

Call for Nominations: 1979 General Election

The Committee on Nominations will meet this fall to select candidates for the 1979 general election. The Committee invites members of the Association to submit nominations, including self-nominations, for the positions of President-Elect and members of the Board of Directors for consideration at that meeting.

A list of current Board members is given on the contents page of *Science*. Candidates for terms to start on 9 January are listed in the 2 June and 7 July issues.

Nominations should be sent to the Executive Officer, AAAS, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, no later than 16 October 1978. Each nomination must be accompanied by a curriculum vitae of the proposed candidate.

Science Education for Handicapped Theme of Conference

What are the barriers to science education faced by handicapped students? How can these barriers be overcome? To explore these questions, a conference was held on 9-11 June 1978, at the Sheraton National Inn, Arlington, Virginia. Convened by the AAAS Office of Opportunities in Science's Project on the Handicapped in Science, the conference brought together 55 participants, including handicapped students and scientists, college faculty and administrators, and persons involved in vocational rehabilitation counseling and directing support service programs for handicapped college students at various types of post-secondary institutions.

In a series of working sessions, the conferees shared their experiences regarding physical, attitudinal, and other barriers to science education for handicapped people and the problem-solving approaches which had proven successful for them. The effort culminated in the development of strategies to overcome the effects of such obstacles. Considered topics included attitudinal change, the physical environment, laboratory safety, educational techniques, information resources, and communications.

"We have searched the literature," said Martha Ross Redden, director of the Project on the Handicapped in Science, "and spoken with many people. Our efforts persuade us that there are no final answers. But the most valuable insights we have gained have come from handicapped students and scientists themselves, many of whom have guided us from the beginning of our endeavors. It is by calling this conference and bringing these people together with faculty and administrators to share their unique perspectives that we can extend the state of the art."

Present at the conference were scientists representing the biological, chemical, physical, and medical sciences; many of these, as well as the students, were handicapped and achieving in fields usually considered "off-limits" to people having their physical impairments. Included were blind persons in medicine and chemical engineering, deaf individuals in biochemistry and physics, and quadriplegics in chemistry, industrial technology, and psychiatry. For many of the faculty, the conference served as their first exposure to handicapped scientists; for the latter, it provided a unique opportunity for sharing experiences with the nonhandicapped.

Several speakers expressed their concerns and insights to the working groups during the conference: Eunice Fiorito, special assistant to the commissioner, Rehabilitation Services Administration, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, spoke on consumers and science education; Irving K. Zola, professor of sociology, Brandeis University, offered a personal perspective on the concept of "handicap"; and Raymond Lifchez, associate professor of architecture, University of California at Berkeley, addressed the relationship between the handicapped person and the built environment within which he or she functions.

Funded by the National Science Foundation, the conference will result in a report of its findings which will be widely disseminated. A series of follow-up articles is anticipated. It is hoped that the recommendations will provide the impetus for activities by students, faculty, administrators, professional societies, and public agencies to improve opportunities in science education for handicapped students. For further information, contact the AAAS Project on the Handicapped in Science at 202/467-4496 (voice or TTY).

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Change in Section H Election Slate

The Executive Office regrets to announce the recent death of Richard K. Beardsley, a candidate for Chairperson-Elect of the Section on Anthropology (H) in the 1978 election. James Silverberg of the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, replaces Dr. Beardsley on the Section H slate. Biographical information concerning candidates for all AAAS offices will appear in the 25 August election issue of *Science*.

For the Library

The Reclamation of Disturbed Arid Lands, a publication of the Committee on Desert and Arid Zones Research of the Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Division of AAAS, is available to AAAS members. Edited by Robert A. Wright and published by the University of New Mexico Press, it contains papers presented at a symposium of the 1977 AAAS Annual Meeting. Subject matter deals with current and recent research on the reclamation of lands disturbed by mining activity in the arid United States. For copies, write to Lora M. Shields, Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Division, AAAS, New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas, New Mexico 87701. Please include 50¢ per copy to cover mailing costs.

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Nonmembers may purchase copies of *The Reclamation of Disturbed Arid Lands* at \$4.90 per copy from the University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131.

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Combating the #1 Killer: The SCIENCE Report on Heart Research, by Jean L. Marx and Gina Bari Kolata, now is available from AAAS. The book is based on a series of nine articles by Research News writers Marx and Kolata in *Science* and covers key research in progress, the epidemiology of heart disease, its diagnosis, its relationship to an individual's life-style and age, and the most promising present and projected treatment strategies. Copies of the book (\$7.50 paperbound, \$17 clothbound, with a 10 percent discount for AAAS members) may be ordered from the AAAS Sales Department, 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.