

High School Committee Report February 2010

Goals:

The mentoring initiative is up and running. We now have identified a list of mentors willing to assist teachers who need help. We are now looking for teachers to pair up with and a way to do it. It has been suggested to use online resources to link people who may not be geographically nearby. It has also been suggested that the mentors not just be paired one to one, but maybe in small groups to get the most help to the most people.

Recommendations to Board:

We are now looking into ways to recruit more new high school teachers. It has been suggested that we market to the teachers in the states of our national meetings and point out sessions that would be of interest. We would also like to run a get together for first time high school teachers at each meeting to give them a chance to network and feel welcome. We would also like to offer a discount to first time national meeting registrants to hook them, and hopefully they will keep coming back.

It has also been suggested to the committee to set up an Industrial Advisory Board to get corporate sponsorship to help fund high school teachers to attend workshops and meetings.

Activities and Accomplishments:

The high school committee has continued in its efforts to attract quality workshops and sessions to appeal to high school teachers attending the summer and winter meetings. We had 17 participants in our Household Electricity Workshop and plan to continue offering that each winter. We had so many contributed papers to our Particle Physics in the HS we had to split it into two sessions that were greatly attended. We have also had continued interest in the PER in the High School session we have offered. We have had to increase the size of the room to fit the size of the audience. We are planning a celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the PTRA for next summer's meeting.

The committee meetings have had a good attendance at the winter meetings. The early morning meetings have had smaller attendance with only about 12 people at the summer and about 30 people at the winter meetings when they were at 7 a.m. Last winter's meeting had about 50 people present when it was in the afternoon.

The high school committee has finished its work on revising a document originally published by the AAPT in the 1980's on "The Role, Education and Qualifications of a High School Physics Teacher". A new document titled "The Role, Education, Qualifications and Professional Development of a Secondary School Physics Teacher" has been published and distributed.

Another current project of the high school committee is to review and revise a current AAPT document on the role of the lab in high school physics. An active group has been recruited to expand the scope of the document to highlight active learning activities. The group had preliminary work available for review at the Chicago meeting. There it was decided to continue through email. Now we are requesting a room at the summer national meeting to continue work on this document face to face.

Another project is currently underway dealing with teachers planning lessons based on state or national standards. We have a friend of the committee volunteering to work with the national office on coming up with AAPT's standards.

The high school committee has been an ongoing sponsor of the High School Photo Contest, High School video contest and High School Teaching Grant. The Photo contest has been quite successful and this year reached a new record for submissions, problems with the display of photos at meetings are a continued concern of the committee. We have a new person in charge of the video contest. At this year's winter meeting a group met to hash out new guidelines to update and restart this contest. The committee has asked that the High School Teaching Grant program be widely advertised. We have received some excellent proposals the last few years, but hope to keep increasing the participation level.

Shannon Mandel

High School Committee Chair