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INTRODUCTION

This report represents the results of the 1986 ASA survey of chapter activities. The purpose of the survey is to provide information on chapter activities, concerns, operations, membership, and service needs and utilization, to the chapters, the Council of Chapters, and the national organization.

Fifty-five of 75 chapters (73.3%) responded to the 1986 questionnaire compared to 67 of 74 (90.5%) for 1985. An initial mailing was sent to Council Representatives and Chapter Presidents and Secretaries on April 8, 1987 with a follow-up mailing sent the week of June 1, 1987. Nonresponders to the two mailings were contacted by phone during the week of June 15, 1987.

Data edits revealed problems with some of the data (e.g., percentages not totaling 100%). However, the data is presented as it was reported on the survey forms, with the following exceptions: 1) a range midpoint was used in place of a range (e.g., 30% in place of 20%-40%), 2) where counts were requested, a count of one was used in place of a check mark, and 3) a conversion to percentages was made where percentages were requested and it was obvious that counts were mistakenly supplied. Some discrepancies between the program output and survey forms were also detected. For those cases, hand tabulation and display of verbatim responses, using data taken from the survey forms, were used.

MEMBERSHIP

Information on the number of members and membership composition is presented in Table 1. Data on the number of meetings/events held during 1986 is also included. This information is summarized in Table 2.

The size of chapters varies greatly from a minimum of 8 members to a maximum of 1440 members. The range for the central seventy-five percent is 40 to 325.

Of the 55 chapters with information available for both 1985 and 1986, 27 (49.1%) increased in size, 27 (49.1%) decreased, and one (1.8%) reported no change in chapter membership. Eighty-four percent of chapter members were also members of ASA. Chapters can be characterized by the employment orientation of the majority of their members. Although academically oriented chapters are the most common type, they only represent 36% of the chapters. Although chapters are only required to have one meeting per year, two-thirds of the chapters had at least four meetings.

The chapter membership total based on data from 55 chapters is 8,358. When the most recent data available was substituted for the missing membership figures, an estimated total ASA chapter membership of

11,076 resulted for 72 chapters. No data was available for the Rochester and San Joaquin Valley Chapters and the newly formed Mississippi Chapter.

Historic chapter membership totals are provided in Table 3. Note that the totals are estimates based on the most recent available information (i.e., missing data was replaced by prior year's information when available). Totals for prior years were taken from the 1985 chapter survey report. The "Number of Chapters" column represents all chapters in existence including those that do not have membership data available.

Table 4 summarizes methods used by chapters to recruit new members. Some of the details provided by the chapters are:

- Hold meetings with speakers that are of interest to non-ASA groups. Rotate location of local meetings. Hold joint local meetings with SIAM/MAA.
- Appealing monthly programs, telephone contacts, microcomputer statistics conference.
- Nonmembers who attend chapter functions are encouraged to join. At certain functions, the surcharge paid by nonmembers gives them a one year membership in the chapter.
- Send monthly newsletter to prospective members.
- We have a membership chairman appointed by the president who has a group of representatives at different agencies. They are responsible for recruiting new members (from within their agencies [public and private]).
- Primary chapter activities target new students at University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie-Mellon University.
- a. Maintain a mailing list of interested persons; send them notices of activities; b. Short courses: publicize the availability, try to get attendees to join the chapter. The nonmembers fee for the course is more than the total of the members fee plus chapter dues. c. When a meeting is scheduled, contact government agencies and university departments that might be interested in the topic.

