

# The AAAS Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Division— How a Regional Division Operates

*The forthcoming AAAS Annual Meeting in Denver (20–25 February 1977), the 143rd national meeting of the Association, is also the 53rd annual meeting of the AAAS Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Division (SWARM). What follows is a description of the origins and functions of the division.*

## Origin

The Southwestern Division of the AAAS was organized to satisfy a regional need for communication, exchange, and “companionship among fellow workers” in the scientific disciplines (1). The initiative for founding this division resided in AAAS members at widely separated institutions across the Southwest.

In March 1920, an astronomer and a botanist (2) from Tucson toured the colleges and universities of Arizona, New Mexico, and west Texas to recruit scientists for a regional organization (1). Following a convening of southwestern delegates in Tucson on 10 April, the AAAS Executive Committee formally authorized a regional division on 26 April 1920. The first division meeting was held in El Paso, Texas, December of that year.

Though this first meeting was organizational in purpose, 27 scientific papers were presented in addition to about a dozen special addresses, general talks, and a symposium—“What Are the Problems on Which the Southwestern Division Should Concentrate?” One afternoon Ciudad Juarez provided streetcars to carry members and ladies across the border to a Juarez theater as guests of that city for a joint meeting. Papers were read by the Mexican members and invited speakers, followed by visits to points of interest in Juarez (3).

Until 1953, the division consisted of AAAS members resident in Arizona, New Mexico, Texas (west of the 100th meridian), Colorado, and the Mexican states of Sonora and Chihuahua. With the incorporation of Wyoming and that part of Montana east of the continental divide, the name was changed in 1953 to the Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Division (SWARM) of the AAAS. The Oklahoma panhandle joined the division in 1958. All AAAS members who reside within the defined boundaries are division members without further dues payment.

## Finances, Administration, and Officers

In 1976–77 the AAAS appropriated to SWARM the requested budget of \$7000 (approximately \$1.50 for each of the 4725 members). This annual budget pays for printing and mailing the call for papers and the program for the annual meeting.

The division Executive Officer, who is appointed by the Executive Committee for an indeterminate period, represents the division on the AAAS Council. He receives no reimbursement except for expenses to national and regional meetings. His office serves as the executive headquarters for SWARM.

All other officers are elected by ballot of division members at the time of the annual call for papers. The President accedes to his office from the position of President-elect.

A regional division formulates its own bylaws which are structured within the framework of the AAAS constitution. No conflict of interest nor question of autonomy has ever arisen between the AAAS and the Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Division.

Seven active sections currently operate within the division: (i) arid zone studies, (ii) botanical sciences, (iii) physical sciences, (iv) psychology, (v) science education, (vi) social sciences, and (vii) zoological sciences. Sections function regionally only in preparation for and during the annual meeting.

## Meetings

The SWARM constitution states that an additional purpose for founding a division was to further the objectives of the

Association through meetings and conferences held within the division boundaries. The current AAAS President, the AAAS Executive Officer, or both, represent the Association at each regional meeting. These meetings, which rotate among the principal educational institutions of the region, are scheduled in different states in consecutive years. Since 1973, the host state's Academy of Science, which meets jointly with the division, has published the abstracts. The registration charge at a meeting includes the cost of abstracts and defrays local expenses.

## Advantages of Regional Divisions

The small regional meetings provide general sessions which bring together, professionally and socially, persons with dissimilar training and diverse backgrounds. To encourage student participation in division meetings, SWARM in 1975 adopted a policy of making a cash award to the author of the best student paper presented in each section.

Certain programs and special projects of SWARM have attracted attention far beyond the division boundaries. The John Wesley Powell lectures, representing a wide diversity of scientific endeavor, have been featured at national AAAS meetings when held within the division boundaries. The division has published papers from symposia on Desert and Arid Zones research (1957–1974) as well as the Arid Lands Newsletter (1960–1973).

SWARM continues to satisfy the needs that called forth its establishment. It has adjusted to the changing times and still provides “companionship of fellow workers” as well as an outlet for reports of research by investigators of all ages.

