

Association News

Report of the Executive Director, 1986-87

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This is my sixth and final report as executive director of the Association. I am happy to say that the Association is in good health, although my successor, Catherine Rudder, will find no shortage of challenges in the years ahead.

We have enjoyed a sizeable surplus in each of the last six years, totaling over \$400,000 during this period (see Table 1). Increased revenues from membership, grant overhead, dividends and interest and rent were key to our success. Individual member dues now provide little more than one-quarter of our operating income. By diversifying our revenue sources, we have been able to avoid a dues increase.

TABLE 1
Budget Summary, 1979-1987

Year	Income	Expenditures	Surplus
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	1,323,074	1,247,529	75,545
1984-85	1,415,077	1,353,334	54,738
1985-86	1,505,224	1,453,248	51,976
1986-87*	1,585,000	1,500,000	85,000

*Projected

TABLE 2
Market Value of APSA Funds, 1981-1987

Year*	Trust and Development Fund	Endowed Program Funds
1981	\$ 783,081	\$ 94,118
1982	806,593	118,214
1983	1,080,985	149,682
1984	1,001,775	225,580
1985	1,450,032	264,149
1986	1,677,365	304,105
1987**	1,850,000	365,000

* June 30 of each year.

**Projected

TABLE 3
APSA Members, 1974-87

Year*	Regular	Associate	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
1985	5,879	106	2,595	411	116	166	9,273	2,996
1986	6,009	145	2,589	432	117	173	9,465	3,046
1987	5,913	154	2,775	439	127	202	9,610	3,109

* January of each year.

Our operating reserves have been fortified by the string of surpluses, while sound investments, a bull market and aggressive fundraising have led to a dramatic increase in the value of our Trust and Development Fund and endowed program funds (see Table 2). The final piece of our financial picture is the APSA building, which has a market value of over \$2 million. All together, the net worth of the Association increased by \$2 million over the past six years.

Membership trends are, unfortunately, less robust (see Table 3). The Association enjoyed rapid membership growth during the 1960s, with annual increases in excess of 10%. Membership in most categories peaked in the early 1970s, when 13,842 individuals were enrolled. The number of student members dropped sharply from 6,102 in 1970 to 1,901 in 1981; the decline in the number of regular members was more gradual, from 7,793 in 1974 to 5,764 in 1983. Since hitting bottom in 1982-83, membership has edged back up by 1,200, but we still have 4,000 fewer individual members today than we did fifteen years ago.

A number of steps were taken during the last six years to reverse the decline in membership, including the expansion of *PS*, the development of Organized Sections, the journal discount brochure, a

substantial increase in the number of international relations and political theory panels at the annual meeting, a freeze on individual dues and fees, and more intensive promotion through direct mail and posters. These efforts have had some modest degree of success, although the sobering fact is that only 40% of U.S. academic political scientists are members of the Association.

Organized Sections are playing an increasingly prominent role in the life of the Association. With the recent addition of the Foundations of Political Theory Group, the number has grown to seventeen (see Table 4). The sections have been increasingly active in publishing informative newsletters, sponsoring panels at the annual meeting, and recognizing scholarly excellence in their respective subfields.

Much of the Association's energy is concentrated on the annual meeting, which has undergone extraordinary growth in recent years. The 1986 meeting in Washington, D.C. drew the largest number of registrants in seventeen years (see Table 5). Much more dramatic is the increase in the number of panel participants—from 1,206 in 1980 to over 2,400 in 1987. With forty simultaneous panels in each of fourteen time slots from

TABLE 4
Organized Section Members, 1987

Organized Section	Number of Members
Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations	303
Law, Courts and Judicial Process	592
Legislative Studies	463
Policy Studies	615
Political Organizations and Parties	460
Public Administration	586
Conflict Processes	259
Representation and Electoral Systems	268
Presidency Research	310
Political Methodology	100
Religion and Politics	100
Politics and Life Sciences	50
Urban Politics	187
Applied Political Science	85
Science and Technology	42
Women and Politics	113
Foundations of Political Theory	154

Thursday morning to Sunday noon, the annual meeting caters to every conceivable taste in political science. But this salutary growth in the opportunities for political scientists to participate in the meeting has not been cost-free. With many participants making multiple appearances, the meeting has become a scheduling nightmare. Few hotels have sufficient meeting rooms to handle the increased traffic, so our convention is often scattered over several hotels. As the number of panels has increased, the average attendance has dropped. At the same time, attendees are often frustrated when two or more panels on a topic are scheduled at the same time. We have probably reached the point at which further expansion of the meeting (panels and participants) should be avoided.

