Fall 2013 Meeting of the Illinois Section of the AAPT, October 4-5, 2013
Heartland Community College, Normal

The fall meeting is organized around the theme “Physics and Astronomy Education”. Invited presentations are:

"Hierarchies in student understanding of the directional relationships between net force, velocity, and acceleration in 1D" – Dr. Rebecca Rosenblatt, Illinois State University – Friday afternoon

"Utilizing Challenger Learning Centers to Strengthen Scientific Literacy" – Stacey Shrewsbury, Challenger Learning Center – Friday afternoon

"Education and Public Outreach" – Dr. Daniel Miller, Twin City Amateur Astronomers – Friday afternoon

“Transfer of Learning and Implications for Physics Education” – Sanjay Rebello, Kansas State University – Friday banquet speaker

“Teaching High School Physics” – Carl Wenning, Illinois State University and Rebecca Vieyra, Cary-Grove High School – Saturday morning

“Where does the weirdness go?” – Dr. Robert Wagner, Illinois State University – Saturday morning

“Space Events” are planned for Fri. night and Sat. afternoon; sign up for these on the registration form.

S1 – Telescope Viewing and Tour - Friday Evening after the Banquet, Twin City Amateur Astronomers observatories at the Sugar Grove Nature Center – Friday 9:00 - 10:00 pm. The bus will leave at 8:30 and return by 10:30 pm. There will be a $6 fee for riding the bus. The bus capacity is 45.

S2 – Challenger Learning Center Mission – Saturday 1:00 - 3:00 pm. The minimum number for this event is 18 and the maximum is 30. The event is free, sponsored by whiteboardsUSA.com.

Meeting attendees are invited to present 15 minute Contributed Presentations, which will be scheduled on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. There are five categories of presentations: (a) Active Learning, (b) Teaching Methods, (c) Demonstrations, (d) Research, and (e) Other. Please check the appropriate box on the submission form. The title should be submitted by Sept. 20, and the deadline for all of the information, including a one paragraph description, is Sept. 27. Use the online form on two occasions, if needed, to first submit the title, then later to submit the description (abstract).

Take Fives: Anyone who registers for the meeting may take 5 minutes or less to share a favorite item related to teaching physics - a demonstration, a new Web site, announcement of an upcoming event, etc. Please use the Registration form to tell us the title of your Take Five. There may be time for a few unannounced Take Fives at the end of the last session of the day.
ISAAPT has been recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) as an official provider of Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDU’s). The Coordinator for this program, Morten Lundsgaard, will be available to provide this service to teachers.

Please join us, to learn more about physics, discover new tools and techniques for teaching, and share your experiences via your contributed presentations and Take Fives. You are welcome to come at the last minute, because on-site registration will be available, but for banquet and lunch reservations, you must register online by Friday, Sept. 27.

Motels for this meeting will likely fill up due to the ISU Homecoming weekend, so attendees are urged to reserve rooms now. For more information, maps and directions, registration forms, hotel information, and the program, see our website: www.isaapt.org

Future ISAAPTP Meetings

• Fall 2013 – Illinois State University, Normal
• Spring 2014 – open

If you are considering being a host for a future meeting, please contact us.

Future Chicago section meetings

• Fall 2013 – not yet announced
• See: http://www.neiu.edu/~csaapt/

Future national AAPT meetings

• Winter 2014 – Jan. 4-7 – Orlando, FL
• Summer 2014 – July 26-30 – Minneapolis, MN
• Winter 2015 – Jan. 3-6 – San Diego, CA
• Summer 2015 – to be determined
• http://www.aapt.org/Conferences/meetings.cfm

APS Prairie section meetings

• Fall 2013 – Nov. 7-9 – University of Missouri, Columbia, MO
• See: http://www.aps.org/units/psaps/index.cfm

AAPT NEWS eNNOUNCER

http://www.aapt.org/aboutaapt/ennouncer/index.cfm

The Physics Front!

The Physics Front provides high quality resources for the teaching of physics and physical sciences courses, and is a free service provided by the AAPT in partnership with the NSF/NSDL. Find it at http://www.thephysicsfront.org/

ISAAPTP listserv

This listserv is for ISAAPTP members and interested physics teachers. For a description, see: http://helios.augustana.edu/isaapt/listserv-isaapt.html

The Physics Teacher,
the ISAAPTP Newsletter

Illinois Section of the
American Association of Physics Teachers

Brian Davies, Editor
Dept. of Physics
Western Illinois University
Macomb, IL 61455
bm-davies@wiu.edu

Ken Wester
Secretary Treasurer, ISAAPTP
Dept. of Physics
Illinois State University
Normal, IL 61790-4560

