



N A R S T N E W S L E T T E R

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The school year has started and the Conant Report on Teacher Education is out. The demand for science teachers who understand science as an intellectual enterprise is greater now than ever before. The demand for more and better research in science education is at an unprecedented peak. It is going to be difficult for those concerned with the preparation of teachers of science to ignore any of these.

Several of the articles in Issue 2 of the Journal of Research in Science Teaching make demands in the area of research. It is amusing to read these well-chosen words but rather uninformative. While all must agree with the words, who is it that knows that with which he agrees at more than the word level. The words must be repeated often so we do not lose our clientele but how long will this fever last.

Who will deny that much research in science education will come as soon as there are measuring instruments? It is unfortunate that instruments are directly related to that which is to be measured. In science teaching lip service is given to science as inquiry or science as an intellectual enterprise. What do these mean in terms of the behavior of people? Do these include increments like observation, design of working procedures, the formulation of inferences, the testing of inferences?

Science education research will not move ahead on a meaningful scale giving more than status studies until some group establishes a "national bureau of standards" for measurement of behavior changes or characteristics. The pure sciences are indeed fortunate to have such standards as length, mass, and time.

Could it be that science learnings have the dimensions of observation O , inference I , and consequence C . If O is multiplied by I , the unit may be theory formation T . If the I is multiplied by C the unit may be credibility or theory testing Cr . C divided by O may then be recognition of change R . Only when the goals are adequately and properly defined can the measuring instruments be developed. Only then can the derived units be developed. Only then can breakthroughs in science education be expected. Clientele satisfaction is a very poor measuring standard.

Information

This year we shall all enjoy the experience of electing our officers by mail ballot. This is an extremely important step forward so it must be carefully used to reflect group desires.

Nominations

The President shall appoint a nominating committee of three members whose duty it is to select two or more nominees for vacancies on the Executive Board and for the office of President-elect and one nominee each for Secretary-Treasurer and Research Coordinator. This slate of officers shall be published in the Newsletter at least four months prior to the Annual Meeting.

Nominations may also be made by the petition of ten members, said nominations to be in the hands of the secretary three months prior to the Annual Meeting.

Voting ballots shall be mailed by the Secretary to all members eligible to vote two months prior to the annual meeting. NOTE: The ballots must be returned to the Secretary within FOUR weeks of the date of mailing. Election shall be by plurality in serial order.

The results shall be announced at the Annual Meeting.

NEWS:

1. December 28, 1963, NARST has a joint meeting with AAAS in the Oak Room of the Pick-Carter Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio.

2. Ellsworth S. Obourn has been appointed to represent the United States Office of Education at the Commonwealth Conference on Secondary Science Teaching in Colombo, Ceylon, December 9-21, 1963. He will spend two weeks in India making a cursory survey of secondary school science teaching, the training of secondary school science teachers, and science youth activities. About 50 nations have been invited to the Commonwealth Conference. Dr. Claude Gatewood of the National Science Foundation and Dr. Obourn have collaborated in the preparation of a working paper for the Conference entitled: Improving Science Education in the United States. The National Science Foundation will be represented at the conference by Dr. J. E. O'Connell, their Tokyo office representative.

Dr. Gatewood is assuming responsibility for providing packets of recent U. S. science education literature to be available at the Conference together with a modest sampling of recent materials for curriculum improvement.

Ellsworth S. Obourn has been appointed Chairman of the International Relations Committee of the Association for the Education of Teachers of Science.

3. Nelson Lowry, who has been Dean of Students for the Arlington High School, has been appointed as Director of Personnel and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of the Township High School District of Arlington, Illinois.

4. J. Stanley Marshall and Ernest Burkman have been commuting to Ankara, Turkey. Reports indicate that the High School for gifted pupils in science and mathematics is progressing well.

5. James Busch reports from his post in Beirut, Lebanon that the summer inservice program for science and mathematics teachers was very successful.

6. Fletcher Watson spent some time in Nigeria during the summer as a science education consultant.

7. Milton Pella made another trip to Lebanon to serve as a science education consultant to several of the Arab countries. While there he also worked with officials and professors of the American University.

8. Here is the first official list of Patron Members of NARST. It is suggested that you may wish to show them how happy we are to have them with us. Each may do this in his own way.

Patron Members of NARST

Mr. H. Glasser, President
Atomic Accessories, Inc.
811 West Merrick Road
Valley Stream, New York

Mr. Henry A. Burnett
Difco Laboratories
921 Henry Street
Detroit 1, Michigan

Mr. Warren Everote, President
Encyclopedia Britannica Films
1150 Wilmette Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois

Mr. James G. Scarff
Executive Vice-President
E. Leitz, Inc.
468 Park Avenue South
New York 16, New York

Dr. Vaden W. Miles
Department of Physics
Wayne State University
Detroit 2, Michigan

Mr. Emanuel Goldberg
The Nalge Company, Inc.
75 Panorama Creek Drive
Rochester 2, New York

(continued)

Mr. William G. Ohaus, Vice-Pres.
Ohaus Scale Corporation
1050 Commerce Avenue
Union, New Jersey

Mr. John P. Sheldon
E. H. Sheldon Equipment Co.
Muskegon, Michigan

Mr. A. Macalaster, President
253 Norfolk Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Mr. A. R. Smith, Jr., Gen. Mgr.
Science Education Products
Div. of B-D Laboratories, Inc.
1660 Laurel Street
San Carlos, California

Mr. Richard Lidz
Mettler Instrument Corporation
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, New Jersey

Mr. John M. Youngpeter, Director
Educational Services Dept.
Ward's Natural Science Establ., Inc.
P. O. Box 1712, Rochester, N.Y.

Mr. Abraham White
Barnstead Still & Sterilizer Co.
Forest Hills
Boston 31, Massachusetts

Mr. E. A. Moudry, Vice-Pres. Sales
Kewaunee Technical Furniture Co.
Drawer 1111
Statesville, North Carolina

9. Please be alert to the need for high quality articles for our Journal and for high quality individuals for membership in NARST.

Reserve time for the NARST Convention to be held concurrently with NSTA, March 20-24, 1964 in Chicago.

Sincerely,

Milton Pella
Member Executive Board

MP:mlh