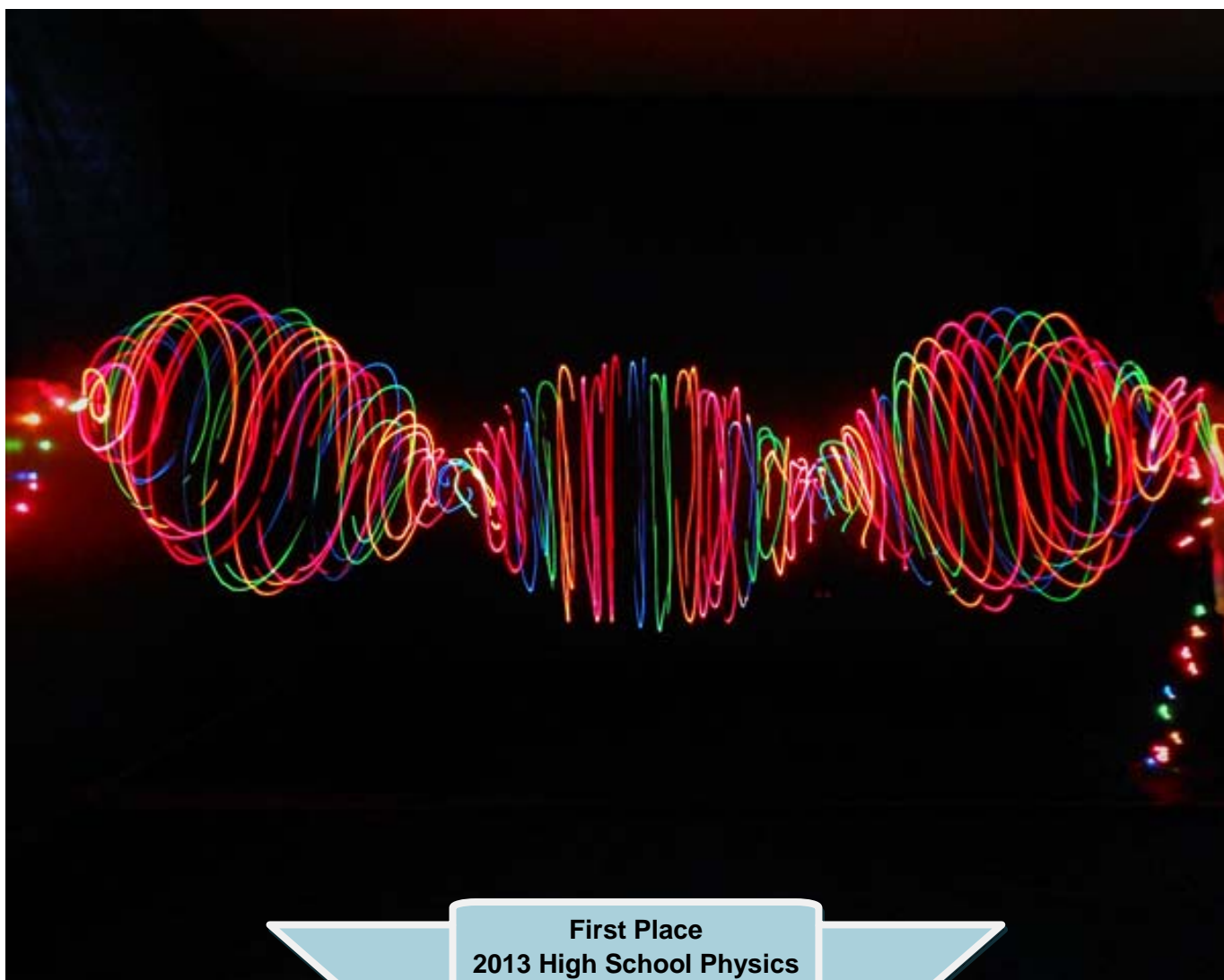
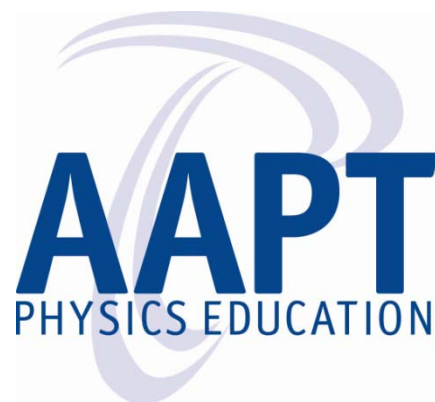


