

**Social Psychology Section of ASA Business Meeting
Report to ASA
Barbara F. Meeker, Chair 1996-97**

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The Section Business meeting took place Wednesday, August 13, 2:30pm. 41 section members attended.

1. Comments and announcements from the Chair (Barbara Meeker) Meeker presented a brief summary of Section activities for the year and thanked all the many members who had helped with various tasks.

2. Secretary/Treasurer's report (Brian Powell) (See below). In addition, Powell's report noted that the Section will soon use up its extra funds from the Cook, Fine and House book advance. Sales have not yet covered the advance, so no more has come in from this source. ASA is changing the dues structure for all sections, as well as asking sections to prepare a budget, and allowing more discretion about spending funds previously allotted to newsletters.

3. Committee Reports:

A. Membership As of July, 1997 Section membership stood at 598, two below the minimum of 600 to ensure 3 sessions on the 1998 program. The membership year ends September 30, 1997 so we should be able to meet the minimum, but would like to have more. About a third of members are student members.

B. Cooley-Mead Award (Guillermina Jasso) Robert K. Merton, Professor Emeritus, Columbia University is this year's award winner. For health reasons, he will be unable to be here to receive the award in person. Jasso has arranged a panel of speakers honoring him and describing his contributions to social psychology for the Cooley-Mead Award time slot on the program.

C. Graduate Student Affairs (Jan Stets) This year there was both a winner and a runner-up: Winner: Jennifer Dykema, University of Wisconsin-Madison Runner-Up: I-Fen Lin, University of Wisconsin-Madison Stets thanked the committee for its hard work.

D. Nominations (David Demo) The nominations committee developed a slate of two candidates for each vacant office. New officers elected are: Linda Molm, University of Arizona, Chair-elect Denise D. Bielby, University of California, Santa Barbara, council (term ends 2000) K. Jill Kiecolt, Virginia Tech, council (term ends 2000)

The nominations committee noted that this was the first year that ASA had handled all the Section elections. and that the procedure seemed cumbersome.

Also, only 149 Section members actually voted. The Section thanked all the candidates for their willingness to run.

E. Professional Affairs (Cecilia Ridgeway) Ridgeway reported there had been no need for activity by the Professional Affairs Committee.

5. Section Newsletter, Editors' report (Tim Owens/ Jan Stets) This summer the editorship changed from Tim Owens to Jan Stets. The Section thanked Owens for his excellent work. Stets reported on the ASA's new set of options for Sections' Newsletters, and on her plans for future issues, and for establishing a WEB page for the Section. The Section agreed she should use her judgement about most appropriate and cost effective publishers, and that we should encourage the WEB page but be alert for its possible effects on Section membership. Peter Burke agreed to act as the 'WebMaster'. Information about the Web page will be published in the newsletter.

6. Social Psychology Quarterly, Editors' Report (Linda Molm and Lynn Smith-Lovin) Molm and Smith-Lovin reported that SPQ is in good shape. The co-editorship is working well. As always, they seek good quality manuscripts and speedy reviews. There will be a special issue on qualitative approaches.

7. Old business: relationship with SSSI The Section agreed to try to continue having an official liaison person with SSSI. Spencer Cahill did it this year, and the new Chair, Ed Lawler, will see whether he wants to do it again or if someone else can be recruited.

8. New business:

A. Report from Council Meeting. Council met at 7:30am, Wednesday Aug 13. The agenda was similar to the Section business meeting. In addition, Council discussed some of the changes ASA is making in its management of sections (each section will now prepare an official budget, sections may elect to spend their newsletter allotments in other ways, there may be a minimum of 300 rather than 200 members for a section to exist, section dues will increase)

Council also considered a suggestion to apply for an ASA FAD grant to hold a conference to discuss key intellectual problems of our field in the light of developments in other areas of sociology. Council felt this was an excellent idea, but that this needed to be a proposal from an individual rather than the section as a whole.

Council also considered the question whether our Graduate Student Award can be used for any purpose other than travel. ASA makes a distinction between travel awards and cash awards, and does allow Sections to give either cash awards or travel awards to graduate students (but not to faculty). Council agreed that the intention of the award is as a travel award not a cash award.

B. ISA membership opportunity. Karen Cook encouraged Section members to join the ISA committee on social psychology.

9. Comments and announcements from Chair-Elect (Ed Lawler) Lawler announced that next year's program would involve a mini-conference with invited speakers, and introduced the chairs of next year's committees.

SECTION OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
Report of the Secretary-Treasurer
August 1997

	Credit	Debit	Balance
As of December 31, 1995			\$1,909.72
1996:			
Revenues:			
Dues Income	\$784.00		
Royalty Income	\$0.00		
Total	\$784.00		
Expenses:			
Annual Meeting Reception		\$698.24	
Annual Meeting Other Expenses		\$178.50	
Awards		\$440.92	
Total		\$1,317.66	
As of December 31, 1996:			\$1,376.06
1997:			
Revenues:			
Dues Income (as of 3/31/97)	\$670.00		
Dues Income (expected)	\$100.00		
Royalty Income	\$0.00		
Total:	\$770.00		
Projected Expenses:			
Annual Meeting Reception		\$700.00	
Awards		\$450.00	
Other Expenses		\$200.00	
Total:		\$1,350.00	

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Projection for December 31, 1997			796.00
Submitted by Brian Powell (Aug-97)			