

**Wisconsin Section, American Association of Physics Teachers**  
**Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting**  
October 21, 2017, at Rockford University, Rockford, IL

After many wonderful morning talks and several great workshops, we all headed down to the basement (Room 130) to grab our pizza slices (in a freezing cold room!) and then ran up to Room 225 of the Starr Science Center for the business lunch meeting. The slices were delicious and the conversations were great (always good to see everyone again, and meet new people!)

Meeting Start Time: 12:52 pm (which was actually a little late, partly because the pizza was tardy). President Lattery presiding. Their first order of business was to thank this year's organizers (Jim Madsen was present, Bethany Reilly & Amy Root in absentia) and the Rockford University folks for a job well-done in bringing WAPT to Rockford. These thanks, of course, go to all of the people working behind the scenes, as well. Loud clapping acknowledged their excellent work! Mark also wanted to thank Matt Evans and Erik Hendrickson for doing "everything" that they do.

**1. Minutes of the last meeting (October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016) – Erik Hendrickson**

Motion to accept the Minutes (printed on salmon paper) was made by Lowell McCann, seconded by Jim Madsen. No major typos were found. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

**2. Treasurer's Report for 2016-17 – 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 \$5.71 last year. Expenses were described briefly, including the costs of last year's meeting.

B. It was noted that our cash is slightly down from previous years, but this was approved previously to bring in a great speaker for last year's meeting. This is not a problem, and if others have ideas for future meetings that might cost a little more (to keep meeting registration costs down), we can always draw funds from our CD. All is well.

C. Motion to accept the printed treasurer's report as distributed, along with the amendment, was made by Jim Madsen, seconded by Gary Baier. 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 goldenrod 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 see more people attend the national meetings, as well. One thing that might encourage you to attend these meetings is to look over the "area committees" and attend one of their sessions. You can participate in the area committee meeting as a "friend", just to get a taste for what they do, and then if you are still interested you can join the actual area committee. This is a great way to get involved!

B. Jim noted that the Winter AAPT Meeting is in San Diego, CA, which is always 40+ degrees warmer than winter in Wisconsin! The Summer 2018 Meeting is in Washington, DC. Just to plan ahead, the following Winter Meeting (2019) is in Houston, TX.

C. He reminded us that we should consider nominating people for the many different awards that AAPT honors people with every year. See the website for more details.

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

E. Motion to accept the report 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 orange paper), but he highlighted a few items...

A. DPI Rules: There are many, many rule change proposals out there, right now. The State is really trying to figure out ways to create more paths for people to become teachers and allow rural/smaller schools to hire the people they need. Are all of these proposals "good" for the teaching profession, for the physics teaching community? That is what we need to be listening for and then offering our professional opinions regarding these proposals when needed. If you hear new things or if you have questions, please talk to Gary!

B. Gave a recap of the many activities at the Summer 2017 Meeting. Lots of good sessions for high school teachers!

C. Encourage new teachers to use [ementoring.aapt.org](http://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 (you should 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!

D. Motion to accept the report made by Lowell McCann, seconded by Jim Madsen. 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 pink paper).

A. President Ray Cross recently announced a plan to dissolve the 13 UW-Colleges and have each of them be assigned as a "branch" campus to specific UW campuses. Right now, way more questions than details. He mentioned that confusion and chaos are pretty common at each College currently, especially where any type of planning for the future is involved.

B. Lots more on-line courses are being offered, fewer face-to-face classes, due to lower enrollments (which is true nearly across the board at all Colleges). But even the on-line course planning/offerings are chaotic, since the non-teaching staff at all of the Colleges have been told that they should start planning on not being employed 2 years from now.

C. On-line calculus-based introductory physics is now live. Labs are face-to-face, boot-camp style. The compromise was that all labs and discussion sections must now be taught by physicists.

D. Have been working really hard recently on the 2-year liberal arts associate degree, which is now ready for launch in Fall 2018. The potential dissolution of the Colleges puts a huge question mark on this endeavor, but when System was asked about how to proceed, they said to launch as planned. They would not commit, though, to even making it to the second year of the program with the first cohort of students.

E. Motion to accept the report made by Gary Baier, seconded by Lowell McCann. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

## 6. Committee Reports

### a) Awards Committee – Jennifer Docktor & Seth King (not present)

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.

### b) Publications/Promotions Committee – Jim Madsen

A big thank you to Matt for sending out interesting stuff to the whole group occasionally. Jim's question was: Do people want more stuff to be sent out? People seemed to think that "occasionally" was okay. Jim reminded everyone to send stuff to both Matt and him for posting.