# Section Representative 2014 Handbook



**First Place  
2013 High School Physics  
Photo Contest  
Title: A Standing Wave**

# 2013 AAPT HIGH SCHOOL PHYSICS PHOTO CONTEST

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Contrived Category

Student: Jamie Mathew

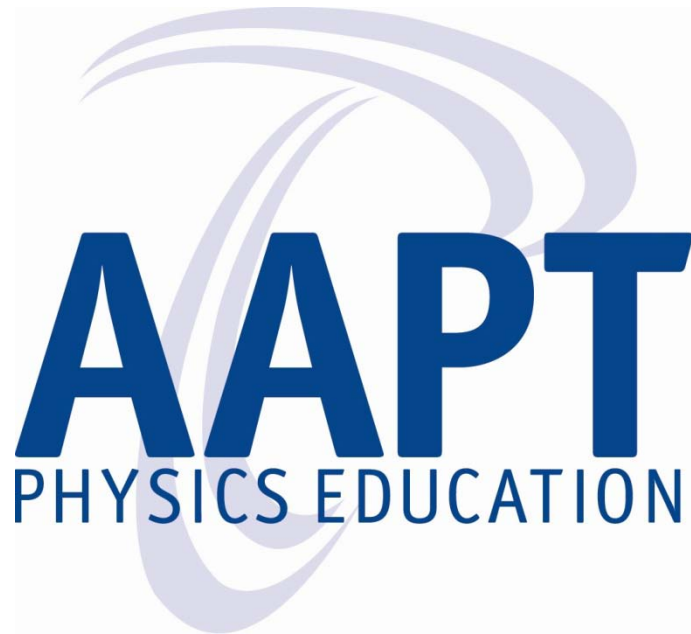
School: Glenbard West High School

Teacher: Bruce Medic

This photo illustrates a standing wave created by quickly spinning a string of Christmas lights. A standing wave can appear when the medium is confined by making both ends immovable. They are formed when two waves travel in opposite directions and interfere with each other. By spinning the lights at one end, a new harmonic wave is continuously introduced, which travels to the end that is taped to a wall. Once reaching the wall, the wave will then reflect backward, and travel back to the origin. Since the lights are oscillating in place, the waves traveling in opposite directions will be of almost equal wavelength and amplitude. When the two waves have a displacement in the opposite direction, a destructive interference is created and they cancel each other out. These points of no movement in the string are called nodes. On the other hand, a constructive interference occurs when the two waves have a displacement in the same direction and they create an antinode. Antinodes are where the wave is at a maximum displacement and amplitude and can be seen by the circular path of the lights. This standing wave has four nodes, which includes the fixed endpoints, and three antinodes.

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# INTRODUCTION

The Mission of the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) is enhancing the understanding and appreciation of physics through teaching. Local sections represent a vital extension of the fulfillment of AAPT's mission at regional and local levels. This document is provided by the AAPT to Section Officers to assist them in their relationships with AAPT's Executive Office and with other local sections.

Local sections vary considerably in geographic location and size, membership, and activities. However, all sections are recognized by AAPT through the pursuit of common objectives and through the provision that most members of the AAPT Council are Section Representatives who are determined by the local sections. These representatives participate in the governance and constitutionally mandated activities of AAPT.

On behalf of the members of AAPT, I thank you for your service. As a Section Representative, you provide the knowledge of the physics programs and physics educators in your geographic region. Your role of providing advice and input to the Executive Office and the Executive Board on matters of concern to you and your section is integral to our success.

One of the unique features of AAPT is the interaction between volunteers like you who are committed to physics education, and members of the Executive Board and the staff at the Executive Office who are responsible for ensuring that AAPT programs, services, and publications are of the highest quality possible. The AAPT Executive Office staff provides logistical support and leadership in specialized areas from developing publications and designing Websites to managing marketing efforts and organizing meetings, topical conferences, and workshops. We are all committed to our Association being successful and you can count on the Executive Office and Executive Board to support you in the common goal of improving physics education.

Joe Spaccavento, North Arlington High School, NJ, nicely summarizes the role of the Executive Office and sections. "The AAPT is the backbone which supports all of the various sections of AAPT which in turn service those teachers who might not have the opportunity to attend a national meeting. I serve as the New Jersey Section Representative and wear my title proudly. To truly see all of the contributions of the AAPT one must look at the work being done by the sections as well."

On behalf of the Executive Office and the Executive Board,

Beth A. Cunningham, Executive Officer

# AAPT PROGRAMS

## [NATIONAL MEETINGS TWICE A YEAR](#)

These meetings give you a chance to:

- Attend physics workshops
- Meet and greet other physics teachers
- Form networks internationally, nationally, and locally
- Meet exhibitors who provide the most current and up-to-date physics resources

## [PHYSICS TEACHING RESOURCE AGENTS \(PTRA\) PROGRAM](#)

Established in 1985, this program seeks to provide sustained professional development to teachers of physics and physical science. By maintaining a cadre of over 100 accomplished high school teacher leaders, trained and updated yearly, this program produces teachers who go out to meet the specific professional development needs of teachers in their local area.

