

Wisconsin Section, American Association of Physics Teachers
Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting
October 31, 2015, at University of Wisconsin – La Crosse, La Crosse, WI

After an interesting and educational morning talk/poster session and lots of great workshops, we all headed over to the Library for the business lunch meeting. It was a fun day: Einstein was here (and he was carrying an Einstein action figure) and a Star Trek Red Shirt was in attendance (you know what that means...). Then, there was the name-tag-give-away! Seth King gave away some SPS t-shirts (he asked to be reminded to pay back SPS after the meeting), water bottles, and bags. Matt Evans gave away some books in the same manner. Congrats to all of the winners!

Meeting Start Time: 12:35 pm (which is actually a few minutes late, but this was OK since we were all enjoying the give-away). President Melissa Vigil presiding. Her first order of business was to thank Seth/Jennifer and the UW-La Crosse folks for a job well-done in bringing WAPT to UW-L. These thanks, of course, go to all of the people working behind the scenes, as well. Loud clapping acknowledged their excellent work!

1. Minutes of the last meeting (October 25th, 2014) – Erik Hendrickson

Motion to accept the Minutes (printed on gray paper) was made by Matt Evans, seconded by Jim Madsen. Melissa mentioned that she did not remember any “thunderous clapping” at the end of last year’s meeting, as printed in the Minutes, but this is what the Secretary/Treasurer recalled. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

2. Treasurer’s Report for 2014-15 – Erik Hendrickson

Please see the full text, including a nice graph, of Erik’s Report (which was distributed on green paper), but a few items were highlighted...

A. It was reported that our 1-yr CD earned \$7.59 last year. Expenses were described briefly, including the costs of last year’s meeting.

B. It was noted that last year we actually made a small amount of money overall. Melissa commented that it was a joint WAPT/SPS meeting, and that the local student group had done some fundraising and that the local student government provided some of the funding for the speakers. This should be food for thought for future hosts.

C. Motion to accept the printed treasurer’s report as distributed was made by Jim Madsen, seconded by Matt Evans. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

3. Section Representative’s Report – Jim Mallmann

Please see the full text of Jim’s Report (which was distributed on yellow paper), but he highlighted a few items...

A. Jim pointed out that the AAPT is looking for all of us to encourage new members to join (and for each of us to join, as well!). They would really like to create more connections between local and national issues. He quoted David P. Jackson’s excerpt from the 10/15 American Journal of Physics Editorial: “I am always surprised when I meet a physicist who does a lot of teaching but has never been to an AAPT Meeting. Whether you teach at a university, a two- or four-year college, or a high school, you will find much that is useful and interesting at an AAPT Meeting. Even more surprising is when I meet a physicist who teaches yet is not even a member of AAPT. I find it bewildering that my colleagues are not members of the only national organization whose main focus is physics education. Anyone who believes in the importance of physics education should be supporting AAPT through membership.” Jim’s comment was that when you attend the AAPT Meetings you make lots of new friends and get to have conversations with the best physics teachers in the country! The National Office did some research and found that the Northeast has the best membership, while the South-central has the worst. Wisconsin is right in line with the national average, as far as membership goes.

B. Jim noted that the Winter AAPT Meeting is in New Orleans, LA, and the Summer Meeting is in Sacramento, CA. Just to plan ahead, the following Winter Meeting (2017) is in Atlanta, GA, and the Summer 201 meeting is in Cincinnati, OH.

C. He reminded us that if anyone would like to serve on any of the national committees (there are 18 different “area” committees), he could nominate you or you could self-nominate. The National Office would like to get more members involved at the national level. Remember, even if you are not a member of a national committee, you can be a “friend” of a national committee (you still attend the meetings, get emails about the happenings, etc.).