LORA MANGUM SHIELDS

*President, Association of  
Academies of Science*

MARLOWE G. ANDERSON

*Executive Officer of Southwestern and  
Rocky Mountain Division, 1957–1973*

## References and Notes

1. F. E. E. Germann, *Science* **108**, 224 (1948).
2. Andrew Elicott Douglass, professor of astronomy and director of the Steward Observatory, University of Arizona, and Daniel Trembley MacDougal, director of the Desert Laboratory.
3. At the subsequent meetings in El Paso, the neighboring Ciudad Juarez across the international boundary continues to extend its hospitality, offering special attractions and certain duty-free commodities appreciated by division members.



**Annual Meeting  
Denver**  
20-25 February 1977

For program details, see *Science*, 3 December 1976, pages 1039–1042, and 17 December 1976, pages 1266–1269; for details about tours and special events, see *Science*, 19 November 1976, pages 827–829.



**Annual Meeting  
Denver**  
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**Advance  
Registration Form  
(D)**

**ENCLOSED IS:**

**AAAS Member:** ☐ \$20 Single Registration Fee ☐ \$30 Double Registration Fee (attendee and spouse)

**Non-Member:** ☐ \$25 Single Registration Fee ☐ \$35 Double Registration Fee (attendee and spouse)

Non-Member applying for AAAS membership\* and meeting registration: (Annual membership dues include 52 issues of SCIENCE. Double membership—individual and spouse—includes one subscription to SCIENCE.)

☐ \$45 Single Registration and Membership (\$20 registration and \$25 dues)

☐ \$55 Double Registration and Single Membership (name of applicant \_\_\_\_\_)  
(\$30 registration and \$25 dues)

☐ \$67 Double Registration and Membership (\$30 registration and \$37 dues)

**Student:** ☐ \$10 Single Student Registration Fee ☐ \$15 Double Registration Fee (student attendee and spouse)

\*These rates apply to USA membership only. Inquire for Canadian or Foreign rates.

**Note:** Special one-day attendance registration is available at the Meeting Registration Desks (\$10 regular, \$5 student).

**Program and badge will be mailed to each registrant in late January.**

**Registrations received after 30 January will be held at the AAAS Information Booth.**

**NAME OF REGISTRANT:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last Name) (First and Initial)

**NAME OF SPOUSE REGISTRANT:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last Name) (First and Initial)

**REGISTRANT'S MAILING ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
[For receipt of program(s), badge(s), and SCIENCE (for new applicants)]  
(Street)  
(City/State) (Zip Code)

**ADDITIONAL REGISTRANTS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(With same mailing address. Use new form if address differs)

**REGISTRANT'S  
INSTITUTION OR COMPANY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip Code)

**CONVENTION ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Where you can be reached) (Hotel or Street Address)  
Check days attending: Sun ☐ Mon ☐ Tue ☐ Wed ☐ Thu ☐ Fri ☐

☐ Please check here if you need special services due to handicap. We will contact you prior to the meeting.

**Mail to: American Association for the Advancement of Science, Dept. R,  
1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20005**

**SURVEY OF ATTENDEES  
Annual Meeting, Denver, 20-25 February 1977**

Your answers to the following questions will help us in planning future AAAS Annual Meetings. Please complete the following form and either return it with your registration form or send in separately (to the same address) if you wish to respond anonymously (in any case, the two forms will be processed separately).

Principal Professional Interest		Principal Professional Activity		Institutional Affiliation Type	
11 <input type="checkbox"/> Physical, mathematical	21 <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching, education	31 <input type="checkbox"/> University, 4-year college			
12 <input type="checkbox"/> Biological, medical	22 <input type="checkbox"/> Health practice	32 <input type="checkbox"/> Other educational			
13 <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	23 <input type="checkbox"/> Other practice, consulting	33 <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial, commercial			
14 <input type="checkbox"/> Social, behavioral	24 <input type="checkbox"/> Research, development	34 <input type="checkbox"/> Other private			
15 <input type="checkbox"/> Science policy	25 <input type="checkbox"/> Administration	35 <input type="checkbox"/> Government			
16 <input type="checkbox"/> ..... (other)	26 <input type="checkbox"/> ..... (other)	36 <input type="checkbox"/> ..... (other)			

  

