

Organized Sections Invited to Nominate for Pi Sigma Alpha Award

The APSA Council invites the APSA Organized Section heads and program chairs to make nominations for the Pi Sigma Alpha Award. The Franklin L. Burdette Pi Sigma Alpha Award is presented annually for the best paper presented at the annual meeting in the previous year. □

Council Sets New Rules on the Structure of the Annual Meeting

The Council adopted new rules on participation and the number of panels at the annual meeting. The Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Structure of the Annual Meeting, submitted to the Council at its September 3 meeting, drew attention to the growing number of panels and program participants in recent years. APSA vice-president and committee chair Charles O. Jones reported that only one hotel, the Palmer House, can now absorb all of the annual meeting panels. In addition, the program has become a scheduling nightmare; of the 2,400 participants in the 1987 program, almost 1,800 appeared on two panels. Finally, the proliferation of panels has reduced the attendance at panels; the average attendance is now 12.

Other members of the Ad Hoc Committee were Joseph Cooper, 1985 Program chair; Stephen Elkin, program co-organizer of the Conference Group on Political Economy; Manus Midlarsky, 1987 president and program chair of the APSA Organized Section on Conflict Processes; and Barbara Sinclair, APSA vice-president.

The Council adopted the committee's recommendation that the dual participation rule be extended to the entire program and revised to permit any two forms of participation. The new rule states:

No one may participate on more than two panels listed in the program, including

APSA Program Committee panels, those of the APSA's Organized Sections, and those of the unaffiliated groups.

The Council also unanimously agreed to limit the number of panels at the annual meeting to the space available at the headquarters hotel. The space in the headquarters hotel will be apportioned among the three main groups at the annual meeting. The APSA Program Committee will receive 50% of the available meeting rooms; APSA Organized Sections will receive 30% of the meeting rooms; and unaffiliated groups will receive 20%.

A committee consisting of the Program Chair, the chair of the Council Committee on Organized Sections, and the executive director will distribute specific numbers of panels among the three major components of the program. Beginning with the 1989 annual meeting, the Program Chair will in turn distribute panels among members of the Program Committee; the chair of the Committee on Organized Sections will distribute panels among Organized Sections; and the APSA executive director will distribute panels among unaffiliated groups. In considering the distribution of panels among Organized Sections and unaffiliated groups, special attention will be paid to the requests for panels, the number of panels sponsored in the past, panel attendance, and the emergence of new sections and groups. □

Timing of Annual Meeting

The Administrative Committee surveyed members to explore the desirability and feasibility of changing the dates of the annual meeting. The annual meeting has been scheduled around Labor Day since the 1950s; prior to that the meeting was held during Christmas week. Members were asked to consider four alternatives: Labor Day weekend, Christmas week, mid-August, and mid-January.

According to the staff report submitted to the Administrative Committee, finding an alternative date is difficult. A plurality of members prefer Labor Day weekend over the three alternative dates although the August and January dates were close