## [AAPT PHYSICS BOWL](#)

Each year, approximately 10,000 high school students take a 40-question, 45-minute long, multiple-choice test under their school's supervision. Students compete against one another as well as against other schools, and geographical regions. AAPT awards certificates of participation to all competing teachers and students.

## [The Physics Team](#)

The U.S. Physics Team Program promotes and demonstrates academic excellence by preparing outstanding high school students to participate in the International Physics Olympiad. The U.S. Physics Team fulfills its mission by:

- Expanding awareness of and participation in the program
- Providing a meaningful scientific and cultural experience for team members, including opportunities to network and meet new people
- Learning in intellectual and experiential ways
- Gaining international exposure

## [NEW FACULTY WORKSHOPS](#)

The American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT), in conjunction with the American Astronomical Society (AAS) and the American Physical Society (APS), holds workshops for new physics and astronomy faculty members twice each year at the American Center for Physics.

These workshops are led by internationally renowned physics and astronomy educators. The goals of the conference are: helping new faculty understand how students learn physics and astronomy; learn about new educational technologies in the field; become aware of new ways of promoting student learning through active engagement and impacting a new professor's teaching methods.

## [ComPADRE](#) (COMMUNITIES FOR PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY DIGITAL RESOURCES IN EDUCATION)

ComPADRE is a well-organized network of digital collections of high-quality educational materials in physics and astronomy. These collections connect to a wide range of digital resources, including curricular materials, digital libraries, and online journals. All materials are vetted before included to the ComPADRE network.

## [PHYSTEC](#) (PHYSICS TEACHER EDUCATION COALITION)

PhysTEC is a joint project of AAPT and APS whose mission is to improve and promote the education of future physics and physical science teachers. Specifically, the project aims to

- Demonstrate successful models for
  - Increasing the number of highly qualified high school physics teachers
  - Improving the quality of K-8 physical science teacher education
- Spread best-practice ideas throughout the physics teacher preparation community
- Transform physics departments to engage in preparing physics teachers

## [PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS](#)

AAPT publishes two peer-reviewed journals and many other publications in both print and online. The American Journal of Physics is aimed at college and university faculty. The Physics Teacher focuses on teaching introductory physics at all levels.

## [GRANTS, COMPETITIONS & AWARDS](#)

AAPT sponsors many competitions, grants, awards, and other programs designed to foster an interest in physics, a desire to excel in the study and instruction of physics, and a sense of community and teamwork within the physics education community. The Apparatus Competition, High School Physics Photo Contest, and International Science and Engineering Fair are a few examples. The AAPT Awards Committee invites [nominations](#) for the association's various awards:

- [The John David Jackson Award for Excellence in Graduate Physics Education](#)
- [Homer L. Dodge Citation for Distinguished Service to AAPT](#)
- [David Halliday and Robert Resnik Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Physics Teaching](#)
- [Paul W. Zitzewitz Award for Excellence in Pre-College Physics Teaching](#)
- [Outstanding Learning Assistant Awards](#)
- [Klopsteg Memorial Award](#)
- [Melba Newell Phillips Medal](#)
- [Oersted Medal](#)
- [Richtmyer Memorial Award](#)
- [Robert A. Millikan Medal](#)

## SECTIONS AND SECTION REPRESENTATIVES

Sections of the American Association of Physics Teachers are provided for in Article VII of the AAPT Constitution and the roles and responsibilities of Section Representatives are described in Article VIII. Section Representatives, along with the members of the Executive Board, constitute the AAPT Council. The role and duties of the Council are specified in Article IV of the [AAPT Constitution](#).

### ARTICLE VII. SECTIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION (FROM AAPT CONSTITUTION)

1. Sections are geographical areas with members consisting of teachers of physics and others interested in promoting the objectives of the Association.
2. Sections have their own constitution and by-laws that must not contravene the Constitution and by-laws of the Association.
3. Section constitutions and by-laws must define Section boundaries by postal codes and such boundaries cannot overlap those of other Sections.
4. Changes in Section boundaries must be approved by the Council.
5. Members of the Association may join one or more Sections but shall vote for a Section Representative in one Section only. Persons not members of the Association may be members of Sections. All Section meetings shall be open to any member of the Association, but they must pay any applicable fees.
6. Each Section shall elect one of its members, who is a member of the Association, to serve as its Section Representative.
7. Any Section not providing evidence of Section activity (e.g., section meetings, workshops, professional development events) for a period of two years may be declared inactive by the Council.
8. Recognition as a Section may be withdrawn by the Council for cause.
9. Ten or more members of the Association, in an area deemed appropriate by the Council, may petition the Council through the Secretary to be authorized by the Council to form a Section. A Section shall not be formed that includes part of the territory of any existing Section unless either (a) that Section expressly releases such territory in writing, or (b) the AAPT Council, by affirmative vote of two-thirds of those members present at a meeting, declares that such territory be released.



