

Association News

Report of the Executive Director, 1983-84

Thomas E. Mann

Last year I reported the good news that the decade-long slide in Association membership had ended and that our operating accounts registered a healthy surplus. I am happy to report this year an *increase* in membership and another operating surplus, reinforcing our policy of encouraging membership growth by holding dues stable (thereby allowing their real cost to decline over time) and by gradually increasing services to members. On the latter score, we have expanded *PS* to include articles analyzing contemporary issues of politics and policy as well as professional concerns; upgraded the *NEWS* and the *Personnel Service Newsletter*; established Organized Sections; provided discounts on over 60 journals to all members; published a book on the state of the discipline; increased the number of panels on international relations at the annual meeting; developed new services for nonacademic political scientists; and worked to establish effective representation of our disciplinary interests in Washington.

Highlights of the past year include:

- Publication, under the auspices of Project '87, of a new quarterly magazine, *this Constitution: A Bicentennial Chronicle*, which links scholars of the Constitution with the people who will be planning bicentennial programs for the schools and the general public.
- Production of a 26-part television series, CONGRESS: WE THE PEOPLE, scheduled for national release this fall over the Public Broadcasting Service. (Details are available in this issue of *PS* and in the summer issue of the *NEWS*.)
- Initiation of a special effort to improve the position of political science within

the National Endowment for the Humanities and to increase the visibility of NEH within political science.

- Publication of a series of new and revised guides and directories for political science departments and individuals, including the *Guide to Graduate Study in Political Science*, *Directory of Undergraduate Political Science Faculty*, *Political Science Journal Information*, *Alternative Careers for Political Scientists*, and *Professional Ethics for Political Scientists*.

Of course, most of the energies of the national office staff are devoted to such ongoing publications and programs as the *Review*, *PS*, *NEWS for Teachers of Political Science*, the annual meeting, the *Personnel Service Newsletter*, the Congressional Fellowship Program, the Departmental Services Program, and committee-sponsored activities on professional ethics and academic freedom, research support, applied political science and the professional status of Blacks, Chicanos and women. The appendix to this article contains an index of reports on these activities that have appeared in *PS* during the past year.

I should also note that a significant part of the time of the staff is spent responding to inquiries and providing assistance to individual members and the general public. Several of us serve as a conduit between the press and political scientists with specific areas of expertise. We advise political scientists on job hunting strategies, provide data on topics ranging from course enrollments to faculty salaries, respond to requests from the Congress and federal agencies, receive numerous foreign academic visitors, recommend scholars to evaluate depart-

TABLE 1
Budget Summary, 1978-1984

Year	Income	Expenditures	Surplus/Deficit
1978-79	\$ 860,889	\$ 875,626	-\$ 14,737
1979-80	930,157	929,857	+ 300
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*	1,300,000	1,225,000	+ 75,000

*Estimated.

ments and institutions, and so on. In addition to our programmatic activities, we see ourselves as providing a clearinghouse for timely information related to the professional lives of political scientists.

Financial Overview

The Association continues to enjoy a favorable financial position. The trends reported by Treasurer Allen Schick in the Fall 1983 *PS* continued during the 1983-84 fiscal year. For the third consecutive year, we expect to have a surplus in our operating accounts of \$75,000 or more. (See Table 1.) These surpluses will enable us to ride out short-term adversities without any increase in dues or fees to members. They will also support modest increases in services to members.

The Association's financial resources in-

clude a Trust and Development Fund, with a current market value of approximately \$1 million, and \$160,000 in endowed program funds, whose earnings primarily support the awards presented at the annual meeting. We also administer another \$500,000 or so in grant funds for such activities as the Congressional Fellowship Program, the telecourse on Congress, Project '87 and the Women in American Politics curriculum project.

Membership

The figures in Table 2 demonstrate that we have finally turned the corner on Association membership. In January 1984 we had almost 600 more members than we had a year earlier. Most of the increase was among student members, although regular membership increased by more than 100. Moreover, those

TABLE 2
APSA Members, 1974-84

Year*	Regular	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

*January of each year.

numbers have continued to grow during the first half of 1984.

We have a long way to go before we recover from the sharp drop in membership following the last two dues increases in 1974 and in 1981 as well as from the steady decline in the intervening years. Less than 40 percent of the political scientists employed at U.S. universities and colleges are APSA members; even a smaller percentage of political scientists working in applied settings belong to the Association. Nonetheless, the trend is now in the right direction, and we are optimistic that membership will continue to grow in the year ahead.

Since late 1983, Association members have been able to join Organized Sections when renewing their regular membership. Sections provide groups of APSA members who share an interest in a particular subfield of the discipline an opportunity to organize meetings and coordinate communications under Association auspices and to receive logistical support from the APSA national office in collecting dues and maintaining membership lists. Table 3 presents the number of members who have joined each of the six sections recognized by the Council during their first eight months of operation. I expect that Organized Sections will grow in number, initiate a wide range of activities, and become an increasingly important part of the Association.

The initial success of the Organized Sections, and the upturn in Association

membership more generally, is consistent with our understanding of the values and interests of political scientists gleaned from a study we recently completed. Funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the research involved both a mail survey of political scientists and an analysis of the membership status of faculty in graduate departments. The very rich set of empirical findings produced by this research informed decisions by the Council and Association committees regarding sections, the annual meeting, publications and budget.

We learned, for example, that the vast majority of political scientists in the United States have, at one time or another, been APSA members. Three-fourths of the nonmember faculty respondents were once members. Most joined during graduate school out of a sense of professional identification or loyalty. Hence, the keys to increased membership are the nurturance of professional attachments among graduate students and the retention of existing members.