For address changes, membership information and other correspondence about the ISAAPTP, contact:
Call for Nominations for the 2014 Distinguished Service Citation

We invite and encourage you to nominate a fellow colleague for the 2014 Distinguished Service Citation to be presented at the fall 2014 ISAAPT meeting. Please send your nomination by July 1, 2014, so that the Council might consider the candidates over the summer. For guidelines, see the “Distinguished Service Citation” link on the ISAAPT website: www.isaapt.org

Call for Nominations for Outstanding High School Physics Teacher Award

Each school year the Illinois Section of AAPT is pleased to receive nominations for our award for outstanding high school physics teachers in the state. Fellow teachers and school administrators who are aware of exceptional performance and enthusiastic student response are encouraged to fill out the online nomination form found on the ISAAPT website. The person who is nominated will be notified and asked to fill out the online candidate information form. The deadline for receiving nominations has been December 31. The teacher who is selected will be notified and presented with the award at the fall 2014 meeting of the Section.

Please note that this is a change from the previous timetable. Because we get more attendance of high school teachers at the fall meeting, the most recent council meeting approved a change so that the award will be granted in the fall. (See below for the minutes of the council meeting.) We are in the process of updating the web page for this award. Also note that we will maintain previous nominations for a period of time for consideration in future years. We are seeking a volunteer (ideally a high school teacher) to head the committee that handles this process.

The Classroom Astronomer
Spectrum Viewers

A product review – by Brian Davies, WIU

Dr. Larry Krumenaker recently sent me some samples of a spectrum viewer, in the form of two separate cards, each about 6 x 8.5” with a 4 x 1” window containing a plastic replica grating. Below the window are color photos of numerous spectra, including noble gases, air, water, and CO2 on one side of the first card, and H, N, O, Cl, I, Na, and Hg on the other side of that card. The second card has spectra of common light sources. When held at a comfortable distance using one hand, the spectra seen through the grating can be aligned with the photos. I tried these out using our spectrum tubes and some black paper as background to the observed spectra and found that most of the photos are reasonably good matches (to H, D, He, N) but some were somewhat broadened compared to my low-pressure sources (for air, Ne, Hg, and CO2).

For more information on these, come to the meeting where Carl Wenning will give a Take-Five and I will have some samples. For more details, see www.hermograph.com

Minutes of the Spring 2013 ISAAPT Executive Council Meeting
Saturday, March 2, 2013
Western Illinois University

Call to Order: President Andrew Morrison called the meeting to order at 7:08 a.m. Council Members present: Past-President Brian Davies, President-Elect Don Reid, Secretary/Treasurer Ken Wester, Dave Sykes, Deb Lojkutz, Noella D’Cruz, Richard Ross, Morten Lundsgaard, Doug Brandt, and Jim Rabchuk.

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2012 executive council meeting held at Joliet Junior College was made by Doug Brandt and seconded by Richard Ross. The motion passed without further discussion.
Reports:

**Secretary-Treasurer:** Ken reported on the financial status of ISAAPT. Currently the treasury has $9660.96 and there is approximately $39,648.00 in the Rossing Fund.

**Section Representative:** Zak Knott was not present but did attend the sectional meeting; no report was given.

**High School Representative:** Ann Brandon was not present; no report was given.

**Publicity Chair and Webmaster:**
1. For this meeting I have worked with the host, Brian Davies, and provided him with PDF files of the program, the name tags, and the receipts. He was sent a spreadsheet for the registration table with an alphabetical list of those who registered online (51) tabulating their fees for the meeting.

2. Things are going fine with the website. On the home page, I have added three prominent icons for learning about ISAAPT activities and related topics on Facebook, Twitter, and Google+. Council member Rebecca Vieyra currently updates these webpages.

3. There is a new menu item for this meeting called "session chairs" that provides Instructions for Session Chairs.

**Payment of Fees by Credit Card**

If there is time, you could include this as an item for discussion under New Business. I looked at the website stripe.com. This is a secure website that links into your checking account. They show you what HTML code to add to your Club and JCB. For each transaction there is a fee of 2.9% + 30¢. They have no setup fees, no monthly fees, no minimum charges, no validation fees, and no card storage fees. There’s also no charge for failed payments.

Stripe automatically subtracts their fee before you’re paid. Each day’s charges are paid seven days later. Payouts are to the bank account you specify on your account page. You can view each transfer to your bank account and the reason for the amount, on your transfers page.

