

November 2009 President's Message

ISAAPT Members --

I have worked on a number of vision statements for my year as ISAAPT president (2009-2010). I have shared these ideas and updates with the ISAAPT Executive Council recently; I now want to share them with you and ask for your participation.

- **Vision Statement 1: Development of Local Physics Alliances (LPAs) in 12 zones across the region** – We are already making progress starting with approval of the concept at the last Council meeting. Since that time several Council members have “formalized” the boundaries, and we have identified a number of zone leaders. We have begun to assemble guidelines for hosting Local Physics Alliances or, if IACT joins us, Local Physical Science Alliances. This effort will not only help ISAAPT achieve its objectives; it will likely help to increase our membership and attendance at our spring and fall meetings.

UPDATE: The IACT president (Rodger Baldwin) and president elect (Lenny Freidhof) have expressed support for the concept of joint Local Physical Science Alliances in lieu of Local Physics Alliances. I suspect that we will hear positively from them soon in a formal statement about participating in LPSAs. In the mean time, I want to thank Doug Brandt for providing Excel spreadsheets for all zones that will help zone leaders to identify all physical science teachers in their zones. Without naming names, I also want to thank those who have stepped forward and agreed to lead or co-lead one of the 12 zones. On a special note, Ken Wester is developing a \$5,000 CeMaST Professional Innovations Grant proposal to provide funding for an inaugural LPA or LPSA zone leaders meeting here at ISU some time during the new year. I am still looking for zone leaders for several zones; please review the attached document and let me know if you can assist in any zone. Multiple leaders in each zone are preferred.

- **Vision Statement 2: Increase membership in the ISAAPT, and support AAPT by encouraging memberships therein** – It is my goal to have every high school, community college, and university physics teacher on a statewide listserv. We can use this avenue to promote Section meetings and membership in the ISAAPT. By helping to promote membership in AAPT we not only to help them out (Tom Carter pointed out at the Council meeting the dire financial straights in which they find themselves), but we get 25% of their dues payment for the first year. Also, by developing LPAs, we should have a greater opportunity to provide outreach to high school, university, and community college teachers of physics who might well agree to joining ISAAPT and AAPT. The benefits packages associated with the new AAPT membership categories in particular is pretty good; do you belong?

UPDATE: Nothing new to report here, but this effort is being tied into the zone meetings.

- **Vision Statement 3: Fortify the ISAAPT treasury** — We came disastrously close to running out of money in the recent past.... Several recent successful meetings saved us from going bankrupt; I trust that the most recent meeting at ICC will also add to our coffers as Ken and Joe appear to have done everything “by the book”. The \$1,500 or so that we now have in the treasury is too close to the edge for comfort as far as I’m

concerned. Not only would we not be prepared to pay unforeseen expenses, we'd not be able to take advantage of unforeseen opportunities as well. I'd like to see the amount of the treasury climb to \$5,000 or more. This means that we need to both grow our membership and increase accountability for dues payments. This can be done in part by including reminders on the covers of the *Illinois Physics Teacher* that dues have expired, and linking meeting registration forms with the ISAAPT dues payment record. Any other ideas you'd care to suggest would be greatly appreciated.

UPDATE: I have communicated with Dave Renneke about my desire to see a link on the meeting registration form that will connect registrants to the data base of dues payments. While this might discourage some people from paying dues twice during a calendar year (many who pay dues twice do so intentionally), this should help serve as a reminder those who rarely if ever pay their dues.

- **Vision Statement 4: Move toward legal incorporation and possibly non-profit status**
– Incorporation will provide legal protection to the leadership of the ISAAPT in the event of an unforeseen circumstance. By becoming a corporation, we are all afforded a much higher degree of legal protection as leaders of this group. Incorporation is needed to move toward a non-profit 501(c)3 status, something we should be thinking about. Incorporation would likely cost \$200 or more, but would be well worth it for the protection of fiduciary members of the Association. Long-term thinking about a not-for-profit educational organization status is needed keeping in mind that the process is costly, time consuming, and demanding.

UPDATE: I want to thank President Elect Doug Brandt for taking the lead on this. He is moving ahead to find out what it takes to incorporate the ISAAPT. He is currently reviewing our Bylaws and coming up with suggestions for changes in light of the fact that we will be needing formally approved Articles of Incorporation in order to become incorporated. We will have to identify an official registered agent, file a report once a year, and make a small annual fee payment. This being said, the Council will have to identify the said official registered agent. Normally, this is the Secretary/Treasurer of an organization. Doug is also looking into getting 501(c)3 educational non-profit status, but this is a long-term initiative.

- **Vision Statement 5: Establish and maintain New/Crossover Teacher Workshops** – We are well on our way with the recent reception of the \$2,000 grant from the AAPT. I am now working with the CSAAPT leadership (their Section meeting is this weekend) to set up the first joint and then two separate follow-on meetings. We are looking at an all-day January workshop in the vicinity of Joliet, and each Section will have a follow-on (not follow-up; the meetings are repeats) meeting later in the spring. ISU's Ken Wester, a PTRA, had agreed to serve as our new teacher trainer for the ISAAPT follow-on workshop(s). We will be charging a small registration fee to go along with these workshops to make the AAPT money go farther.

UPDATE: We have reached an agreement with CSAAPT to hold the first New/Crossover Physics Teacher Workshop. The first joint meeting is tentatively slated for Joliet Junior College on Saturday, January 16th. If our meeting at JJC is approved by the school administration, Bill Hogan has graciously agreed to serve as host. The ISAAPT follow-on meeting will be held during late February at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield. Dave Sykes and Tom Snyder have graciously agreed to serve as co-hosts. Ken Wester from ISU will serve as our

Section's workshop leader and will both participate in the first joint workshop and present the follow-on workshop.

- **Vision Statement 6: Expand our visibility through the ISAAPT listserv** – I have begun a project to collect the names and e-mail addresses of ALL high school, community college, and university physics teachers in the ISAAPT region. I'll soon be asking zone leaders to help. We will use this list to encourage participation in the New/Crossover Physics Teachers Workshops, promote membership in the ISAAPT, increase Section meeting attendance, and keep non-affiliated members up to date.

UPDATE: I have initiated a monthly President's message for the membership using the ISAAPT membership listserv. These messages typically will be released during the first week of each month.

I hope that all ISAAPT members will support work aimed at achieving these goals. Please feel free to contact me with questions and concerns, or to volunteer your services.

Best wishes,

Carl

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