Membership is highest among faculty in large, prestigious Ph.D.-granting departments who specialize in political behavior and American politics. Faculty at smaller, M.A.-granting institutions who teach public administration, international relations and political theory are less likely to be members of the Association. Nonetheless, most of the variation in membership status cannot be explained by these ascriptive characteristics. Individual orientations toward professional life are critical to membership.

The current membership of the Association and the larger pool of potential members are extraordinarily heterogeneous, with highly differentiated subgroups exhibiting distinct tastes and interests. The largest discontented groups are unhappy about different things. What might satisfy one subgroup might well antagonize another. Responding to the most frequently voiced criticisms ("I can't read the *Review*") may well alienate the loyal core of members who find the *Review* the most valuable benefit of membership. Hence, there must be many solutions, not just one, and they must be seen as

TABLE 3
Organized Section Members,
June 1984

Organized Section	Number of Members
Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations	184
Law, Courts and Judicial Process	240
Legislative Studies	159
Policy Studies	289
Political Organizations and Parties	199
Public Administration, Organizations and Executives	286

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adding to the benefits of membership, not exchanging one for another.

There are, it seems to me, some positive developments on which we can build. I notice these days a greater tolerance among political scientists for methodological diversity, an appreciation that there are many routes to the truth. There appears to be less artificial separation between the humanities and social sciences and a greater tendency to allow substantive questions to determine the mode of inquiry. Students of political behavior are

perhaps more attuned today to the importance of theory, history, institutions and politics than they were a decade or two earlier. The approaching constitutional bicentennial may well lead scholars of American and comparative politics to return to large questions of constitutional design and development.

The Association, through its Organized Sections and other new services to members, can profit from these developments. □

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1983 Annual Meeting

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Report on Discussion of Legislative Politics	PS Fall 83	728-730
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1984 Annual Meeting

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1985 Annual Meeting

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APSA Awards Presented at 1983 Annual Meeting.	PS Fall 83	723-724, 863-871
Nominations Invited for 1984 Dissertation Awards	PS Fall 83	736

600 PS Summer 1984

Committee Memberships

List of Committees and Their Members	PS Winter 84	143-149
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Committee on Applied Political Scientists

Activities Planned for 1984 Annual Meeting	PS Spring 84	263-264
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Committee on Professional Ethics, Rights and Freedoms

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Committee on the Status of Blacks in the Profession

1984-85 Graduate Fellowships Announced	PS Fall 83	779-780
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Committee on the Status of Chicanos in the Profession

1984-85 Graduate Fellowships Announced	PS Fall 83	780
1984-85 Chicano and Latino Fellows	PS Spring 84	265, 267

Congressional Fellowship Program

Federal Executives Win Fellowships	PS Summer 83	559-560
32nd Fellowship Program Announced	PS Fall 83	779
Reports from 1982-83 and 1983-84 Program	PS Winter 84	166-172
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Constitution

Reprint of the APSA Constitution	PS Spring 84	338-342
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Council Minutes

August 31, 1983 Meeting	PS Fall 83	871-875
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Executive Director's Report

1982-83 Report	PS Summer 83	470-479
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International Political Science Association

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Membership Directory

Corrections for 1983 Directory	PS Fall 83	753
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Nominating Committee

Proposed Slate of Officers for 1983-84 and Council Members for 1983-85	PS Summer 83	550
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Personnel Service

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Project '87

Publishes Volume on Liberty and Equality Questionnaire for Network of Scholars	PS Fall 83	739-741
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Interested in Constitutional Bicentennial
Summer 1983 College Faculty Workshops

PS Fall 83 742
PS Fall 83 875-876

Presidents of APSA

Ralph Bunche and the APSA
Philip E. Converse: An Intellectual History
Richard Fenno Nominated as President-Elect

PS Fall 83 706-711
PS Fall 83 717-722
PS Summer 83 546-547

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1984 Guide to Graduate Study in Political
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PS Fall 83 752-753

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APSA Joins Research Resources for Children

PS Summer 83 560-561

Sections

Five New Sections Approved
Guidelines for APSA Sections
Six Organizations are Organized Sections

PS Fall 83 737-738

PS Fall 83 739

PS Fall 83 825

PS Spring 84 265-268

Treasurer's Report

1982-83 Report

PS Fall 83 816-824



Aaron Wildavsky Nominated To Be APSA President-Elect

Aaron Wildavsky, University of California, Berkeley, has been nominated president-elect of APSA for 1984-85. He would automatically become APSA's president the subsequent year under the Association's constitution. The nomination was made by the 1984 Nominating Committee which was appointed by Association president Philip E. Converse and past president William Riker.

The Nominating Committee also slated three vice-presidential nominees, Robert Gilpin, Princeton University; Samuel P. Huntington, Harvard University; and Donna E. Shalala, Hunter College, CUNY. Robert Axelrod, University of Michigan, is nominated to be secretary for 1984-85.

Eight new members of the 16-member Council were also nominated by the com-

mittee to serve a two-year term (1984-86). These nominees are: Brian Barry, California Institute of Technology; F. Chris Garcia, University of New Mexico; William R. Keech, University of North Carolina; J. Donald Moon, Wesleyan University; Victor Olorunsola, Iowa State University; Norman J. Ornstein, American Enterprise Institute; Benjamin I. Page, University of Texas at Austin; and Bruce Russett, Yale University.

Under APSA's constitution the preceding nominations are subject to the vote of those members of the Association attending the Annual Business Meeting. If there is a contest for any elected office, an election will be conducted by mail ballot. Ballots will be distributed within 30 days of the Annual Business Meeting by the executive director. They must be returned within the 30 days following distribution.

The 1984 Annual Business Meeting rules