D. Jim mentioned that he is always available via email to answer any of your questions about AAPT.

E. Motion to accept the report was made by Gary Baier, seconded by Jim Madsen. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

4. High School Representative’s Report – Gary Baier

Please see the full text of Gary’s Report (which was distributed on blue paper)

A. Encourage new teachers to use ementoring.aapt.org! This program tries to connect newer high school physics teachers with a mentor through email communication and Skype/FaceTime contact. They are also looking for good mentors (consider signing up!). Most of the participants are currently from the east/west coasts, but many more mentors are needed! There are many early-career high school physics teachers looking for help/support, especially from smaller schools in the middle of the country. Make sure you encourage your new graduates who are heading off for teaching positions to sign up!

- B. Participate and spread the word about the physics share groups that are spread throughout Wisconsin: Milwaukee, Fox Valley, Eau Claire area, there's a new one in Green Bay, and the Stevens Point one is coming back soon!
- C. The new AP courses are up and running. See descriptions in Gary's handout.
- D. There are still licensing issues out there. Especially with the fact that a physics license doesn't allow you to teach astronomy. Currently, they are considering allowing more flexibility with the middle school physics/chemistry licenses.
- E. Motion to accept the report was made by Matt Evans, seconded by Seth King. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

5. Two-Year College Representative's Report – Carey Woodward, Jr.

Again, please see Carey's full written report (which was distributed on gray paper).

- A. There has been talk of merging the UW-Colleges with the state technical colleges. Watch for any new developments in this area.
- B. Budget cuts: \$5 million to two-year colleges. Response = regionalizing administration over multiple campuses. Might there eventually be curriculum regionalization? Keep an eye on this in the future.
- C. Dual enrollment: HLC "clarified" their statement on which classes can count.
- D. Physics "Flex" is now live, but it is still small.
- E. UW-Online: Soon to offer algebra/trig physics with "boot camp" labs.
- F. Motion to accept the report was made by Mike LeDocq, seconded by Matt Evans. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

6. Committee Reports

a) Awards Committee – Matt Evans

There were no nominations this year (again!).

If you think there's someone deserving of a WAPT award, make sure to share this information with any member of the Awards Committee at any time throughout the year. We continue to look for and recognize excellence in the Wisconsin physics education community.

Remember, there are also national AAPT awards out there. Think about nominating WAPT members for these, as well.

Melissa presented the awards for this year's student participants: Poster session = Chris Christopherson.

Presentation session: Laurel Lasadee and Joe Wagner. Please consider awarding these at future WAPT Meetings, it really encourages your students to participate.

b) Publications/Promotions Committee – Jim Madsen (who deferred to Matt Evans)

Reported that he tries to use a mass mailing list for new "newsletters. Please send any new names to Matt to add them to the list. Larry Stookey reminded us that we still have a Facebook page. All you have to do is "ask" to join, and Larry will add you. Also, please feel free to post things! Encourage your colleagues to join.

c) Workshops Committee – Seth King

There were excellent workshops this morning and they were well attended! Hooray!! Don't forget that there are several more workshops this afternoon. If you have any feedback regarding the workshops, please let Seth know. Start thinking of workshop ideas for next year!

- d) A motion was made to accept all Committee Reports as presented by Jim Madsen and seconded by Mark Lattery. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

7. Old Business

- a) First-timer awards: We'll bring them back next year. Encourage new people to attend!
- b) Seth commented that we were able to use credit cards for registration this year for the first time and it worked well. They had to "go through" Continuing Education to be able to do it, though (watch out for "administrative fees" when doing this). Matt & Erik are going to look into maybe using PayPal next year...

8. Future Meeting Sites

2016: UW – Oshkosh (Mark Lattery), 10/28-29. Already has Dr. Jim Gates lined up to speak, looking into a state-wide "trade show" where there are teams of science teachers who will show off their wares during a social hour...

2017: Any volunteers???

2018: Gary might try to host in the Green Bay area???

2019: UW – Whitewater was suggested???

2020: UW – River Falls (they are always on the tens!)

Start thinking of the possibility of hosting at your school...

