

## **THE WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY**

### **First Meeting Thursday November 15**

The first meeting of the Washington Statistical Society for the year 1945-1946 will be held in room 101 Hall of Government, George Washington University, 21st and G Streets, N.W. at 8 p.m. on Thursday November 15, 1945.

An interesting program has been arranged about the general topic of Statistics in Combat Operations for the purpose of presenting material not heretofore revealed because of security regulations. Lieut. Col. Robert H. Bethke of the War Department will act as chairman. The speakers and their topics are as follows:

E.S.Groo, Lieut. USNR, "The Navy's Integrated Aerial Program"

George Dantzig, War Department, "The Contribution of Combat Statistics to the AAF Program"

Kensis Likert, Dept. of Agriculture, "The U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey"

Discussion

It will be necessary at this meeting to take a final vote on the revised constitution.

### **Officers for 1945-1946**

The officers of the Society for the year 1945-1946 are as follows:

President: Dorothy Brady, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Vice-President: S.P.Langhoff, War Department

Secretary-Treasurer: A.C.Rosander, Bureau of Internal Revenue

These officers, together with the following four members of the Society who have been appointed by the President of the Society, constitute the Executive Committee:

Ross Eckler, Bureau of the Census

Frank Hoeber, Office of Price Administration

Peyton Stapp, Bureau of the Budget

J. Stevens Stock, Navy Department

Other officers are the chairmen of the committees of the Society, the following persons having been appointed for this year: Program, S.P.Langhoff; Constitution, Frank Garfield; and Membership, D.W.Oberdorfer.

### **Plans for 1945-1946**

The activities of the program committee have been expanded in response to various suggestions made during the past year. Mr. Langhoff is not only going to take charge of arranging our usual type of meeting but is also exploring the possibilities of organ-



izing a few conferences dealing with specific fields or problems such as opinion polls and quality control. It is planned to have these conferences meet periodically, discuss problems informally, and continue the type of activity which Major Stockton chairmanned last year on Statistics in Management. Specific plans for these conferences are now being developed.

At the first meeting of the Executive Committee held on October 3, 1945, plans for the coming year were the major topic of discussion. The following suggestions were made relative to themes which might be used as the basis of meetings: the experiences of persons in the War and Navy Departments with regard to statistical problems which can now be discussed due to the relaxing of security regulations; the experiences of statisticians who have been abroad in one capacity or another; the design of questionnaires and other aspects of the collection of statistical data; the revision of various labor force series and plans for getting current information about the economic situation.

Another problem presented to the Committee was what to do with the money accumulating in the treasury, the total amount having increased from about \$5 two years ago to about \$160 today. Even though current paid-up membership of 436 may decline during this year due to transfers of members out of Washington, still a substantial amount of revenue will continue to be collected even with annual dues remaining at 50 cents. One suggestion which received favorable action was that of some kind of periodic newsletter. Mr. Rosander was asked to report on the feasibility of such a venture, including specific information as to cost and content. In the discussion it was brought out that such a letter, if issued monthly, could replace the postal card notices used during the past, and at the same time allow much more information to be presented to the membership.

A request from William Madow of the local chapter of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, for the formation of a joint committee to plan a joint regional meeting in April or May similar to the one we had in 1944 on opinion measurement, was acted upon favorably. Mr. Langhoff will carry on the initial conversations for the Society.

Any member who has suggestions to offer relative to the program of meetings or conferences for this year should get in touch with one of the officers of the Society at the November 15 meeting.

### Problems of the Profession

Now that the war is over an immediate problem is that of shifting the work of the statistician from war to peace. Here in the Federal service there will be a number of well-qualified professional persons, and many statistical technicians, together with some returning veterans, who will want statistical jobs. The Society has an obligation to assist these persons during this period of reconversion.

The National Roster in the War Manpower Commission has developed, with the aid of the national statistical associations, a description of the work of the professional statistician. This was reprinted in a recent bulletin of the ASA. It would seem appropriate that either a regular meeting, or a series of conferences, be devoted to a discussion of the functions and duties of the professional statistician.

We have been informed that the Civil Service Commission is planning to review the job descriptions in the professional categories. Included will be descriptions of the various classifications of statisticians. This will be an excellent opportunity for the Society to cooperate with other local groups in presenting to the Civil Service Commission an accurate picture of what high grade statistical practice means today.

### Institute of Mathematical Statistics

Nov. 9 : 101 Hall of Government, 8 p.m. : W.G.Madow, "Selection of a Sample in Steps"

Dec. 7 : 101 Hall of Government, 8 p.m. : J.S.Daly, "Studentized Distributions Associated with the Range"