## Article VIII. Section Representatives

1. Section Representatives are AAPT members elected by individual Sections to be their representatives at meetings of the Section Representatives and on the Council.
2. The Section Representatives shall have their own by-laws.
3. The Section Representatives, at a meeting coincident with the Annual<sup>1</sup> Meeting of the Association, shall elect a Vice Chair, who must be a Section Representative at the time of election. The Vice Chair shall hold office from the close of that Annual Meeting until the close of the second Annual Meeting after assuming office. The Vice Chair of the Section Representatives shall become Chair of the Section Representatives following the two-year term as Vice Chair and shall serve a two-year term as Chair.
4. The Chair of the Section Representatives and the Association Secretary shall receive annual reports of the activities of Sections and shall be notified of changes in Section constitutions. The Council or Executive Board may request changes in Section constitutions where these are inconsistent with policies of the Association.
5. Special meetings of the Section Representatives shall be announced in writing at least four weeks in advance, with the reason for the meeting being set forth in the announcement. Special meetings may be called by the Chair of the Section Representatives or by a majority of the members of the Section Representatives.
6. A Section Representative unable to attend a meeting of the Section Representatives may be represented by an alternate if this is not prohibited by the Section constitution. The Secretary of the Section Representatives must be informed in writing by the Section Representative or other Section Officer of the name of the alternate before the meeting is called to order. The alternate shall be a member of the Association and the Section being represented.

## BYLAWS OF THE SECTION REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AAPT

(Last revised January 2001)

### 1. OFFICERS

#### A. Chairperson of the Section Representatives

The Chairperson shall serve as the presiding officer at meetings of the Section Representatives. The Chairperson shall serve for a two-year term. The Chairperson shall propose the agenda for the meetings of the Section Representatives. The Chairperson shall be responsible for the collection of Winter Meeting travel expense claims from the Section Representatives and the submission of those claims to the AAPT Treasurer in accordance with the rules adopted by the Section Representatives. The Chairperson shall receive annual reports of activities of Sections and shall be notified of changes in Sections' constitutions.

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<sup>1</sup> Currently the Annual Meeting is held during the AAPT Winter Meeting.

B. Vice-Chairperson of the Section Representatives

The Vice-Chairperson shall serve as the presiding officer at meetings of the Section Representatives when the Chairperson is unable to serve. The Vice-Chairperson shall serve for a two-year term and then become the Chairperson of the Section Representatives.

C. Secretary of the Section Representatives

The Secretary shall record and maintain the minutes of the Section Representatives. Minutes shall be distributed by the next meeting of the Section Representatives. The Secretary shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a one-year term. Re-election, up to a total of four (4) consecutive years is allowed.

**2. SECTION REPRESENTATIVES' NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**(From Section Representative By-laws)**

A. Composition

The Section Representatives' Nominating Committee shall consist of a Chairperson and at least two, but not more than four, members from among the Section Representatives. They shall be elected at the Annual Meeting with the term of office to extend until the end of the next Annual Meeting. Committee members should not serve more than three consecutive terms. The committee will select a chairperson.

B. Duties

The Section Representatives' Nominating Committee shall be responsible for choosing nominees and presenting the names to the Section Representatives at the Annual Meeting after receiving an agreement to be nominated from the individual. They shall be responsible for nominating persons to fill the following positions: Vice-Chairperson of the Section Representatives, Secretary of the Section Representatives, the Nominating Committee of Section Representatives, and other positions for which the Section Representatives are responsible. Currently they are responsible for providing nominees for two positions on the AAPT National Nominating Committee and recommending two persons to the Council for membership on the Membership and Benefits Committee each year.

1) Nominations for Vice-Chairperson of the Section Representatives.

The usual practice shall be to present at least two nominees both of whom must be Section Representatives at the time of the election. The slate of nominees will be distributed at least two weeks prior to the election.

2) Nominations for AAPT Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee shall present at least one more nominee than the number of vacancies.

### **3. ELECTIONS**

Nominations from the floor shall be permitted in addition to the nominations from the Nominating Committee for all elections conducted by the Section Representatives. The elections for Vice-Chairperson and Secretary shall be conducted by paper ballot whenever there are two or more persons nominated for the offices. All nominees shall be on the first ballot. In the event that no one receives a majority of the ballots cast, a runoff shall be conducted between the two nominees with the largest number of votes. In the case of tie(s), the runoff shall include the names of all those involved in the tie(s). The Chairperson shall appoint two or more Section Representatives who are not on the ballot to tabulate the ballots and report the results to the Section Representatives or the Secretary of the Section Representatives.