### c) Workshops Committee – Jim Madsen (Bethany Reilly & Amy Root not present)

There were a sufficient number of (excellent) workshops for this meeting and they were well attended. If you have any feedback regarding the workshops, please let Jim know. Start thinking of workshop ideas for next year! Another thing to think about for future meetings: Should we compensate workshop leaders and invited speakers? Maybe something for next year's New Business...

d) A motion was made by Gary Baier to accept all Committee Reports as presented and seconded by Lowell McCann. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

## 7. Old Business

a) Erik reminded the group that we have already set up all of the PayPal stuff for registration and fees/dues. Matt & Erik can help whoever is hosting future meetings to do it again.

## 8. Future Meeting Sites

2018: UW – Whitewater, October 26/27, Steven Sahyun

2019: ?????

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

2021: UW – Stevens Point, David Tamres & Gary Baier

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

## 9. New Business

A. Steven Sahyun asked everyone to think about sending him speaker ideas for next year's Meeting

B. UW – System question:

Jim Madsen was concerned about the recent announcement that UW – Green Bay was granted approval to offer a Mechanical Engineering degree, even though it wasn't widely sent around the System to see how it would impact other school (which is what is usually done). Shouldn't the System act more like a system and coordinate these things better? We should probably also try to use WAPT to communicate such things, as well, and try to keep everyone informed.

C. Should there be a WAPT response to the teacher licensure proposals?

Several people mentioned that we should use WAPT to assert our positions better to DPI. How do we make sure we have a voice? Mark Lattery volunteered to create a small ad hoc group (Paul Nevins volunteered to assist) that would draft a one-page letter outlining our concerns/ideas to DPI. He will send out more details in the near future, and anyone is invited to chime in with helpful suggestions. David Tamres then mentioned that

we should invite a DPI representative to a future WAPT Meeting, or maybe we should just make it a standing invitation every year at WAPT. Gary Baier mentioned that he will pass along the invite to his contact at DPI for next year.

## 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:** Mark Lattery

He was elected by a voice vote after being nominated by Lowell McCann, seconded by Jim Madsen.

College Rep.: Nathan Miller 2016-2018

**High School Rep.:** Paul Nevins 2017-2019

He was elected by a voice vote after being nominated by Jim Madsen, seconded by Lowell McCann.

### **Workshops Committee:**

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

**High School Rep.:** Amy Root 2017-2020

She was elected by a voice vote after being nominated by Jim Madsen, seconded by Lowell McCann.

**College Rep.:** Jim Madsen 2017-2020

He was elected by a voice vote after being nominated by Lowell McCann, seconded by Gary Baier.

High School Rep.: Tim Pasche 2015-2018

College Rep.: Seth King 2015-2018

### **Publications/Promotions Committee:**

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

**High School Rep.:** Gary Baier 2017-2020

He was elected by a voice vote after being nominated by Lowell McCann, seconded by Jim Madsen.

**College Rep.:** Andrew Pawl 2017-2020

He was elected by a voice vote after being nominated by Jim Madsen, seconded by Lowell McCann.

High School Rep.: Dan Hagstrom 2015-2018

College Rep.: Melissa Vigil 2015-2018

Chair: Jim Madsen 2016-2019

### **Officers:**

Secretary/Treasurer (3-year term): Erik Hendrickson 2016-2019

**Two-Year College Representative** (2-year term): Carey Woodward 2017-2019

He was elected by a voice vote after being nominated by Lowell McCann, seconded by Jim Madsen.

### **Elections:**

High School Representative (2-year term): Gary Baier 2016-2018

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

**Vice President, Program Chair, Workshops Committee Chair** (1-year term): Steven Sahyun

He was elected by a voice vote after being nominated by Lowell McCann and seconded by Erik Hendrickson. Thank you, in advance, Steven and UW-Whitewater! See you next year!!

**President** (1-year term): Jim Madsen or Amy Root or Bethany Reilly

One of these three was elected on a voice vote after being nominated by Gary Baier and seconded by Lowell McCann. Congratulatory clapping was heard reverberating in the room!

## 11. Closing Remarks & Adjournment

Mark Lattery: Thanks to everyone for helping to make this a wonderful meeting! Don't forget that there are still afternoon workshops and oral presentations to attend.

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

A big **THANK YOU** to

Jim Madsen & Bethany Reilly & Amy Root & Deepshikha Shukla & Rockford University

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 Mark Lattery for running such an efficient Business Meeting!

This motion unanimously passed, as well.

!!!See everyone at UW – Whitewater next year!!!

The meeting ended at 1:55 pm (which was a tad past the start of the last invited speaker's talk). Everyone started chatting (the best part of a meeting of teachers!) or dispersing to a workshop or other talks or...

Respectfully submitted,

Erik Hendrickson  
Secretary/Treasurer