

Association News

Executive Director's Report

Catherine E. Rudder

The hundreds of individuals who work for APSA on a voluntary basis—Council and committee members, leaders of Organized Sections, editorial board members and reviewers, and many others—leave the Association in an even stronger position this year than last. As always, the primary volunteer has been the Association's President. The Council, guided by APSA President Sidney Verba, has confronted a number of difficult issues and has set APSA on a course that will carry it into the next century and benefit future generations of political scientists.

Troubled Waters

The discipline's fortunes are partly bound up in the present struggle over federal support for teaching and research. The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) hangs by a thread as this publication goes to press. Funding for social and behavioral science research at the National Science Foundation (NSF) is uncertain as well, as is the very existence of the research directorate at NSF. Scores of other budget cuts proposed by Congress directly affect political science research and teaching.

In the face of such challenges, APSA is in a delicate position. As a nonprofit, educational institution under the federal tax code, APSA is not a lobbying organization, nor do we want to be. Consistent with federal law and our own constitution, however, APSA can and must engage in representational efforts when the vital interests of political science as a discipline and profession are at stake.

Since Thomas E. Mann revital-

ized and led the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) in the early 1980s, APSA has been involved in coalitions of social science and humanities organizations that follow federal activity and work together to represent our collective interests in Washington.

The most important of these organizations are COSSA and the National Humanities Alliance (NHA).

Through these coalitions, APSA has mounted a much more effective response to proposed legislation than it would have acting alone. The coalitions have developed and implemented multi-pronged strategies to educate members of Congress and their staffs about the value of social science research and the need to continue large data sets like the National Election Studies, to preserve brittle books, and to support research fellowships at NEH. To explain the significance of social science research at NSF and the work of the NEH, many APSA members have been asked to write letters to their congressional representatives.

As challenging as this year has been, attacks on social science and humanities research have rightly required political scientists to rejustify public support of their work. The articulate letters that APSA members have sent to Capitol Hill demonstrate that the political science community has risen to the challenge. Whether budget cutting fever or misconceptions about the humanities and social sciences can be overcome by reasonable argument is yet to be seen.

Building for the Future

The challenges we are encountering on Capitol Hill did not eclipse the other work of APSA this year.

Our ongoing activities are robust. Emblematic of APSA's successful, yet demanding year is APSA's annual meeting.

Annual Meeting

Paul Allen Beck of Ohio State University in concert with his program committee constructed an outstanding 1994 annual meeting in New York with an attendance of almost 6,000, a record for APSA (Table 1). The task of the program chair has become increasingly complex, as the program has grown to offer 600 panels created by the program committee and related groups. Even with this number of panels, more offers to participate must be declined than can be accepted. The chair's responsibility is to orchestrate all the elements of the program (plenaries, special sessions and panels), implement the Association's policies concerning the annual meeting, ensure fair treatment of all offers to participate, and to create a coherent whole.

Notwithstanding the success of recent annual meetings, one problem continues to confront APSA. Specifically, 70% of the heads of the divisions of the annual meeting program and virtually all of those covering American politics are selected independently by Organized Sections. Thus, the selection of only 30% of the program committee is made by someone, the program chair, who is in a position to take care of the overall balance of the committee with regard to intellectual, demographic, and institutional variety. While this problem has not been resolved, the Committee on Organized Sections is reviewing this matter at the request of the Council.

TABLE 1
Annual Meeting Registration
1968–94

1968	3723 (Washington, D.C.)
1969	4142 (New York)
1970	2397 (Los Angeles)
1971	2732 (Chicago)
1972	3380 (Washington, D.C.)
1973	2312 (New Orleans)
1974	2773 (Chicago)
1975	2478 (San Francisco)
1976	2295 (Chicago)
1977	2624 (Washington, D.C.)
1978	2373 (New York)
1979	2687 (Washington, D.C.)
1980	2745 (Washington, D.C.)
1981	2887 (New York)
1982	2205 (Denver)
1983	2859 (Chicago)
1984	3391 (Washington, D.C.)
1985	2842 (New Orleans)
1986	3602 (Washington, D.C.)
1987	3524 (Chicago)
1988	4161 (Washington, D.C.)
1989	3496 (Atlanta)
1990	4505 (San Francisco)
1991	5179 (Washington, D.C.)
1992	4998 (Chicago)
1993	5635 (Washington, D.C.)
1994	5902 (New York)

Note: 1972–94 figures include exhibitors registered at the meeting, since their fee for booth rental includes the cost of their registration.

Organized Sections

As Organized Sections have become integral parts of APSA, the need for a standing committee to assure the health of sections and their coordination within APSA is more apparent than ever. Led by Barbara Romzek of the University of Kansas, this committee has labored to balance the collective interests of APSA’s members with the organizational interests of Organized Sections. The issue of the composition of the annual meeting program committee, discussed above, is only one example.