### **4. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS**

Adoption or amendments to the Bylaws shall require a simple majority vote of those present at the next regular meeting of the Section Representatives. Amendments will be distributed at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

## DUTIES OF A SECTION REPRESENTATIVE

### ATTEND SECTION REPRESENTATIVE MEETINGS

These are the Section Officers Exchange and the Section Representatives Meeting at both the Winter and Summer AAPT Meetings and the Council Meeting at the Winter Meeting. If attendance is impossible, please send a substitute who is a member of both AAPT and your section. Notify the secretary before the meeting. There is partial travel reimbursement (two nights for a single room or three nights for half of a double room in the conference hotel, and travel fares) for the Winter Meeting. You will need to fill out a travel reimbursement form.

### UPDATE YOUR LIST OF SECTION OFFICERS

You will need to go to the [AAPT Local Sections](#) webpage and sign in at the bottom of the page where it says “Staff, Section Rep, and Board Sign In.” The page will change to one listing additional links below your section name. (If you cannot sign in, please contact AAPT Membership Department) Click on “Update Local Section Officers” to access a list of your section’s officers. Then click on “edit” to change officers. You must supply a term for each officer. If you do not, they will be removed on December 31 and your listing will go blank.

### SUBMIT EVIDENCE OF SECTION ACTIVITY.

You must submit at least a brief (where, when, how many) report of section meetings. You are encouraged to submit an article to Section News by sending it to AAPT Communication Department ([Marilyn Gardner](#)). Guidelines for submission are on the following page. Section news appears twice a year in January and July. Links to past issues can be found by going to the [AAPT Local Sections](#) page and clicking on the issue you want to view.

### SERVE AS AN INFORMATION CONDUIT BETWEEN AAPT AND YOUR SECTION.

You are encouraged to report on current AAPT news and initiatives at each meeting of your section. You should also bring local issues and concerns to the attention of the appropriate person in either the [AAPT Executive Office](#) or the [Executive Board](#). If you would like to have an Executive Board member, Executive Officer or Associate Executive Officer to attend by internet video conference, contact the Executive Office at [eo@aapt.org](mailto:eo@aapt.org)

You can post notices of future section meetings on the AAPT calendar by contacting the AAPT the Director of Communications ([Marilyn Gardner](#)).

### PROMOTE AAPT MEMBERSHIP IN YOUR SECTION.

The Marketing Department provides AAPT material and giveaways to assist Sections in their recruitment efforts. The box includes: Journals, Membership brochures and applications, Programs and Conference information, Posters, Teacher Guidelines, Pens/Pencils, Giveaways, etc.

Each section may request one “Section Box” free of charge each year. Additional orders will require the Section to reimburse the association for the shipping fees. Also, if rush shipping is required, the Section must cover the total shipping fee.

To order your “Section Box” of AAPT resources, email RaShonda Rosier at [rosier@aapt.org](mailto:rosier@aapt.org).

\*Note: Please order your “Section Box” at least **three** weeks prior to your event to ensure you receive the AAPT resources on time.

You can also obtain membership recruitment resources and membership applications at <http://aapt.org/Membership/recruitment.cfm>.

#### HELP FROM AAPT FOR SECTION RECRUITMENT.

If requested, the National Office can provide Section Officers with a list of AAPT members and their email addresses who reside within the Section’s borders. The list can include AAPT members who are not members of the Section or those who are members of both the Section and AAPT. In your request, please specify which list you would like to receive. All names and emails are only to be used for recruiting members for AAPT Sections and may not be distributed to a third party. Requests can be sent to [membership@aapt.org](mailto:membership@aapt.org).

As a reciprocal service, it would be helpful if your section would provide a list, including email contact information of your section members and meeting attendees to the National Office to be used for recruitment purposes.

## SECTION NEWS SUBMISSION

“Section News,” a regular feature in AAPT’s eNNOUNCER newsletter, highlights the events and activities of AAPT Sections. Section Reports for the “Section News” in the eNNOUNCER are taken from the AAPT Calendar of Events. Your Section’s listing on the Calendar can include an E-mail contact and the url of your section’s website. Keeping your website current will help current and prospective members find out more about your meetings.

The full Section Report will appear in the *AAPT Section News*, published twice annually (January and July). A typical section report is 250-700 words long and details important and interesting information from recent section meetings such as election of new officers, physics-related achievements, contributions of AAPT section members and photos of your event.

#### GUIDELINES

Review a recent issue of the AAPT Section News. Reports should be written in past tense, lead with the most significant news, and focus on information of interest to the entire AAPT membership.

Write clearly and concisely. Note that submissions may be edited to conform to AAPT style and/or for length.

Use Microsoft Word (or compatible software) and save the file as text only (i.e., a .txt file).

Use only one typeface, such as Courier or Times New Roman.

Do NOT embed artwork (photos, clip art, etc.) or use any special formatting (bold, italics, bullets, indents, etc.).