I created and maintain the website for another non-profit, the Jenny Lind Chapel in Andover, Illinois. Near the bottom of the home page it says, "You may also use your credit card or PayPal account to make a contribution to the Chapel's operating fund by clicking on this Donate button. You will receive an email receipt. Thank you!" Below this is a Donate button and a row of credit card icons. The Chapel has a PayPal account and their fees per transaction are the same as Stripe’s. Likewise, the money is deposited in your checking account and the treasurer is informed of the names of the donors and the amounts. I worked with the treasurer and this was very easy to setup with only about 7 lines of HTML code added to one webpage. No data is collected by the local server. (Try clicking on the Donate button to view the payment page.)

I would be happy to look into this further and set up such a credit card payment option for the fall meeting. My current recommendation would be to go with PayPal. (What the button says is customizable.)

A motion to renew the Domain name was made by Dave Sykes and seconded by Don Reid. The motion passed unanimously.

Rebeca Vieyra has set up the social media and it is moving forward. It needs to be used more.

**Outstanding High School Teacher Award:** Cliff Parker was not present. The award winner for this year was unable to attend the spring meeting and will be presented the award during the fall meeting. Cliff is stepping down so we will need to find someone to chair the committee.

**Committee for the Distinguished Service Citation:** Tom Snyder is chairperson of the committee. Deb indicated no nomination had been received and suggested that the website be updated. Dave, Ken and Dave will work on this.

**Newsletter Editor:** Brian Davies reported that he sent 130 newsletters. Dave determines the schedule and has added new names to the mailing list. Brian has to wait until Dave sends him the mailing list before he can mail the newsletters.

**Old Business:**
Local Physical Science Alliances:
A question was asked to see if we need a person to report these? It was decided to allow anyone interested to make the report. It was also discussed that since we set them up we should follow up and support the LPSA’s. It was also suggested that this be moved to “reports” instead of remaining in old business. It was pointed out that the zone leaders are on the website and the suggestion was made that the president-elect should follow up on the LPSA’s and contact the zone leaders to determine their activities.

Spring Meeting:
Andrew thanked Brian for his work in organizing and hosting the meeting. Brian reported that it was a lot of work and that only one speaker canceled, but some speakers did not show up. There was no speaker expense for this meeting.

Carl Wenning’s duties have transferred smoothly with no issues.

There was a discussion about accepting credit card payments for the conference; possible choices included swipe, Square, Stripe and PayPal. Dave has used PayPal with another organization and indicated that it is easy to use. Users do not have to have an account in order to make payments. He recommends using this service for credit payments. Questions/concerns: (1) How much demand is there? (2) It makes us look more professional. (2) Will refunds be made? James, Ken, and Dave R. will work on refund policy.

A motion was made by Ken W. to pilot credit card payment options for the fall meeting including refund policy using PayPal. Dave S. seconded and the motion passed without further discussion.

The fall 2013 meeting will be held at Heartland Community College, co-hosted by ISU. No meetings have been scheduled past fall 2013. Illinois Wesleyan is possibly interested in hosting a future meeting. Millikin University has expressed interest in hosting a 2015 meeting. Discussion about any joint meeting should be in the fall not in the spring.

Rebecca V. has created a Facebook page, Google plus, and twitter accounts for ISAAPT.

New business:
A new chair for the High School Physics Teacher award is needed to replace Cliff Parker. The new person will work with Dave R. It was suggested that since more high school teachers attend the fall meeting that we might want to consider moving the award presentation to the fall.

A motion was made by Morton L. to move the High School Physics Teacher award to the fall. James R. seconded the motion and the motion passed without further discussion.

Ad-Hoc Committee on how to spend funds: It was suggested that we keep a reserve of $3100.00. Recommended ideas for using the money: (1) reduce section meeting registration fees, (2) reduce dues, (3) provide funding for section representative to attend meetings, (4) small grants for workshops. There was not much support for lowering fees. It was suggested to look at individual cases for supporting reps with travel. There was agreement to supply grants to support LPSA’s.

A motion was made by Brian D. to accept the report as a non-binding recommendation. Don R. seconded the motion and it passed without further discussion.

A motion was made by Don R. to accept section reps travel support to be approved by council on a case-by-case basis. Dave S. seconded the motion and it passed without further discussion.

A motion was made by Dave S. to waive dues for 1st year members in order to attract new members to attend the meeting. Jim R. seconded the motion. Some discussion followed concerning record keeping that would be needed and how the discount would be promoted. The motion then passed.

Andrew, Ken, Rick, and Jim will work on workshop /Professional development grant applications.

Action on determining the reserve amount was tabled. Jim will look at expenses of the past meetings.

A motion was made by Dave S. for the meeting to adjourn. Noella D. seconded and the motion passed.

Submitted,
Ken Wester, Secretary/Treasurer, ISAAPT