

Retirement of Orr E. Reynolds as Executive Secretary-Treasurer

The following are remarks from the President's "State of the Society" Address at the Business Meeting, Anaheim, 24 April, 1985.

One of the most significant impending events for the Society is the retirement of Orr Reynolds as Executive Secretary-Treasurer and his replacement by Dr. Martin Frank. There must be few of us here who do not have reason to be grateful to Orr for the myriad of administrative actions he has taken since 1973 when he became Executive Secretary. It is important to realize that in a Society whose president changes each year, a great deal of responsibility falls on the executive secretary to maintain an orderly advance. Orr has guided the Society through good times and bad, but the net result has been a remarkable degree of progress over the last 12 years. I shall not try to cover all the changes, some of which were detailed in an editorial in the December 1984 issue of *The Physiologist*. However, Orr's retirement as Executive Secretary-Treasurer serves as an opportunity to briefly review some of the changes in the Society during his tenure.

Figure 1 shows some of the changes in membership and meetings over the last 12 years. As can be seen, there has been a substantial increase in membership, and in addition two new categories have been introduced—corresponding membership for foreign members and student memberships. The Spring meetings of the Society are thriving; indeed the present meeting is one of the largest ever. However, the Fall meetings are more problematical; the meeting in Lexington, Kentucky, last year had one of the smallest registrations for the last 10 years,

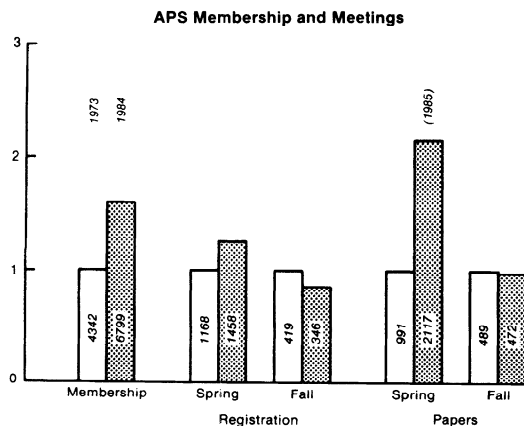


Figure 1
Changes in membership and meetings over the last 12 years.

though we should not assume that because a meeting is small it is not worthwhile. Nevertheless, the Program Committee and the Long Range Planning Committee are giving a lot of thought to the format of the Fall meeting, and it is likely that it will become more structured and focused on several themes.

Figure 2 shows the progress that has been made in Society journals; this is most impressive. However, a worrying feature is that the number of subscriptions has not increased, and indeed there has been a slow but steady fall over the last several years. An interesting statistic is that if the production costs of the journals are calculated in 1973 dollars to remove the effects of inflation, the costs have not increased as fast as the number of manuscripts or published pages.

Figure 3 shows changes in the Society's budgets. The general subscriptions have increased, though much less than you might think when calculated in terms of 1973 dollars. Again, the subscriptions have not increased as much as the Society Operating Fund or the Publications Operating Fund. A statistic that should give us pause is that the Publications Reserve Fund, which is meant to buffer the Society against hard times, has actually fallen fairly substantially when calculated in terms of 1973 dollars.

Council has decided to institute an annual award in honor of Orr Reynolds. Our Society has been fortunate

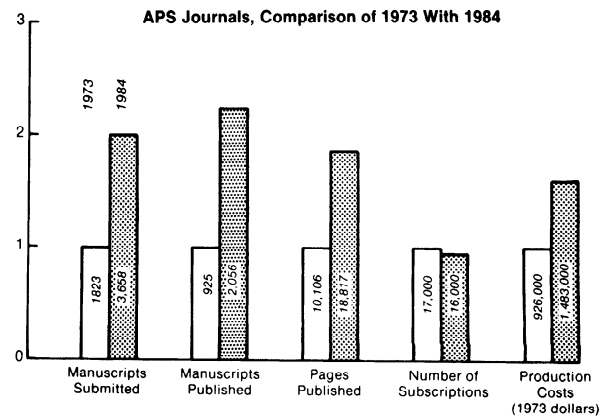


Figure 2
Changes in the Society's journals over the last 12 years.

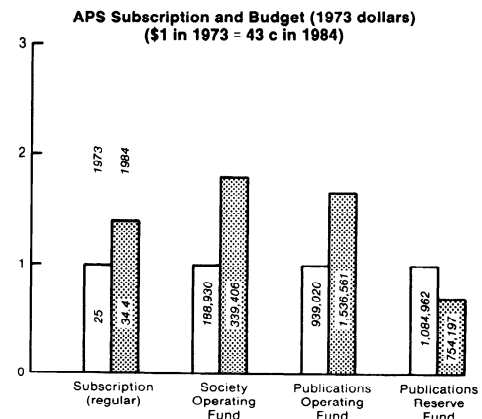


Figure 3
Budgets in 1973 and 1975, calculated in 1973 dollars.