Reproduction quality photos accompanying a section report are welcomed. Please send only hi-resolution (i.e., 300 dpi or greater) images in TIFF or JPEG form. Include a brief description (no more than three sentences) of what the photo shows. (If three or fewer people are featured, include the full name of each person.)

Email the file and any images as attachments to [Pubs@aapt.org](mailto:Pubs@aapt.org). Submissions will be acknowledged.

## DEADLINE

Section Representatives will receive a reminder email, via the Sections' listserv, approximately two to three weeks before the deadline for Section News copy. The deadlines are:

January issue – December 31

July issue – June 30

For more information you may contact the Director of Communications via mail One Physics Ellipse, College Park, MD 20740 or at [pubs@aapt.org](mailto:pubs@aapt.org).

## OTHER RESOURCES

### [EXECUTIVE BOARD](#)

List of the Executive Board members and their contact information.

### [THE SECTION REPRESENTATIVE LISTSERV](#)

You should all be receiving messages from this listserv. If you are not receiving messages or if you are no longer a section representative and wish to be removed from the listserv, please contact the Associate Director of Membership ([Rogers Fuller](#)). As a courtesy to your successor, you might also want to give Rogers the name and contact information of the new section representative.

### [THE PHYSICS STORE](#)

We carry exclusive AAPT products and publications in addition to some popular physics education books, resources, gifts, and supplies. The Physics Store is a perfect place to shop for thank you gifts for your outgoing officers, welcome gifts for incoming officers and door prizes for meeting attendees. Members can purchase products from the store, using their member discount, and sell them at the retail price, using the Physics Store as a fundraiser for your section. Contact the Physics Store Manager at [store@aapt.org](mailto:store@aapt.org) to learn more.

### [LISTSERV](#)

For information about AAPT lists in general.

### [Section Representative & Area Committee Chair Documents & Information](#)

This page has links to the May 2010 Strategic Plan and reports from earlier retreats.

### [AAPT LOCAL SECTIONS WEBSITE](#)

The website contains links to section news and upcoming section events. The [Find a Local Section](#) link can be used information about each local section, including a list of its officers and its website.

### [CALENDAR OF EVENTS](#)

This site lists AAPT and section events. Please consider posting an announcement of your future section meeting on this site by contacting the AAPT Director of Communication ([Marilyn Gardner](#)).

### [AAPT Constitution and By-Laws](#)

## AAPT EXECUTIVE OFFICE

The AAPT Executive Office works closely with the Executive Board and member volunteers to manage the operations, carry out directives, and create and uphold general association policies. The Executive Office represents the Association at public venues. It provides leadership and services for all AAPT activities and programs. The Executive Office further manages all external grant projects on behalf of AAPT.

Contact the Executive Office if you have questions about any of the Association's programs and services.

**Executive Office** (301) 209-3311 [eo@aapt.org](mailto:eo@aapt.org)

The Executive Office oversees and leads the AAPT operations. Contact the Executive Office about:

- All Grant-related projects
- The International Science and Engineering Fair
- Barbara Lotze Scholarship for Future Teachers
- The AAPT Executive Board
- Marketing
- Fund Development
- General questions or concerns about physics education
- Questions about AAPT and its role in "improving physics education and supporting physics educators"

[Beth Cunningham](#), Executive Officer  
[Robert Hilborn](#), Associate Executive Officer  
[Patch Hicks](#), Executive Assistant  
[RaShonda Rosier](#), Marketing Manager  
[Matthew Riggsbee](#), ComPADRE Web Design

**Communications Department** (301) 209-3322 [pubs@aapt.org](mailto:pubs@aapt.org)

The Communications Department oversees the production of journals, magazines, and publications. Contact this department if you have questions about:

- The file format of your submission of abstracts to National Meetings
- Purchasing reprints, obtaining copyright permission
- How to include a product in our catalog
- Whether AAPT would be interested in producing your product, or
- Press releases

If you have questions about your subscription, including how to file a claim for missing issues or how to change your name or mailing address, contact the Membership Department. Editorial and Publishing Services are not able to answer questions about journal submission. Please contact the Journal Editor directly regarding unpublished articles.

[Marilyn Gardner](#), Director of Communications

[Jane Chambers](#), Senior Production Editor

[Terrence Hunt](#), Web Developer

[Dave Wolfe](#), Web Designer

**Programs and Conferences Department** (301) 209-3340 [meetings@aapt.org](mailto:meetings@aapt.org)  
or [programs@aapt.org](mailto:programs@aapt.org)

The Programs and Conferences Department works closely with the Program Chair and the Area Committees to plan all aspects of the two annual AAPT National Meetings. The department also organizes and manages the physics exhibit shows.

