

Association News

Special Report on the Annual Meeting

Best Attended Annual Meeting Since 1969

APSA's annual meeting held in Washington, D.C. August 28-31 was the best attended meeting in fifteen years. The 1986 attendance figure, 3,602, exceeds by 760 the number attending last year's New Orleans meeting and is 211 greater than 1984 when the APSA conference was also held in Washington. (See Table 1.)

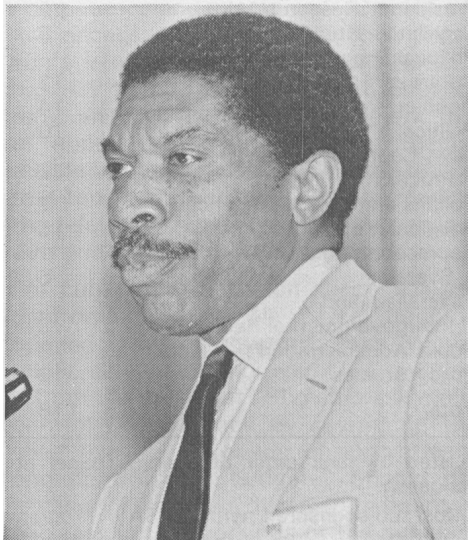
TABLE 1
Annual Meeting Registration, 1967-86*

1967	2473 (Chicago)
1968	3723 (Washington, D.C.)
1969	4142 (New York)
1970	2397 (Los Angeles)
1971	2732 (Chicago)
1972	3380 (Washington, D.C.)
1973	2312 (New Orleans)
1974	2773 (Chicago)
1975	2478 (San Francisco)
1976	2295 (Chicago)
1977	2624 (Washington, D.C.)
1978	2373 (New York)
1979	2687 (Washington, D.C.)
1980	2745 (Washington, D.C.)
1981	2887 (New York)
1982	2205 (Denver)
1983	2859 (Chicago)
1984	3391 (Washington, D.C.)
1985	2842 (New Orleans)
1986	3602 (Washington, D.C.)

*1972-86 figures include exhibitors registered at the meeting, since their fee for booth rental includes the cost of their registration.



President Aaron Wildavsky at APSA annual meeting in Washington, D.C.



1986 Program Chair Matthew Holden, Jr. presiding at the awards ceremony.

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Matthew Holden of the University of Virginia chaired the 1986 Program Committee which was responsible for organizing about half of the 500 panels at the meeting. In addition, APSA's 12 Organized Sections assembled 118 panels, an increase over 1985 by two-thirds due largely to the growth in the number of Organized Sections since last year.

The average attendance at panels organized by the Program Committee ranged from a low of 13 to a high of 39 for the group of panels organized by Edmond J. Keller of the University of California, Santa Barbara, under the heading of Comparative Change and Development in Contemporary Societies. The next best attended group of panels sponsored by the Program Committee was Political Parties and Elections organized by William Crotty (average attendance, 38), followed by Alan Gilbert's section Political Philosophy: Historical Approaches (35), A. F. K. Organski's International Relations: The Reciprocal Impact of Domestic

and Foreign Policy (35), Alberta Sbragia's Comparative Politics: Publics, Leaders and Institutions (34), Roberta S. Sigel's Public Opinion and Political Psychology (32), and Stephen L. Elkin's Politics and Economics (32).

Among the Organized Sections the groups with the highest average attendance were Presidency Research (86), Legislative Studies (42), and Political Organizations and Parties (33). (See Table 2.)

Most Well Attended Panels

The best attended day-time panel at the convention was Requisites for Democracy: The Western Experience and the Third World (119 in attendance), jointly sponsored by three sections of the Program Committee. Democracy was also the topic of the panel ranking second in attendance, Democracy and Discipline (118). Third was the newly inaugurated John Gaus lecture delivered by Herbert Kaufman of Boston College (117), followed by yet another panel on representative government, Democracy in Developing Nations (108). Advising the President (106), sponsored by the Presidency Research Organized Section, and New Directions in the Study of Congress (100), sponsored by the Legislative Studies Organized Section were the next best attended panels.

In addition to the John Gaus lecture, two plenary sessions were held. On Thursday evening an award ceremony was followed by Aaron Wildavsky's Presidential Address. On Friday evening Richard Rosecrance of Cornell University, and APSA's Fulbright 40th Anniversary Lecturer Yehezkel Dror of Hebrew University, were the Lasswell Symposium speakers for the topic, "The Garrison State Revisited." Matthew Holden, Jr., presided over both plenary sessions.

Editor's note: See accompanying stories on the plenary sessions. Also note that Aaron Wildavsky's Presidential Address will appear in the March 1987 issue of APSR. □

TABLE 2
1986 Annual Meeting
APSA Organized Section Panels^a

Section	Number of Panels
Presidency Research	2
Legislative Studies	8
Political Organizations and Parties ^b	12
Conflict Processes	14
Political Methodology ^c	10
Law, Courts and Judicial Process	6
Politics and the Life Sciences	7
Religion and Politics	15
Representation and Electoral Systems	6
Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations	9
Public Administration	13
Policy Studies	16
Total	118

^aListed by rank order of average panel attendance.

^bMost co-sponsored with APSA's Program Committee.

^cAll co-sponsored with APSA's Program Committee.