

Report to the

## **WISCONSIN SECTION of the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICS TEACHERS**

Annual meeting at Chippewa Falls Senior High School - Chippewa Falls, WI - October 10-11, 2008

**Submitted by: Jim Mallmann — Wisconsin Section Representative to AAPT**

My activities since the October 2007 WAPT meeting:

- Jan. 2008: Attended the AAPT winter meeting in Baltimore, MD. Attended the Section Officers' Exchange, the Section Representatives meeting, two Program planning meetings and chaired the meeting of the Committee on Laboratories.
  - July 2008: Attended and presented a paper at the AAPT summer meeting at the University of Alberta in Alberta Canada. Attended the Section Officers' Exchange, the Section Representatives meeting, two Program planning meetings and chaired the meeting of the Committee on Laboratories.
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### **AAPT Membership**

Established in 1930, AAPT is the world's leading organization for physics educators. With over 10,000 members in 30 countries worldwide, AAPT provides teachers with many opportunities for professional development, networking, and student enrichment. There are currently 47 local sections of AAPT around North America.

### **AAPT's Mission**

AAPT's mission is to enhance the understanding and appreciation of physics through teaching.

The Association has identified four critical issues that will guide its future activities:

1. Increase AAPT's outreach to and impact on physics teachers
  2. Increase the diversity and numbers of physics teachers and students
  3. Improve the pedagogical skills and physics knowledge of teachers at all levels
  4. Increase our understanding of physics learning and of ways to improve teaching effectiveness
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- There will be an *Advanced Labs Topical Conference* in Ann Arbor, MI on July 23-25, 2009 just before the summer 2009 AAPT meeting in Ann Arbor, MI on July 25-29, 2009

Some facts and recommendations regarding that Topical Conference:

- Approximately 120 participants are expected.
- The conference will be for intermediate and advanced labs only.
- There will be 8 to 10 hours of hands-on workshops with approximately 35 experimental setups.
- Topics to be covered include: How should advanced labs be run? and How to bring undergraduate research into the advanced lab curriculum.
- Some commercial workshops are expected, such as National Instruments/LabVIEW.

### **What we teach and how we teach it**

Here is part of a message that David Cook, Vice President of AAPT, sent to Chairs of the *Committee on Undergraduate Education* and the *Committee on Laboratories*:

“I am particularly anxious to increase the presence in our meetings of physics content, by which I mean sessions and other activities focusing on WHAT we teach (both in lecture courses and in laboratories) as opposed to HOW we teach it. . . . I write to encourage you and your committees to give thought to ways in which invited and contributed papers and posters focusing on physics content (and especially content above the introductory level) can be more effectively solicited.”

Here are some facts to support David's concern about meeting content: At the Summer 2008 AAPT meeting at the University of Alberta, the *Committee on Research in Physics Education* was the sponsoring committee for 11 paper sessions and 8 workshops. It was the co-sponsor for 2 paper sessions and 3 workshops—a total of twenty-four meeting events sponsored or co-sponsored by the *Committee on Research in Physics Education*. The *Committee on Undergraduate Education* and the *Committee on Laboratories* together sponsored only 8 sessions and 5 workshops.

***AAPT has made the following suggestions for planning local section meetings:***

1. Schedule meetings in advance (some sections have their meetings scheduled 2 and 3 years in advance). Meeting dates and places should be published regularly in the *Announcer* in *The Physics Teacher*, and in *Physics Today*.
2. Arrange the meeting calendar for the convenience of a maximum number of participants.
3. Make the meeting long enough to avoid rushing. Leave room in the program for informal discussions. Many times the ideas exchanged over a meal or, a cup of coffee, are the most beneficial. It is a good idea to have at least one social function during the meeting.
4. Actively solicit papers from all segments within the section boundaries. It is impossible to over advertise. Mailing lists of all AAPT members within section boundaries are available from the AAPT Executive Office. The more people you make aware of the programs, the better the participation should be.
5. Arrange for an occasional tutorial paper. Often times it is possible to get experts to give papers on topics of current interest at very little expense.
6. Consider sponsoring workshops at all levels. The National office has materials for some interesting workshops.
7. Provide interesting programs for spouses, especially when there is a two-day meeting. If both people enjoy the meetings, involvement will improve.
8. At least a synopsis of the program should be in the hands of the members in advance of the meeting. Special highlights should be emphasized to increase attendance.
9. Consider holding meetings, either regularly or occasionally, with other organizations such as the appropriate state Academy of Science or State Science Teachers Associations. Sometime local sections meet jointly.
10. Consider inviting AAPT officers to section meetings\*. AAPT has some funds for this kind of travel so that the services of these leaders can frequently be obtained without cost to the sections.
11. Consider inviting book publishers and scientific companies to exhibit at the meetings. Some sections have allowed exhibitors to exhibit without cost with good success.
12. When a new program effort is successful, share it with other sections.

The AAPT Executive Board has made available grants of up to \$500 to encourage AAPT Sections to actively address issues concerning the preparation of K–12 teachers. For more information and application details go to:

<http://www.aapt.org/aboutaapt/sectionfunds.cfm>

***ComPadre — Community for Physics and Astronomy Research Education***

ComPadre is a web site with the following mission statement: *To create and sustain a network of collections that provides learning resources and interactive learning environments and positively influences physics and astronomy students and their teachers in both individual and collaborative settings.* See: [www.compadre.org](http://www.compadre.org)

**AAPT AREA COMMITTEES**

There is a continuing need for new members of AAPT's 16 area committees.

If you are interested in serving on one of the committees, I will be happy to nominate you for your choice of committee, or you can nominate yourself using the nomination form available at:

<http://www.aapt.org/aboutaapt/nominationform.cfm>

*Area Committees are charged with dealing with specialized areas of general interest to the membership.*

See: <http://www.aapt.org/Directory/index.cfm> for a list of current members of the committees.

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**FUTURE NATIONAL MEETINGS**

<b>2009 Winter Meeting</b>	<b>2009 Summer Meeting</b>	<b>2010 Winter Meeting</b>
February 12-16	July 25-29	With APS
With AAAS	Ann Arbor, MI	Feb 13-16
Chicago, IL		Washington DC

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Mallmann, Wisconsin Section Representative