

**REPORT OF THE ACADEMY REPRESENTATIVE TO
THE ACADEMY CONFERENCE AND THE COUNCIL
OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE**

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Our Tennessee Academy of Science is one of more than 200 affiliated organizations, including 44 academies, composing the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Each affiliate has one representative on the AAAS Council which is the governing group. This Council elects the officers, receives the reports of the Board of Directors and chairmen of the various committees and discusses and adopts resolutions. Matters of routine business are handled by an Executive Secretary, and the Board of Directors meets four times a year. At each annual convention the Council meets twice for the transaction of Association business.

A Report of the Committee on Social Aspects of Science, at the 1959 convention, included a statement of the purposes of the AAAS which are:

1. To facilitate the work of scientists. This objective has been both explicit and implicit in the activities of the Association since its founding in 1848.

2. To facilitate cooperation among scientists. Although it may be said hopefully that the normal operations of the Association accomplish this purpose, there is increasing recognition of the importance of closer association and more intercommunication among scientists in different fields.

3. To improve the effectiveness of science in the promotion of human welfare. Achievement of this purpose is receiving special attention by the committees of the Council and the Association.

4. To increase public understanding and appreciation of the importance and promise of the methods of science in human progress. This purpose was recognized in the establishment in 1956 of its Committee on Public Information and Science.

To bring greater clarity into the picture of the Association's activities and to increase the effectiveness in fulfilling these several purposes, the Council considered the following action:

1. Establishment of a five-member Committee on Cooperation among Scientists.

2. Establishment of a seven-member Committee on Science in the Promotion of Human Welfare.

3. Establishment of a five-member Committee on Public Understanding of Science. There will be published in *Science*

an invitation to the membership to contribute ideas and suggestions to these appropriate committees.

A resolution was presented to the Council to consider the professional problems of American scientists from the point of view of such matters as salary, professional advancement, additional educational opportunity, and similar matters that serve to indicate the importance of scientists to modern society. This resolution was discussed and rejected.

A number of resolutions were received from the American Association of Scientific Workers urging action on the control of Nuclear Weapons tests. Your Association resolved that the final and effective decisions on nuclear energy control must be made not by scientists alone, nor by the military, but by all citizens—and that only an informed public can decide wisely. The Association will explore, through continuing scientific study, techniques for nuclear controls.

A resolution on Federal Aid to Education stated in part that the Association welcomes the National Defense Act of 1958 as further confirmation of the principle that the Federal Government should share in the responsibility for the support of education.

The Report of the Committee on Metric Usage was referred back to the committee for further study.

The Association met for a symposium in New York in May, 1959, in cooperation with the Sloan Foundation on "Support of Basic Research in the United States." A book has been published on this meeting.

Your Association received grants this year, as follows:

\$250,000 from the Carnegie Corporation to continue for a three-year period the work of the Associations' Science Teaching Improvement Program.

\$500,000 from the National Science Foundation for the Traveling Science Library Program. In addition, for 1959-60 this program has been extended to include science books for the elementary grades. Early in the fall each school receives a box of 50 scientific books. Two months later the express company picks up these books and delivers in their place another set of 50 books. During the year each school receives about 200 volumes. Included in this year's program are 1,800 schools.

Your Association now handles and administers the program for summer fellowships for high school teachers of science and mathematics for which it received \$85,000.

The Association also sponsors the TV program series "Conquest" in cooperation with the National Academy of Sciences and the Columbia Broadcasting Company.

The total research grants for the year to state academies amount to \$5,600. This is your organization; join it and support it. It is large but, like all organizations, it depends on its membership for its success.

Your representative also attends the Academy Conference. This is the common meeting ground of academy representatives to discuss problems of mutual concern and to exchange ideas. The real problem, however, is that of getting the information back to the respective academy officers and members.

The Senior academies are well organized nationally. The Junior Academy Conference held its fourth meeting and a prominent part of the program for the 1959 meeting was a report from M. S. McCay, our state Junior Academy Chairman, who explained the operation of the Tennessee Junior Academy of Science.

Next on the list of organizations for us to develop nationally is the Collegiate Academy Conference and this is in the making. Last year it was proposed that: (1) there be a national meeting of State Collegiate Academy officers and Senior Academy representatives with travel expenses provided from some source, (2) that a handbook on Collegiate Academies be published. Duke University has agreed to pay the cost, but an author is needed.

The officers of our Tennessee Academy here know that the research grant from AAAS was doubled last year and the Association urges that these funds be used for high school students. Tennessee is taking the lead in this suggestion. The Academy Conference operates entirely on a small income obtained from member academies: 1 cent per year for each academy member. This is a small sum to pay for the doubled research grant received. The Academy Conference was largely responsible for the academy grants received in 1959 from the National Science Foundation.