MEETINGS/EVENTS

Another of the five guidelines for determining chapter activity status requires that a chapter have at least one meeting per calendar year. Of the 55 chapters with available data, 54 (98.2%) reported at least one meeting/event held during 1986. Types of meetings/events held by chapters are summarized in Table 5. Joint meetings were held by 11 chapters with ASQC sections and by 11 chapters with other ASA chapters. A smaller number of chapters (1-4) held joint meetings with each of the following

Table 1. Chapter Membership Information

| District | No. of Members | | | % in Nat'l ASA | Membership | | | | Mtgs. |
|------------------------|----------------|------|------|----------------|------------|--------|-------|---------------|-------|
| | 1986 | 1985 | 1984 | | Acad % | Govt % | Bus % | Other Unknown | |
| 1: Washington, D.C. | 1440 | 1550 | 1500 | 97 | 10 | 65 | 20 | 5 | 54 |
| 2: Chesapeake | 41 | 43 | 43 | 60 | 5 | 90 | 0 | 5 | 8 |
| Delaware | 40 | 52 | 45 | 90 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 10 | 9 |
| Maryland | NR | NR | 150 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| New York Metro Area | NR | NR | 800 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Northern N.J. | 525 | 514 | 450 | 95 | 25 | 0 | 75 | 0 | 8 |
| 3: Albany | 83 | 73 | 250 | 30 | 1 | 95 | 4 | 0 | 8 |
| Boston | 526 | 530 | 500 | 99 | 35 | 5 | 40 | 20 | 9 |
| Buffalo-Niagara | 44 | 80 | NR | 100 | 50 | 25 | 25 | 0 | 2 |
| Connecticut | NR | 94 | NR | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Harrisburg | 56 | 87 | 78 | 21 | 16 | 62 | 10 | 12 | 9 |
| Mid-Hudson Valley | 11 | 10 | NR | 50 | 10 | 0 | 90 | 0 | 3 |
| Montreal | NR | 81 | 70 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Northeast New York | 23 | 30 | 26 | 75 | 30 | 17 | 52 | 0 | 2 |
| Philadelphia | 325 | 375 | 400 | 100 | 30 | 3 | 67 | 0 | 6 |
| Pittsburgh | 202 | 188 | 100 | 59 | 39 | 0 | 61 | 0 | 3 |
| Rochester | NR | NR | NR | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| State College, PA | NR | NR | 30 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Syracuse | 63 | 81 | 50 | 73 | 80 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 4 |
| 4: Ann Arbor | NR | 168 | 170 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Central Illinois | 111 | 102 | 80 | 95 | 50 | 5 | 10 | 35 | 2 |
| Central Indiana | NR | 60 | 60 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Chicago | 500 | 517 | 480 | 65 | 18 | 10 | 66 | 6 | 10 |
| Cincinnati | 148 | 127 | 100 | 100 | 30 | 10 | 30 | 30 | 8 |
| Cleveland | 110 | 106 | 120 | 85 | 20 | 0 | 65 | 15 | 10 |
| Columbus, Ohio | 112 | 75 | 75 | 100 | 42 | 1 | 20 | 29 | 3 |
| Dayton | 52 | 48 | 70 | 94 | 50 | 10 | 10 | 38 | 7 |
| Detroit | 165 | 170 | 140 | 80 | 30 | 20 | 40 | 10 | 9 |
| Mid-Michigan | 78 | 55 | NE | 74 | 45 | 27 | 14 | 14 | 5 |
| Northeast Illinois | 100 | 133 | 129 | 90 | 10 | 0 | 90 | 0 | 4 |
| Northwest Ohio | 25 | 30 | NR | 60 | 60 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 6 |