The department also coordinates the following programs for the Association:

- [PTRA Program](#)
- [Physics and Astronomy New Faculty Workshop](#)
- [The United States Physics Team](#)
- [Physics Bowl](#)
- [High School Grants for Innovative Teaching Programs](#)

Contact this department if you have questions regarding

- Abstract submission
- Session or workshop request form submission
- Invited speakers
- Hosting a Summer Meeting
- Exhibiting

[Tiffany Hayes](#), Director of Programs and Conferences

[Cerena Cantrell](#), Associate Director of Programs and Conferences

[Janet Lane](#), Programs Administrator

[Pearl Watson](#), Meetings & Registration Coordinator

**Membership Department** (301) 209-3306 [membership@aapt.org](mailto:membership@aapt.org)



The Membership Department is responsible for the recruitment and retention of AAPT members and institutional subscribers to the AJP and TPT journals. This department is also responsible for expanding AAPT's visibility within the scientific community, and assisting the local sections in dissemination of AAPT resources. Product order fulfillment (AAPT Physics Store) and inventory control are also responsibilities of this department.

[Marilyn Gardner](#), Director of Membership  
[Rogers Fuller](#), Assoc. Director of Membership  
[Jean Edwards](#), Database Administrator

**Finance and Administration Department** (301) 209-3330 [accounting@aapt.org](mailto:accounting@aapt.org)

The Finance and Administration Department manages the fiscal aspects of the operation, information technology, and human resources. The Department prepares budget reports and all financial statements. Budget reports are provided monthly, showing year-to-date comparisons of actual expenses to the budget by cost center.

The department provides General Ledger maintenance, Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, Payroll Processing, Cash Receipts, Grant Accounting and Budgeting services, and also manages rental income and expenses.

The Department maintains the important papers and records of the Association and monitors the Association's investments. All tax and insurance (except health) issues are handled through the Department.

The annual audit report process to attest to the accuracy of the financial statements and the government grant submissions is a joint effort of the Finance Department and the independent auditors.

Contact this Department with any issues relating to reimbursements.

[Michael Brosnan](#), Chief Financial Officer  
[Sylvia Sandiford](#), Senior Accountant  
[Tania Hayes](#), Accounts Payable/Receivable Coordinator

**Technology and Information Services** (301) 209-3110 [tech@aapt.org](mailto:tech@aapt.org)

Contact this department with any issues relating to the web, listservs and computer-related problems.

[Erwin Campbell](#), Director of Technology and Information Systems

## DEVELOPING AN AAPT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Throughout our recent history, AAPT has engaged in planning the future of our organization through retreats in 1981, 1990, and 2000. At the 2005 Summer Meeting, President Richard Peterson and the 2005-2006 Executive Board agreed to undertake strategic planning over the following ten months, culminating with a three-day retreat at Belmont Conference Center, Baltimore, MD. These activities were organized to coincide with the planned retirement of Executive Officer B. Khoury (1990-2006). The Executive Board invited former President Karen L. Johnston to facilitate the planning processes and the retreat. Members of the Executive Board prepared a set of white papers on membership, sections, etc. for the retreat. Section Representatives, Area Committee Chairpersons, leaders in PIRA, Executive Office staff, and other groups were invited to provide input to the retreat deliberations. The white papers and a record of the retreat is available at (<http://www.aapt.org/sections/docs.cfm>).

The retreat led to the second phase of the planning. President Ken Heller appointed a planning advisory group (PAG), consisting of Dick Peterson, Ruth Chabay, Dwain Desbien, and Alan Gibson, along with Warren Hein to assist the then new Executive Officer Toufic Hakim in his efforts to develop and refine a set of ambitious leadership goals for the organization. Karen Johnston was commissioned by Hakim to meet with the PAG and offer assistance in organizing the agenda for the PAG meetings. The four meetings of the PAG focused on the following: (1) the vision (where we see ourselves as an organization / the horizon) and values (core beliefs, principles and ideals), (2) the constituency that we represent, (3) the external affect on the physics teaching and education community, (4) membership (whom we serve and whom we should serve; benefits, models of membership), and (5) governance (how to engage the sections and their representatives, how to involve the area committees in driving and supporting our national agenda). At the conclusion of the PAG meetings, the Executive Officer prepared a draft strategic framework to guide AAPT.

In 2007, President Harvey Leff appointed an Ad Hoc Governance Review Committee (GRC), now known as the Committee on Governance Structure (COGS), chaired by Mary Beth Monroe. Its purpose is to advise the AAPT Executive Board on governance issues and review AAPT governance documents and prepare an organizational chart that briefly describes the purpose of and indicates the connections among the different committees, programs, groups, and outreach efforts sponsored by AAPT. COGS is now a permanent committee of AAPT.