The Organized Sections Committee has had to decide whether and under what circumstances to dissolve sections. Sections are entitled to automatic dues collection by APSA’s membership department, a major role in the annual meeting program, the designation as an APSA entity, legal protection, and several other services. The Council and the committee agreed that for a group to warrant section status the group must maintain a membership

of at least 250 people—or about 2% of APSA’s total membership. Otherwise, the group should be designated a “related group” operating independently but having access to annual meeting panels, or, perhaps, merge with another section. As is apparent from Table 2, several sections are confronting the 250 person minimum, and the Organized Sections Committee must determine this summer their eligibility to continue as APSA Organized Sections.

Another difficult matter facing this committee is whether sections, identified as sections of the American Political Science Association, can take positions on public policy matters. This question was raised by a request from the Presidency Research Group Organized Section for APSA to adopt standards of qualifications for the Archivist of the United States and to publish statements about the suitability of individual candidates for appoint-

ment, and, if APSA were unwilling, for the section to do it.

The Council supported the request to make an APSA-wide statement about general qualifications. They also concluded that APSA should not review or make statements about individual candidates in matters such as this. Since a statement from an Organized Section would carry the APSA name, this decision precluded the Presidency Research Group Organized Section from making such statements. It was agreed that if the Presidency Research Group wished to proceed to vet candidates for the Archivist that they do so as an independent group, without reference to any APSA affiliation (which they have done). The Council then also asked the Organized Sections Committee to review the principles involved in matters like this and make recommendations to the Council. Watch *PS* for further discussion of this issue.

TABLE 2
Organized Section Members, 1995

Organized SECTION	Number of Members*
1 Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations	378
2 Law and Courts	758
3 Legislative Studies	605
4 Public Policy	844
5 Political Organizations and Parties	568
6 Public Administration	675
7 Conflict Processes	277
8 Representation and Electoral Systems	356
9 Presidency Research	414
10 Political Methodology	513
11 Religion and Politics	389
12 Politics and Life Sciences	99
13 Urban Politics	434
14 Applied Political Science	110
15 Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy	311
16 Women and Politics	544
17 Foundations of Political Theory	547
18 Computers and Multimedia	240
19 International Security and Arms Control	498
20 Comparative Politics	1092
21 Politics and Society in Western Europe	471
22 State Politics and Policy	460
23 Political Communication	379
24 Politics and History	518
25 Political Economy	743
26 Transformational Politics	266
27 New Political Science	251
28 Political Psychology	328
29 Internships and Experiential Education	176
30 Politics and Literature	282
31 Public Opinion and Foreign Policy	281
32 Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior	561
33 Race, Ethnicity & Politics	Now Forming

*As of May 25, 1995

Publications

Scholarly communication constitutes the heart of APSA, as the liveliness of the symposium on replication in this issue of *PS* helps confirm. Everyone associated with APSA's journals and other means of communication have been working on ways to take advantage of electronic media. This challenge is not one to be taken lightly, as technology changes quickly and missteps are costly.

Progress is underway, however. Bill Ball of Trenton State University has created the APSA gopher. Members can dial in (apsa.trenton.edu) and peruse, for example, the entire 1995 Annual Meeting preliminary program. Herb Jacob of Northwestern University has led the way in electronic publishing by creating a first-rate book review journal in the law and courts field. Ada Finifter, *APSR* Editor-Designee, of Michigan State University has spent countless hours preparing herself to take advantage of technological advances for the *APSR*. Peter Katzenstein and Mary Katzenstein, 1995 Annual Meeting Program Chairs, of Cornell University created a system this year so that their program committee could work interactively via e-mail. In short, great effort is being expended experimenting and teaching ourselves what we need to know to exploit this technology. The Publications Committee, led by Raymond Wolfinger of University of California-Berkeley, is overseeing many of these activities and considering other issues as well.

One matter of special importance to many members is the book review section of the *APSR*, currently edited by Mark Lichbach of the University of Colorado. Even with additional pages added to that section of the journal, most books that arrive at his editorial offices cannot be reviewed due to resource constraints, accelerated this year by a 40% increase in the cost of paper and a 12% increase in postage costs. Upon the request of 1994 President Charles O. Jones and the Council, the Publications Committee considered the advisability of creating a separate and larger book