| Ottawa | NR | 180 | 198 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Southern Ontario | NR | NR | NR | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Southwest Michigan | 109 | 93 | 90 | 100 | 18 | 2 | 78 | 2 | 4 |
| 5: Alabama | NR | 30 | NR | - | - | - | - | 0 | - |
| Atlanta | 124 | 84 | 79 | 80 | 52 | 20 | 10 | 18 | 10 |
| Eastern Tennessee | 76 | 38 | 25 | 70 | 65 | 30 | 5 | 0 | 4 |
| Florida | 162 | 159 | 207 | 100 | 70 | 10 | 20 | 0 | 1 |
| Louisiana | 50 | 144 | 50 | 50 | 80 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 2 |
| Middle Tennessee | 27 | 15 | 25 | 33 | 30 | 55 | 15 | 0 | 4 |
| Mississippi | NR | NE | NE | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| North Carolina | 200 | 500 | ? | 100 | 45 | 25 | 30 | 0 | 7 |
| South Carolina | 160 | 159 | 100 | 70 | 60 | 20 | 20 | 0 | 7 |
| South Florida | NR | 25 | 20 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Virginia Acad. of Sci. | 150 | 294 | 200 | 95 | 50 | 5 | 10 | 35 | 1 |
| Western Tennessee | 36 | 49 | 30 | 55 | 40 | 0 | 60 | 0 | 3 |
| 6: Albuquerque | 72 | 82 | 112 | 95 | 31 | 6 | 47 | 17 | 5 |
| Austin | 66 | 41 | 55 | 60 | 43 | 21 | 18 | 18 | 7 |
| Chihuahuan Desert | 50 | 38 | NE | - | 56 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Colorado-Wyoming | 202 | 220 | 246 | 92 | 22 | 18 | 55 | 5 | 3 |
| Houston Area | 138 | 145 | 130 | 90 | 36 | 1 | 42 | 21 | 10 |
| Iowa | 110 | 58 | 165 | 95 | 75 | 5 | 20 | 0 | 3 |
| Kansas/W. Missouri | NR | 150 | 150 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Madison | NR | 120 | 75 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Mid-Missouri | 36 | 38 | 44 | 80 | 75 | 14 | 11 | 0 | 3 |
| Milwaukee | 108 | 105 | 82 | 45 | 40 | 15 | 40 | 5 | 8 |
| Montana | 23 | 32 | 35 | 75 | 83 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Nebraska | 8 | 10 | 10 | 50 | 25 | 50 | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| North Texas | 95 | 84 | 75 | 100 | 45 | 0 | 25 | 30 | 7 |
| Oklahoma | 125 | 44 | 130 | 65 | 58 | 10 | 32 | 0 | 3 |
| Red River Valley | 22 | 24 | 28 | 40 | 60 | 0 | 30 | 10 | 3 |
| St. Louis | 50 | 50 | 60 | 30 | 25 | 25 | 50 | 0 | 8 |
| San Antonio | 50 | 37 | 53 | 30 | 36 | 36 | 20 | 8 | 4 |
| Southeast Texas | NR | 54 | 56 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Twin Cities, MN | NR | 191 | 249 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 7: Alaska | 36 | 32 | 34 | 50 | 25 | 70 | 5 | 0 | 1 |
| Arizona | 33 | 36 | 50 | 67 | 25 | 30 | 35 | 10 | 8 |
| Hawaii | 60 | 65 | NR | 15 | 10 | 50 | 40 | 0 | 12 |
| Oregon | 115 | 81 | 72 | 85 | 55 | 10 | 30 | 5 | 4 |
| Puget Sound | NR | 195 | 250 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sacramento | NR | 140 | 124 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| San Francisco Bay Area | 475 | 492 | 567 | 87 | 35 | 4 | 61 | 0 | 16 |
| San Joaquin Valley | NR | NR | NR | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Southern CA | 493 | NR | 473 | 81 | 52 | 6 | 23 | 19 | 14 |
| Utah | 107 | 89 | 30 | 66 | 66 | 11 | 22 | 0 | 4 |