With the guidance of a planning team, AAPT convened a retreat for Area Committee chairs and Section Representatives (ACC/SR) in May 2007 at ACP to discuss the current structure and possible restructuring of AAPT. Several models were presented over the two days and the planning team met to summarize and report those models to the Executive Board. The text of their report is available at (<http://www.aapt.org/sections/docs.cfm>). President Leff appointed a temporary Executive Board Committee on Governance Structure (CoGS), chaired by the Former AAPT President, to study, summarize, and synthesize the following documents: the organizational chart of AAPT structure prepared by the GRC, the models presented by the planning group from the ACC/SR retreat, and other relevant documents. The work of the CoGS continues as of October 2009.

Changes in leadership within the Executive Office in early 2008 resulted in an interruption of some aspects of the strategic planning process. In April 2009 the Executive Board re-engaged in strategic planning with Karen Johnston facilitating the process. Significant time was dedicated to the strategic planning effort by the Board at its meetings in July and October 2009 with Johnston's leadership. In parallel, staff members in the Executive Office have been using the Board's strategic planning framework to guide program and financial planning and membership services and recruitment.

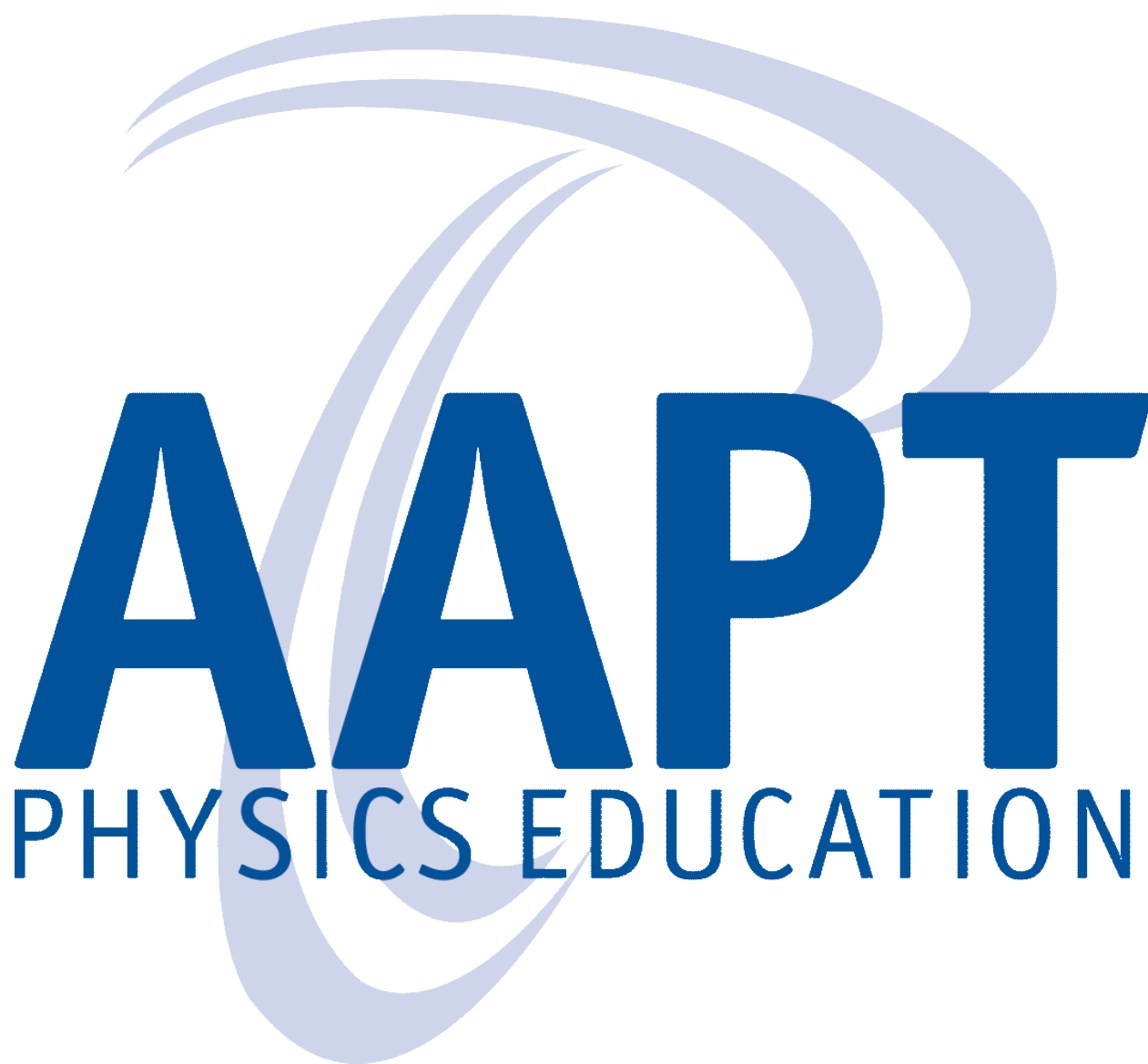
The current plan is available at (<http://www.aapt.org/sections/docs.cfm>).

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