The Academy Conference program includes a report from each representative on the outstanding activities of his academy. Some of these activities are as follows:

One academy awards three beautiful cups to the Junior Academy winners.

Meritorius Teaching Awards are given to high school teachers.

Science Fairs are sponsored by several and then an annual State Fair is held.

Some academies are working on their history. Some honor the Science Talent Search winners at the annual banquet. Others have an organized speakers' bureau for high school groups. Several have full time salaried executive secretaries. A few have created the office of Permanent Secretary. Some have created a "Research Fund" at which friends of the academy contribute to honor past members. Some are incorporated, while others, unincorporated, have endowments, receive gifts and award scholarships. Several academies act as unifying agents for all science organizations of the state. Many are developing a Committee on Certification Requirements for secondary school teachers. None

do all of these but these activities show what any academy can do.

Our last Conference sponsored a symposium on Academy Movement: Past, Present and Future. Briefly some of the highlights are:

The success of an academy depends on four factors: dissemination and advancement of knowledge; research; publication of a bulletin; and obtaining funds other than from dues. Failure results from lack of any of these, political figures as officers, and sectarianism.

The first academy in the south was the New Orleans Academy in 1853; next was the North Carolina Academy in 1902, and the Tennessee Academy in 1912. Kentucky, Arkansas and Oklahoma followed by 1921, and then Georgia, Virginia, South Carolina, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi in order until Florida in 1936.

Publication expense is the greatest expense for most academies. In five this is paid by the state; in two it is paid by the state university, and in nineteen it is accomplished by gifts, endowment and dues. North Carolina has an interesting budget that is 50% for Science Fairs, 25% for publications and 25% for all other expenses.

Overall membership has increased in academies 14% in ten years. Those academies organized before 1900 have increased 55% during the same time. There has been a loss in membership in recent years in Mississippi, Tennessee and Florida. Louisiana has increased her membership 112%.

Spring meetings are held by 28 academies; fall meetings by eight; three have two meetings each year.

The first Junior Academy was formed in Illinois in 1927. Now thirty-one of the forty-four academies have Junior Academies.

The present trend in state academies is now towards Science Fairs, Science Clubs and Junior and Collegiate programs. I quote from Oklahoma: "No longer need bus loads of juniors and high school teachers descend on Senior Academy meetings with no interest in the event other than a vacation from classes. The emphasis at the senior meeting should be on representatives of these groups and their winners."

The senior academy meetings should include industrial research. A representative of the American Chemical Society should report at the academy on their local and state activities. We should be interested in politics as it effects science and conservation, forestry, parks, lakes, etc. We should use television for giving scientific information to the public.

In conclusion, allow me to quote from Paul Sears on the Future of State Academies: "In our record of growth, prolifera-

tion, fusion, specialization and fission the individual has been submerged and his creative impulses dampened. If American science is to retain its vitality we must nurture the individuality of the scientist and do all we can to stimulate him to truly creative effort. There is too much waste of trained ability through isolation and lack of encouragement. Many men and women, with good graduate training, lie dormant. This is not for lack of work to be done. Laziness and lack of initiative play a part as does personal distractions of small communities, of family life, or heavy routine duties of small institutions. There is a lack of vision and encouragement on the part of harassed administrations, busy with troubles of their own. Administrators and teachers cannot flourish in a cultural vacuum. They must have contacts and encouragement at a level within reach. Their students must have access to the working build of investigators by attending meetings, hearing and giving reports. Here the state academy occupies an essential role. Its sessions are informal; they lack the high tension of competitive programs of national groups. We must interest the secondary school teacher and the secondary school student. We must serve the amateurs in science. The prime need is for curious and intelligent minds, properly encouraged through association and recognition such as an academy affords."

TENNESSEE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE TREASURER'S REPORT

Dec. 31, 1958, to Dec. 31, 1959

CASH BALANCES, December 31, 1958

Current Fund, First Amer. Nat'l Bank, Nashville	\$ 434.17
Current Fund, Home Fed. Savings and Loan, Knoxville	1,195.99
Life Membership Fund, Fid. Fed. Savings and Loan, Nashville	682.10
Endowment Fund, Third Nat'l Bank, Nashville	400.80
Total	\$ 2,713.06

INCOME

Academy Income

One half of membership dues	1,183.75
Interest on Current Fund (Home Fed. Savings and Loan, Knoxville)	42.19
Gifts	300.75
Ticket to annual dinner	1.75
AAAS Grant	265.54
N.S.F. Grant No. G-8496	15,670.00
N.S.F. Grant No. G-8550	8,880.00
State of Tenn. Grant-in-aid	2,400.00
Reimbursement from G-8550 for bonding and supplies	40.70
Reimbursement from G-8496 for bonding and supplies	88.54
Total	28,873.22