NR - Chapter did not return survey.

NE - Chapter did not exist.

Table 2.
Summary of Chapter Characteristics

| <u>Size of Chapters</u> | <u>Number of Chapters</u> |
|--|---------------------------|
| <30 members | 7 |
| 30- 99 | 21 |
| 100-299 | 20 |
| >300 | 7 |
| <u>Percent Members of National ASA</u> | |
| <50 | 8 |
| 50-69 | 13 |
| 70-89 | 13 |
| >90 | 20 |
| <u>Type</u> | |
| Academic | 20 |
| Government | 8 |
| Business/Industry | 13 |
| Mixed | 14 |
| <u>Number of Meetings</u> | |
| <4 | 18 |
| 4-6 | 13 |
| 7-9 | 16 |
| >10 | 8 |

Table 3.
Chapter Membership History

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Number of Chapters</u> | <u>Estimated Total Membership</u> |
|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1986 | 75 | 11,076 |
| 1985 | 74 | 11,405 |
| 1984 | 72 | 11,192 |
| 1982 | 66 | 10,776 |
| 1980 | 61 | 10,037 |

Table 4.
New Member Recruiting Methods

| <u>Method</u> | <u>Number of Chapters</u> |
|---|---------------------------|
| Word of mouth/personal contact | 25 |
| Advertisement in meeting notices/newsletter | 13 |
| Announcement at a university | 10 |
| Contact ASA members who are not chapter members | 7 |
| Mail to nonmember attendees at meetings | 6 |
| Bring literature to short courses | 5 |
| Mail to sister organizations | 4 |
| Announcement at large businesses | 3 |
| Sponsor graduate student award at a university | 2 |

organizations: American Society of Public Administrators, Census, SIAM, MAA, Hawaii Economics Association, local industrial engineers group, local university/industry, Society for Risk Analysis, Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, Alaska Water Resource Group, local chapter of TIMS/ORSA, and Canadian Operation Research Society.

Table 5.
Meeting/Event Formats Used By Chapters

| <u>Type of Meeting/Event</u> | <u># of Chapters Using it at Least Once</u> |
|------------------------------|---|
| Lecture by local speaker | 46 |
| Lecture by nonlocal speaker | 42 |
| Conference | 21 |
| Short course | 11 |
| Symposium/Workshop | 11 |
| Social activities | 10 |
| Videotape/film | 6 |
| Science fair | 6 |
| Career day | 6 |
| Business meeting | 3 |
| Round table discussion | 1 |

SERVICES

A distribution of service utilization is presented in Table 6. Additional service needs were also addressed in the survey. Table 7 summarizes the distribution of additional service need categories requested by chapters. The most frequently mentioned items concerned speakers and programs, continuing education, and membership. The nature of most chapter comments concerned an improvement or expansion of current services. Some of the specific comments are:

- Help in recruiting
- Chapter membership directory information available on floppy diskette.
- More timely reporting of renewal and new member application.
- List of members with information, such as employment, subsection, etc.
- Quicker reimbursement of local dues.
- Short course for statisticians in industry.
- Continued development of speakers list.
- Great demand for updated videos on current topics in applied statistics.
- Encourage national members to join and/or participate with local chapters.

Table 6.
Chapter Utilization of ASA Services

| <u>Service</u> | <u>Number of Chapters</u> |
|---|---------------------------|
| Collection of chapter dues | 43 |
| Visit by national ASA officer/executive | 35 |
| Notices in Amstat News/Link | 33 |
| Materials on statistics as a profession | 23 |
| ASA new member literature/sample publications | 14 |
| Slide presentation, Statistical Science: The Profession | 12 |
| Mailing labels | 10 |
| National speakers list | 8 |
| Videotapes of short courses | 8 |
| Visiting lecturer program | 7 |
| Videotapes of distinguished statisticians | 6 |

Table 7. Additional Service Needs Indicated by Chapters

| <u>Service Need Category</u> | <u>Number of Chapters</u> |
|--|---------------------------|
| Speakers/programs | 12 |
| Continuing education | 10 |
| Membership | 9 |
| Financial | 3 |
| Ideas for meetings | 2 |
| Yearly update of mailing list/more complete member information | 2 |
| Better communications between national and local groups | 1 |
| Reduced rate for videotape | 1 |
| Encourage national members to join chapter | 1 |
| Alternative-improved slide show on statistics as a profession | 1 |

CHAPTER CONCERNS

Nine chapters responded to the open ended question regarding chapter concerns. The responses are:

- Cutbacks in federal statistics. Stronger opposition to cutbacks should be voiced by the national association. More awareness of statistics as a career at the high school level.
- Establishment of electronic communication system between ASA and chapters.
- 1. Statistical skills assessment. I think many members would like to see some way of assessing their statistical skills, which would a) classify and identify the areas of statistical knowledge they have, b) tell them what the uses and limitations are of each area of statistical knowledge, and c) indicate strategies and materials they can use to add on new areas of knowledge;
- 2. We would like to have the threat posed by the 50% rule removed, and to put relationships between the chapter and the national organization on a less defensive and more constructive basis. Let's spend our time working on something like improving the use of statistics in state government, rather than fending off sanctions.
- Ways to increase attendance at meetings (we are generally lucky to get a turn out of 10% of membership).
- Splinter groups (special interest groups) which are active but not actively associated with the larger entity. (SAS Group, PC subgroup of SAS Users, etc.) This weakens the chapters and the national association.
- Could ASA supply us with the complete renewal form indicating work affiliation and telephone number for ASA members in our local area? (This would be helpful in filling out this survey.)
- Needs new leadership.
- Oppose 50% rule. Would like to see more applied articles in JASA - similar to format used in Biometrics.

Table 8. Chapter Communications Methods

| <u>Communication Method</u> | <u># of Chapters Using it at Least Once</u> |
|--|---|
| Meeting announcement mailing | 50 |
| Telephone | 20 |
| Newsletter | 17 |
| Annual open board meeting/ meetings in general | 2 |
| Word of mouth | 1 |

- Chapter is comprised of members from two major universities. Need ideas for involving statisticians from other areas.

Two chapters voiced opposition to the 50% rule. (See later section on SPECIAL ITEMS for more information.) All of the other concerns were provided by individual chapters. No trends were discernible.

CHAPTER OPERATIONS

Two aspects of chapter operations, communication and membership list maintenance, were addressed in the survey. Most of the chapters used mail announcements, newsletters, or telephone to communicate with their members. A complete distribution of communication methods appears in Table 8. Response to the membership records maintenance question is summarized in Table 9. Several chapters indicated that they used a combination of methods (e.g., PC plus hand tabulation). Two chapters mentioned that the method depends on who is secretary at the time. One chapter reported that their records are maintained by a company that handles their mailings.

SPECIAL ITEMS

Four special items were added to the 1986 survey to assist in the evaluation of ASA programs (Chapter Officers' Handbook, National Speakers List, and ASA Officer/Executive Chapter Visitation) and to obtain chapter opinion on a somewhat controversial issue, the so-called "50% rule."

The four questions are:

1. Has the Chapter Officers' Handbook been helpful? Yes/No
2. Has the National Speakers List been useful? Yes/No

Table 9. Membership Records Maintenance Methods

| <u>Method</u> | <u># of Chapters Using it at Least Once</u> |
|-------------------------|---|
| Personal computer | 33 |
| Mainframe computer | 16 |
| Hand tabulation | 12 |
| Word processing system | 2 |
| Outside service company | 1 |

Table 10.
Special Items Response Summary

| <u>Item</u> | <u>Percent</u> | <u>Number</u> | <u>Total # of</u> |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | <u>Yes/Favor</u> | <u>Yes/Favor</u> | <u>Chapters</u> <u>Responding</u> |
| Chapter Officers Handbook | 77.1 | 37 | 48 |
| National Speakers List | 53.8 | 21 | 39 |
| Chapter Visitation | 100.0 | 45 | 45 |
| 50% Rule | 48.9 | 23 | 47 |

3. Have chapter visits to your chapter by ASA national officers or executives been beneficial? Yes/No

4. What is your opinion of the chapter Activity Status Guideline requiring at least 50% of chapter membership to be national members? Favor/Oppose

Comments to each of these items were also encouraged. Table 10 summarizes the response to these four questions.

Although 77.1% of those responding indicated they found the Chapter Officers' Handbook helpful, several chapters who responded negatively indicated that they had not yet seen or used the handbook or only recently obtained it. The remaining comments were mostly favorable. A sample of specific comments regarding the Chapter Officers' Handbook are:

- Have not had occasion to use it; appears to be well written and of potential benefit.
- Useful product but no more time needs to be spent on it.
- Allows each officer to do job efficiently. Nothing is left out and there is no overlap.
- Not helpful for an established chapter, but would be necessary for a new chapter.
- Did not make use of it in 1986, but appreciate having it for future reference.
- Never felt a need for it.