Most members know the Association best through its three quarterly publications, the *American Political Science Review*, *PS*, and *NEWS for Teachers of Political Science*. Each has undergone substantial changes in both content and design in recent years, and plans are now being made for a more dramatic repackaging of both *PS* and the *NEWS* beginning in 1988. Two new publication initiatives undertaken this year are the APSA Biographical Directory (the last was published in 1973) and a manuscript on *V. O. Key and the Study of American Poli-*

tics, the first volume in the Kirkpatrick Monograph Series on the Craft of Political Science. Later this year the Association will publish six monographs on Women and American Politics, which are designed for use as supplementary materials in American government courses.

TABLE 5
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.

Association News

International activities have been a major focus of the Association during the past year. As host of the 1988 IPSA World Congress in Washington, we have begun extensive preparations for this international scholarly conclave. We continued our exchange with the Chinese Association of Political Science by sending a delegation of six scholars to China in early summer. Congressional scholars Charles O. Jones, Norman Ornstein, Randall Ripley, Alan Rosenthal, Catherine Rudder and Barbara Sinclair offered a short course in Beijing built around the Association's telecourse, CONGRESS: WE THE PEOPLE. The first IREX-sponsored meeting with the Soviet Political Science Association, devoted to a discussion of political leadership and policy making, will be held this October in the United States. A return visit to Moscow is scheduled in June 1988. Finally, the Association is working with the Ford Foundation and the IIE South African Education Program to develop a graduate fellowship program for South African blacks.

As part of our effort to attract bright minority undergraduates to consider a career in political science, a second summer institute for black undergraduates is being held this June and July at Southern University and Louisiana State University. We will seek funds to continue this program for black students and to develop comparable institutes for other minority students.

Project '87, our joint undertaking with the American Historical Association to commemorate the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, continued to offer a rich array of scholarly, educational and public activities. During 1987 these include constitutional forums and scholarly conferences in Philadelphia and Williamsburg; James Madison Fellowships for outstanding high school teachers; two television-assisted courses, one for junior and senior high school students, the other for adults; a poster exhibit, the Blessings of Liberty; a quarterly magazine entitled *this Constitution: A Bicentennial Chronicle*; and a book of

essays published jointly with Congressional Quarterly.

Two additional developments in recent months are worthy of mention. First, the Association together with Pi Sigma Alpha found a new home for the Oral History Project at the University of Kentucky. Under Malcolm Jewell's direction, the Project will preserve and disseminate rich information on the history of our discipline and profession. Second, the national office is well on its way toward installing a new, integrated computer system. Rob Hauck and Norinne Hessman have ably steered us through turbulent waters, and within several months we expect to have every component of the system up and running.

This report cannot do justice to the myriad of programs and publications sponsored by the Association. Fortunately, these efforts are reported on regularly in the pages of *PS*. An index to those reports is printed below.

As I take leave of the Association after six years as executive director and another eleven years as a member of the professional staff, I am proud of our accomplishments and grateful for having had the opportunity to work with many wonderful colleagues. It was my good fortune as executive director to serve with six presidents—Marty Lipset, Bill Riker, Phil Converse, Dick Fenno, Aaron Wildavsky and Sam Huntington—whose generosity and support made my job manageable and enjoyable. I have been blessed with a talented and hardworking staff in the national office and I am especially pleased that my associate director, Cathy Rudder, has been selected to succeed me.

Given my many happy and rewarding years with the Association, I leave reluctantly and with a sense of loss. At the same time, I am eager to take up the exciting challenge of developing a research program and pursuing my own scholarly interests at Brookings. I also look forward to attending my first APSA annual meeting as a rank-and-file member, with no responsibility for making the trains run on time. □