9. New Business

- A. Funds for next year's speaker (Dr. Jim Gates): \$2000

Mark Lattery moved, Matt Evans seconded. Passed unanimously on a voice vote. Mark mentioned that he would also try to tap into other sources of funding (student government, student organizations, etc.).

10. Elections (Otherwise known as the railroading portion of the meeting!)

Awards Committee:

(Past President - one-year term; High School Rep. - two-year term; College Rep. - two-year term)

Past-President: Melissa Vigil

She was elected by a voice vote after being nominated by Jim Madsen and seconded by Mark Lattery.

College Rep.: Nathan Miller 2014-2016

High School Rep.: Paul Nevins 2015-2017

He was elected by a voice vote after being nominated by Matt Evans and seconded by Seth King.

Workshops Committee:

(Chair/Vice President - one-year term; High School Rep. - three-year term; College Rep. - three-year term)

High School Rep.: Amy Root 2014-2017

College Rep.: Matt Vonk 2014-2017

High School Rep.: Tim Pasche 2015-2018

He was elected by a voice vote after being nominated by Jim Madsen and seconded by Seth King.

College Rep.: Seth King 2015-2018

He was elected by a voice vote after being nominated by Matt Evans and seconded by Jim Madsen.

Publications/Promotions Committee:

(Chair - three-year term; High School Rep. - three-year term; College Rep. three-year term)

High School Rep.: Larry Stookey 2014-2017

College Rep.: Andrew Paul 2014-2017

High School Rep.: Dan Hagstrom 2015-2018

He was elected by a voice vote after being nominated by Jim Madsen and seconded by Matt Evans.

College Rep.: Melissa Vigil 2015-2018

She was elected by a voice vote after being nominated by Seth King and seconded by Jim Madsen.

Chair: Jim Madsen 2013-2016

Officers:

Secretary/Treasurer (3-year term): Erik Hendrickson 2013-2016

Two-Year College Representative (2-year term): Carey Woodward 2015-2017

He was elected by a voice vote after being nominated by Jim Madsen, seconded by Carey Woodward.

Elections:

High School Representative (2-year term): Gary Baier 2014-2016

Section Representative (3-year term): Jim Mallmann 2015-2018

He was elected by a voice vote after being nominated by Jim Madsen and seconded by Gary Baier.

Vice President, Program Chair, Workshops Committee Chair (1-year term): Mark Lattery

He was elected by a voice vote after being nominated by Matt Evans and seconded by Jim Madsen.

Thank you, in advance, Mark and UW-O! See you next year!!

Co-President (1-year term): Seth King and Jennifer Dockett

First there was a motion (made by Mark Lattery, seconded by Jim Madsen) to allow there to be Co-Presidents. This motion passed on a voice vote.

They were elected on a voice vote after being nominated by Matt Evans and seconded by Jim Madsen.

Congratulatory clapping was heard reverberating in the room!

11. Closing Remarks & Adjournment

Melissa Vigil: Thanks to everyone for helping to make this a wonderful meeting! Don't forget that there are lots afternoon workshops to attend. Be safe with your trick or treating tonight!!

The following motion was made by Jim Madsen and seconded by Gary Baier:

A big **THANK YOU** to

Seth King & the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse

for an absolutely

FANTASTIC MEETING!!!

The motion unanimously passed by a voice (and clapping of hands) vote!

The following motion was made by Jim Madsen and seconded by Erik Hendrickson:

A big **“Thank You!”** to Melissa Vigil for running such an efficient Business Meeting!

This motion unanimously passed, as well.

!!!See everyone at **UW – Oshkosh** next year!!!

The meeting ended at 1:40 pm (which is just 10 minute behind schedule, but we're sure the workshop folks won't mind too much). Everyone started chatting (the best part of a meeting of teachers!) or dispersing to the different workshops or...

Respectfully submitted,

Erik Hendrickson
Secretary/Treasurer