

ASA ANNUAL SURVEY OF CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

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Description:

An annual survey of ASA local chapters. To maintain active status, local chapters must complete the survey on an annual basis.

Purpose:

To obtain information on local chapters, specifically:

- activities
- concerns
- operations
- membership
- use of existing ASA services
- need for additional services.

Distribution:

Local chapters, Council of Chapters and the national ASA.

Response Results:

Sixty-seven chapters responded to the 1985 questionnaire. Local chapters who failed to respond are not included in the results described in this paper.

Two newly established chapters were included for the first time in the survey:

- Mid-Michigan
- Chihuahuan Desert.

Summary of Results:

Of the 58 chapters with information for both 1984 and 1985:

- 48.3% increased in size
- 10.3% remained the same
- 41.4% decreased in size

Of the 63 chapters providing the required information:

- 84.1% had at least 50% of their local members also members of the national ASA.
- 97% held at least one meeting during 1982.

Joint meetings were held with each of the following organizations:

- ASQC Sections
- Other ASA Chapters
- Local ACM
- ORSA
- American Society of Public Administrators

- Local university
- AAAS
- American Fisheries Society
- SREB Committee on Statistics
- Canadian Operation Research Society, and
- Canadian Statistics Group.

Chapter Concerns:

The following responses were obtained to the open-ended question on chapter concerns:

- Would like a national probability and statistics awareness week.
- Need to increase communication and interaction between members.
- Members' dues coverage period information from ASA would help with membership list maintenance.
- Mailings from national office arrive late.
- ASA membership requirement for chapter members may not be beneficial.
- Chapter membership spread over a large geographical area.
- How to increase meeting attendance.
- ASA appeals to an elitist group and would be more beneficial to society if the organization appealed to the common man.
- Concerned about the lack of an ASA fellow from local area.
- Concerned about meeting the 50% ASA membership requirement.
- Consider involving the local chapter in the building fund.
- Trouble finding topics of interest for the diverse (academic, government, and business) membership.
- Chapter does not want support for JASA reduced.
- Need procedures to help new chapters, bookkeeping guidance, and tax help.
- Concerned with distance and transportation cost.
- Concerned with small chapter size.

Table 1. Chapter Membership History

Year	Number of Chapters	Estimated Total Membership
1980	61	10,037
1982	66	10,776
1984	72	11,192
1985	74	11,405

Table 2. New Member Recruiting Methods

Method	Number of Chapters
Word of mouth/personal contact	25
Announcement at a university	12
Advertisement in meeting notices/newsletter	10
Contact ASA members who are not chapter members	9
Mail to nonmember attendees at meetings	2
Announcement at large businesses	2
Sponsor graduate student award at a university	1
Bring literature to short courses	1
Mail to sister organizations	1
Mail to state civil service statisticians	1

Table 3. Meeting/Event Formats Used by Chapters

Type of Meeting/Event	Number of Chapters Using It At Least Once
Lecture by local speaker	53
Lecture by non-local speaker	49
Conference	23
Videotape/film	16
Social activities	14
Short course	8
Science fair	5
Business meeting	3
Career day	2
Panel discussion	1

Table 4. Chapter Use of ASA Services

Service	Number of Chapters
Notices in AMSTAT news/link	49
Collection of chapter dues	47
Visit by national ASA officer/executive	39
Materials on statistics as a profession	10
Videotapes of distinguished statisticians	16
Mailing labels	14
ASA new member literature/sample publications	13
National speakers list	8
Videotapes of short courses	7
Visiting lecturer program	7
Publicity for short courses	1
Telephone and written correspondence	1

Table 6. Chapter Communication Methods

Communication Method	Number of Chapters Using It At Least Once
Meeting announcement mailing	64
Newsletter	22
Telephone	18
Special mailing	2
Electronic mail/computer network	2
Word of mouth	2
Bulletin board posting	1
Radio and newspaper	1

Table 7. Membership Records Maintenance Methods

Method	Number of Chapters Using It At Least Once
Personal computer	30
Mainframe computer	25
Hand tabulation	16
Word processing system	3