

## Science Museums and AAAS Members

**M**EMBERS of the AAAS in Boston, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Seattle are joining the ranks of volunteers at their local science museums. As part of the Association's Science and Technology Centers Project, member-volunteers contribute their energies and expertise to benefit public understanding of science and technology.

Ties with scientists are becoming increasingly important to science museums. AAAS members, with their diverse interests and specialties, can offer valuable input to the operation of accurate, quality programs.

To initiate the Project at Philadelphia's Franklin Institute, a reception for new AAAS volunteers was held "under the stars" in the newly renovated mathematics and astronomy exhibits. AAAS members signed up for activities such as serving on a lecture series committee, updating staff groups on scientific topics, occasionally consulting in a specific field, and being weekday volunteers.

Responding to an inquiry from Buhl Science Center in Pittsburgh, AAAS volunteers found themselves participating in the Project as science fair judges and working as exhibit "explainers" on National Science and Technology Week programs. In the future, the volunteers may be called upon to provide staff enrichment and development, teach science classes, work with the planetarium/astronomy program, consult on publications, or give scientific and technical advice on exhibit development for Buhl's new science center, targeted for completion in 1989.

Boston's Museum of Science and Seattle's Pacific Science Center are beginning their projects with a survey of AAAS members in their respective areas. Both programs are expected to be well under way this fall.

Three areas in which volunteers may be placed at the Boston Museum of Science are in interpretation tours, lectures/resource/special events, and a new Science-By-Mail program which will fill requests from Massachusetts area school children for special science activity packets and have actual scientists provide answers to scientific questions. The Museum is looking forward to welcoming AAAS members during the 1988 Annual Meeting, to be held 11 to 15 February in Boston.

Pacific Science Center volunteers may help with similar activities, such as being a "science explainer," planning the museum's science showcase lecture series, consulting on specific topics, providing staff enrichment and development, or preparing exhibit interpretation guidebooks.

Occasionally, "special events" are held in cooperation with participating museums. Some recent events include a "Structures Exhibit" viewing in conjunction with the North Carolina Museum of Life and Science's 40th anniversary in Durham, and a public lecture on acid rain by AAAS volunteer David Gates, director of the University of Michigan's Biological Station, at Cranbrook Institute of Science located outside Detroit in Bloomfield Hills.

For the second year, the

### Election Ballots Are in the Mail

Ballots for the 1987 AAAS election are in the mail. Members will vote for a new President-Elect, two seats on the Board of Directors, four positions on the Committee on Nominations, various Electorate officers, and on a proposed amendment to the AAAS constitution. Members not currently enrolled in an Electorate (voting section) will also have the opportunity to choose one of the 22 discipline-oriented sections as their Electorate. Sections promote the work of the Association in the various fields and arrange programs for presentation at AAAS meetings. All members are encouraged to participate actively in Association affairs by voting in the election and enrolling in an Electorate.

Defective ballots should be returned to Linda McDaniel at the AAAS Executive Office so that replacements can be sent; the voter's name and address should be included. The envelope enclosed with the election mailing should not be used to return defective ballots.

AAAS and the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry cosponsored a "Dialogue with the Laureates." Two 1986 American Nobel laureates in the sciences, Dudley R. Herschbach and Yuan T. Lee, both chemistry prizewinners, described their work for those present and were honored at an awards dinner. Donald N. Langenberg, member, AAAS Board of Directors, and Walter E. Massey, AAAS president-elect, presided over the ceremonies.

A series of Project *Resource Sheets* describing museums' experience with special constituencies is being published. The first issue on accessibility of museum exhibits and programs to disabled users is available upon request to the Project. The second *Resource Sheet*, focusing on disabled persons as an untapped source of museum volunteers, will be published soon. Subsequent issues will address similar topics on the role of women and minorities in museums.

To encourage working partnerships, the Project needs both interested AAAS members and science museums. Currently, 12 science centers participate. In addition to those mentioned above, the Project includes the Capital Children's Museum, Washington, D.C.; the Exploratorium, San Francisco; Fernbank Science Center, Atlanta;

New York Hall of Science, Queens; and Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, Portland.

With support from the National Science Foundation, AAAS wants to expand the Project in 1987-88 with four additional science centers. The selections will be made by 1 November 1987. Interested museums should contact Patricia S. Curlin, project manager, at the AAAS address or call 202-326-6600.

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*Public Sector Programs*

### Also, Special Museum Benefits to AAAS Members

AAAS is pleased to announce that four of the nation's most outstanding science and technology museums are now offering discounted membership to AAAS members: The Exploratorium in San Francisco, The Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, The Pacific Science Center in Seattle, and The Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. This new benefit to AAAS members is the result of increasing cooperation between AAAS and science and technology centers around the nation, as the Association works toward its goal of increasing public under-