Highest Educational Level		Age		Distance Traveled to Meeting		Last AAAS Meeting Attended	
41 <input type="checkbox"/> Doctoral Degree	51 <input type="checkbox"/> Under 26 years	61 <input type="checkbox"/> Under 51 miles	71 <input type="checkbox"/> 1971 in Philadelphia				
42 <input type="checkbox"/> Master's Degree	52 <input type="checkbox"/> 26 to 35 years	62 <input type="checkbox"/> 51 to 100 miles	72 <input type="checkbox"/> 1972 in Washington				
43 <input type="checkbox"/> Other professional	53 <input type="checkbox"/> 36 to 45 years	63 <input type="checkbox"/> 101 to 200 miles	73 <input type="checkbox"/> 1973 in Mexico City				
44 <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor's Degree	54 <input type="checkbox"/> 46 to 55 years	64 <input type="checkbox"/> 201 to 500 miles	74 <input type="checkbox"/> 1974 in San Francisco				
45 <input type="checkbox"/> ..... (other)	55 <input type="checkbox"/> 56 to 65 years	65 <input type="checkbox"/> 501 to 1000 miles	75 <input type="checkbox"/> 1975 in New York				
	56 <input type="checkbox"/> Over 65 years	66 <input type="checkbox"/> Over 1000 miles	76 <input type="checkbox"/> 1976 in Boston				

# Reservations

## Hotel Rates\*

# Annual Meeting Denver

20-25 February 1977



The American Association for the Advancement of Science will hold its 1977 Annual Meeting in Denver, 20-25 February. AAAS headquarters hotel will be the Denver Hilton; the meeting of the AAAS Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Division will be at the Executive Tower Inn, with registration and information desks located at both hotels. Sessions will also be held at the Cosmopolitan and the Holiday Inn—Downtown. The following hotels will be used for housing:

Hotel	Single	Double	Twin	Suites**	Parking
<b>DENVER HILTON</b> ( <i>Headquarters</i> ) 1550 Court Place (No. of rooms held: 700)	\$22*** 25 29	\$32 35 39	\$32 35 39	\$104 and up	\$3 per 24 hours
<b>EXECUTIVE TOWER INN</b> ( <i>SWARM</i> ) 1405 Curtis Street (No. of rooms held: 175)	\$24	\$30	\$30	\$64 and up	Free 24-hour parking for registered guests
<b>COSMOPOLITAN</b> 1780 Broadway (No. of rooms held: 200)	\$18	\$26	\$26	\$125 and up	\$3 (enclosed) and \$2.50 (out-door) per 24 hrs. for registered guests
<b>HOLIDAY INN—DOWNTOWN</b> 15th Street & Glenarm Place (No. of rooms held: 250)	\$21	\$26	\$26	\$45 and up	Free for registered guests
<b>BROWN PALACE</b> 321 Seventeenth Street (No. of rooms held: 50)	\$34	\$41	\$41	\$65 and up	\$2.50 per 24 hours

\*Per day; add 7.5% for State and City Room Tax. Charges for additional persons per room vary between \$5 and \$10, depending on hotel; charges for rollaway beds and cots vary between \$2 and \$10, depending on hotel. Children under age 12 accommodated free in same room with parents at Executive Tower Inn, Holiday Inn, and Brown Palace; age limit higher at Hilton and Cosmopolitan.

\*\*Lowest available rate for one-bedroom/parlor suites; rates for larger suites available upon request.

\*\*\*One hundred "mini singles" are available at the \$22 rate.

**NOTE:** If room rate specified is not available, the next available higher rate will be assigned. Confirmation will come to you directly from the hotel. You should notify the hotel of any changes in your reservation. Assignment is delayed if any information is omitted.

## HOTEL RESERVATIONS FORM

Please type or print

Reservations received after 4 February cannot be assured.  
The Housing Bureau will not accept any reservations by telephone.

CHOICE OF HOTEL: First \_\_\_\_\_ Second \_\_\_\_\_

ROOM: ☐ Single ☐ Double ☐ Twin SUITE: ☐ 1 Bedroom ☐ 2 Bedrooms Preferred Rate \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate any special housing needs due to a handicap:

ARRIVAL: Date \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. \_\_\_\_\_ p.m. Be sure to list definite arrival and departure date and time. Hotel reservations will be held only until 6 p.m. unless otherwise specified.

DEPARTURE: Date \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.

## NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ALL OCCUPANTS OF ROOM

Name _____	Name _____
Address _____	Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Name _____	Name _____
Address _____	Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Hotel, confirm reservation to: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: AAAS Housing Bureau  
225 West Colfax Avenue, Denver, Colo. 80202