TABLE 3
APSA Members, 1974-95

Year ^a	Regular	Associate	Student	Retired	Life	Family	Total	
							Individual	Institutional
1974	7,793		4,006	217	101	137	12,254	3,504
1975	7,335		3,912	206	100	149	11,702	3,648
1976	7,428		3,603	245	96	134	11,506	3,588
1977	7,228		3,076	270	95	142	10,811	3,466
1978	7,094		2,655	301	97	154	10,301	3,338
1979	6,845		2,335	310	91	148	9,729	3,339
1980	6,592		2,159	344	91	135	9,321	3,337
1981	6,423		1,901	349	92	129	8,894	3,283
1982	5,838		1,984	388	97	134	8,441	3,156
1983	5,764		2,068	382	104	130	8,448	3,018
1984	5,891		2,511	378	111	151	9,042	3,059
1985	5,879	106	2,595	411	116	166	9,273	2,996
1986	6,009	145	2,589	432	117	173	9,465	3,046
1987	5,913	154	2,775	439	127	202	9,610	3,109
1988	6,171	173	2,728	450	129	186	9,837	2,975
1989	6,445	249	3,054	489	166	192	10,595	2,948
1990	6,708	258	3,436	488	163	180	11,233	3,004
1991	6,967	266	3,656	519	160	199	11,767	2,890
1992	7,046	279	3,740	557	159	182	11,963	3,057
1993	7,061	291	3,979	573	157	194	12,255	2,887
1994	7,505	343	4,121	593	159	195	12,933	2,908
1995	7,654	340	4,750	623	164	205	13,577	2,812

^aJanuary of each year.

review journal. While recognizing the desirability of more reviews, the committee decided that the cost could not justify a new publication.

The *APSR* is undergoing important change as the editorial offices move from the University of Rochester to Michigan State University by the end of August. *APSR* Managing Editor Bingham Powell has masterfully performed his job over the last four years. His editorship is one marked by innovation in the process for selecting manuscript reviewers, as well as by fair-mindedness, balance, care, integrity, and overall excellence. The profession owes Bing Powell their gratitude and thanks.

Endowing the Future

It should be apparent that all of APSA's committees, not just the Publications Committee, are looking to the future and planning for the next generation of political scientists. No group is more entrusted with this task than the Committee on Endowed Programs. The current strength of APSA—its membership growth (Table 3), its balanced budgets (Table 4), its financial base (Table 5), the firm commitment of its members and staff to the health

of the organization—is manifestly apparent. The work and gifts of our predecessors have led to the opportunities APSA creates today for recognition, communication, publication, and community. It is the responsibility of this generation to create as many opportunities for those who follow, in what may be an environment less supportive of, if not hostile to, the scholarly enterprise.

As APSA approaches its 100th anniversary, the Committee on Endowed Programs, skillfully led for

TABLE 4
Budget Summary, 1980-95

Year	Income	Expenditures	Surplus
1980-81	\$1,007,675	\$ 977,328	\$ 30,347
1981-82	1,117,201	1,043,255	74,446
1982-83	1,202,078	1,094,415	107,663
1983-84	1,323,074	1,247,529	75,545
1984-85	1,415,077	1,353,334	61,743
1985-86	1,505,224	1,453,248	51,976
1986-87	1,585,000	1,500,000	85,307
1987-88	1,637,637	1,563,252	74,385
1988-89	1,847,151	1,731,248	115,903
1989-90	1,891,773	1,871,302	20,471
1990-91	2,158,118	2,133,524	24,594
1991-92	2,256,647	2,199,632	74,804
1992-93	2,290,313	2,202,419	87,894
1993-94	2,574,436	2,294,128	280,308
1994-95*	2,652,761	2,452,919	199,842

*Projected

TABLE 5
Market Value of APSA Funds,
1982–95

Year*	Trust and Development Fund	Endowed Programs Funds
1982	\$ 806,593	\$ 188,214
1983	1,080,985	149,682
1984	1,001,775	225,580
1985	1,450,032	264,149
1986	1,677,365	304,105
1987	1,811,794	362,174
1988	1,685,345	382,268
1989	1,643,552	394,837
1990	1,630,718	419,021
1991†	1,555,574	5,452,252
1992	1,905,090	6,188,105
1993	2,118,787	6,847,760
1994	2,190,976	7,218,462
1995 (Projected)	2,546,944	7,389,523

*June 30 of each year.

†Figures for 1991–1993 have been restated to reflect current accounting practice. The apparent drop in T & D market value in 1991 is due only to this reallocation across funds and does not represent a true decrease in value.

the past three years by Dorothy Stetson of Florida Atlantic University, is planning a capital campaign intended to build on existing resources. The committee has presented a preliminary plan to the Council—which the Council has enthusiastically endorsed—to create the Centennial Center for Political Science located in APSA’s building with space and equipment available to APSA members who come to Washington to do research for specified periods of time. The center would include small offices and a conference room for informal seminars.

If the Endowed Programs Committee is successful, this center will be a wonderful resource not only for future generations of political scientists but this one as well. Bringing this idea to fruition will require much work, but the result will be stunning.

Closing Chapters

APSA cannot move forward without attending to its present and its past. Our debt to the past was underscored this spring by the deaths of Evron Kirkpatrick and Herman Pritchett.

As for the present, a bittersweet milestone has been reached at APSA. Membership Director Christine Hill Johnson is retiring after 34 years with the association. Christine Johnson has given yeoman’s service to the members of this organization. I know that members wish her the best in her retirement. She will be greatly missed in the national office.

Other Reports

For more details on virtually every aspect of our work, *PS* has done an admirable job throughout the year of providing articles and Council minutes. I would appreciate hearing from you on these and other matters.

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