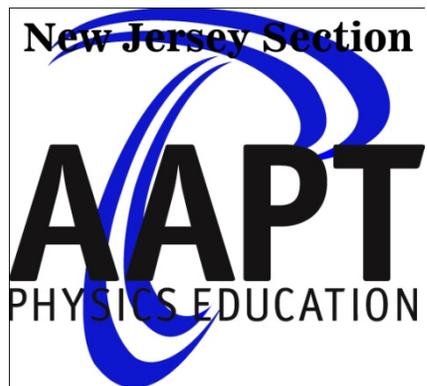


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NJAAPT NEWSLETTER

July - 2012

President's Message

This year was once again notable for the NJAAPT, I would like to comment on a number of items:

The Newsletter – over the past few years, the number of issues has decreased and the reason, for the most part, is that the listserv has now filled that role. Our newsletter provided the membership with articles containing information relating to workshops, meetings, and synopses of these events. This Numerous members now fulfill function taking on the responsibility of exchanging news about opportunities that others could take advantage. Plus, it allows a free exchange of ideas on numerous topics relating to teaching.

Listserv -Thanks to our Section Rep, Joe Spaccavento, for initiating the concept of the listserv that is provided by the AAPT. The discussions that have ensued on varied topics has provided much thought-provoking exchanges between our members. Sure, we have made mistakes in responding to an individual but we learn from our errors, so it has all been worthwhile. Our ability to pass on job offerings, articles, websites, and so much more in a short span of time makes the listserv a valuable tool in our communication with the membership.

Membership - This is a constant theme since the NJAAPT has no other sources of income. As a new member in 1984, the dues schedule was the same as it is today. Our treasury has been reduced over the years as a result of subsidizing our events. If you are uncertain of the year your membership expires, go to our webpage and send an email to the treasurer and ask if you are up-to-date. If you know another physics teacher, either in your school or in another district, please be our ambassador and ask them to join the NJAAPT.

Section Meeting -The executive board spends a great amount of time and effort in deciding the theme of the spring meeting. Speakers related to the theme must be contacted and scheduled to appear. We are very fortunate that Princeton University has been gracious to offer its facilities for our purposes. In a day when everyone is concerned about costs, Princeton has not charged us for the use of the buildings or custodial services. Our contact, Geoff Gettlefinger, the Physics Department Manager, has been very accommodating and does the necessary paperwork for the meeting. Plans are already underway for the next meeting in March, 2013. Please try to attend, as it will provide you with the opportunity to interact with other NJAAPT members.

Workshops - These have always been the backbone of our section. At national meeting, the officers are often asked as to how we can provide events for the members. The answer is simple – there is a dedicated core of individuals that believe strongly in sharing their knowledge with others. There is no better way than conducting a workshop to spread the wealth of teaching techniques than to host a workshop. Unfortunately, the past two years has seen a decrease in the numbers participating in these Saturday morning get-togethers. The cost of the workshops is very reasonable and what you take away far exceeds the financial investment.

Officers - For the first time in ten years there has been a change in the elected officers of the New Jersey Section. Jessie Blair has served as the secretary and Dave Bandel filled the role of treasurer since 2002. They have devoted numerous hours of their time each year to make certain the NJAAPT functions as a cohesive unit. Their input at executive board meetings over the years has provided guidance in seeing that the best possible outcome for the membership would be achieved. I am extremely grateful to Jessie and Dave for being terrific physics teachers, people you can rely on for help, and dedicated volunteers with their precious time. The roles Jessie and Dave filled in the NJAAPT will now fall to Nancy Michaelson and Tibi Dragoiu. I wish both of them the best in their new positions.

AAPT Meeting - As you are aware, the Summer Meeting of the AAPT is in Philadelphia, July 28 – Aug.1. If you have not attended a national meeting, this is your chance to see what the national has to offer. With the High School Physics Teachers Day on Monday, July 30, the registration fee is very much less than the standard fee. The only restriction to take advantage of this offer is that you have not attended a meeting in the past.

Congratulations to two of our members – Dr. Mary Lou West and Dan Kaplan. Mary Lou has just retired after a 42-year teaching career at Montclair State University. Dan Kaplan was honored by being selected as one of four teachers at the Princeton University graduation.

In conclusion, let me wish all a great summer filled with all the joys that the warm, sunny weather can bring. See you in the fall!

Ray Polomski