The National Speakers List received mixed reviews with 21 (53.8%) of the 39 responding chapters indicating they found it useful. Several of the negatively responding chapters indicated they had not used the list. The same number of chapters, who did respond positively or negatively to the question, also commented that they had not used the list. A sample of specific comments regarding the National Speakers List follows:

- Don't have the budget to pay non-local speakers.
- Currently trying to arrange a speaker for next year.
- Have not used it, however, we support its existence and continued expansion.

The chapter visitation program met with unanimous approval. One hundred percent of the 45 chapters responding to this question indicated they found the ASA officer/executive visit beneficial. Some of the comments provided are:

- These visits are vital to the relationship between local and national.
- Don Marquardt's visit was greatly appreciated - any contact with national headquarters is beneficial to a broad feeling of participation.
- Barbara Bailar helped with a keynote address to our annual meeting. John McKenzie visited us in 1987. This makes us feel that we do have contact with the national body.
- Enjoy first-hand information from national level.
- Visits help chapter maintain its connection to the national office.
- Able to exchange views on local vs. national membership issues.
- Provided the opportunity for a candid exchange of ideas and opinions.
- Excellent programs/attendance for these meetings.

The question concerning the Chapter Activity Status Guideline requiring at least 50% national membership produced a mixed response with 23 (48.9%) of the 47 responding chapters in favor of this rule. Comment tone ranged from approval through ambivalence to very strong disapproval. All comments pertaining to the 50% rule received on the survey forms follow:

- Many members of local chapter are not statisticians, but are users of statistics. These persons are not national members, and will likely never become members. Since we strive to foster an appreciation of statistics in its proper use, we do not want to exclude these members from our chapter, nor do we want to force them to join an association they do not want to.
- There have been two problems. First, the mechanisms available to the chapters to prove compliance have been administered in a very heavy-handed way. Second, this rule effectively prohibits the chapters from engaging in any active recruitment drives for fear of diluting the percentage of local chapter members who are also national members.
- ASA ties should be encouraged, but chapters need flexibility.
- We encourage all scientists to join our chapter to learn more about statistics.
- We strongly oppose this. It works against increasing membership, and against the national ASA playing a role in improving statistics in state government.
- I think it is too high considering the new tax law. We have had many members who were not primarily statisticians

- but users of statistics. We may lose them.
- This has never been an issue in our chapter. We only get members via national.
 - Although we qualify easily, it could discourage chapters from including students and interested others.
 - Some chapters (e.g., Harrisburg) have done a good job in attracting non-ASA members. Perhaps an associate ASA membership will ease compliance with this guideline.
 - Ambivalent - okay, I guess, but that's just my opinion. Our chapter has no problem in meeting this standard.
 - Not a requirement for creation of a new chapter, is it?
 - We have 100% of our members in national.
 - The consequence will more likely be loss of good standing of chapters rather than significant increase in national membership.
 - An active national headquarter is the key to the success of ASA. Without the membership (i.e., no money) the leadership would be impotent.
 - We cannot continue to exist with that requirement. We have significant trouble getting what we have.
 - Chapters of the ASA should be part of the ASA.
 - Haven't thought about it.
 - (Oppose) due to comments at last council members breakfast meeting, we don't want to drive away chapters.
 - We do have some chapter members that are not national members and want to keep that option.
 - I have no strong feelings. It would not affect our chapter status.

- (Favor), however, the chapter would not like such guidelines to discourage interested visitors from coming to some chapter meetings.
- See the enclosed letter of November 4, 1985. (Note: letter contained a resolution passed by the chapter's board of directors opposing the 50% rule.)
- To the extent that North Texas has no problem meeting the guideline, we are not opposed; perhaps some alternate (associate) status should be considered for chapters not meeting the guideline. It would seem counterproductive to "punish" these chapters and turn off their members.
- Indifferent.
- Opinion unclear. In the past, approximately 40% - 50% of the chapter have not been national members.
- We oppose a mandatory requirement -- counterproductive in obtaining support from "users of statistics." Guidelines of 50% would be okay, but not a mandatory requirement.
- Our chapter has no problem meeting guideline. Does it apply to student membership? We question the value of imposing such a condition.

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