

THE WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

NEWS-LETTER FOR MARCH 1946

Meeting To Be Held Wednesday March 13, 1946

A meeting on "Problems of Phrasing in Opinion Surveys" will be held on Wednesday March 13, 1946 at 8 p.m. in room 101 Hall of Government, 21st and G Streets, N.W. The chairman and speakers are as follows:

Chairman: Dr. Samuel Stouffer, Social Science Research Council

Edward A. Suchman, Social Science Research Council, "Scale and Intensity Analysis of Attitude Questionnaires"

Dr. Angus Campbell, Dept. of Agriculture, "Interpretation of Open Questions"

Dwight W. Chapman, The Washington Post, "Projective Methods in Public Opinion Research"

Discussion

A Call For Those Interested In Opinion Polls

At the close of the regular program on Wednesday March 13, a meeting will be called to organize a round table on opinion polls and related problems. This is the first of the special conferences which the Program Committee has been studying over a period of several months. By means of these periodic round tables it is hoped to stimulate more discussion and a more specific analysis of problems and data.

Reorganization Of The American Statistical Association

Copies of the proposed new constitution and by-laws of the American Statistical Association have been received by the Secretary and distributed to officers of the Society. The Society has been asked to review these changes and to submit within two months a statement of its position relative to the proposed changes. In view of the fact that the length of these documents makes it impossible to distribute them to every member, a summary of the outstanding changes are given below. Members who have comments to make can do so in writing and hand them to the Secretary, or other officer at the March 13 meeting.

1. Objects: The objects of the American Statistical Association shall be to foster in the broadest manner the science of statistics and its applications, to promote unity and effectiveness of effort among all persons and societies concerned with statistical materials, methods and problems, and to increase understanding and appreciation of the importance of statistics for human welfare. To this end, the Association proposes to

conduct meetings and conferences; to produce and distribute publications devoted to statistical methodology and its applications; to provide reliable information concerning statistical science and its contributions through public gatherings, the press and other means; to cooperate with local, national, and international organizations in the advancement of statistics; to stimulate research and promote high professional standards in statistical work; and to foster the relations of statistical science to other sciences and to practical affairs in order to enhance the contributions of statistics to human knowledge and understanding.

2. Associated and affiliated societies: To facilitate cooperation between the Association and other organizations and among the latter, the Council may elect an organization as an Associated or as an Affiliated Society. An Associated Society shall be an organization interested in the objects of the Association and concerned with the advancement of statistical method or with the statistical aspects of a content field. An Affiliated Society shall be an organization whose objects are not inconsistent with those of the Association....

3. District Committee: Four to six geographical Districts shall be created as specified in the By-Laws. The District Committee in each district shall coordinate the activities of the Association chapters within its district with one another and with the local units of associated and affiliated societies, shall aid local statistical groups to form new chapters where their needs are not met by existing chapters of the Association or of associated and affiliated societies....shall assist in arranging local programs, and shall assist the Association in planning regional or national meetings in its territory. The district committee shall consist of the vice-president for the district....the district representative on the Council, the chairman and secretary of each chapter....and the chairman and secretary of any other local unit of an associated or affiliated society....

4. Council: The Council shall consist of the Board of Directors, the vice-presidents and the following representatives: two from each associated society, one from each affiliated society, one from each section committee representing more than 75 members and one from each district. Representatives of associated and affiliated societies and of section committees shall be chosen by the groups which they represent....

5. Board of Directors: The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, President -Elect, the Past President, and six additional Directors.

6. Officers: The officers of the Association shall be a President, President-Elect, Past President, a Vice-President for each district, Treasurer, Executive Secretary, Editors, Members of the Board of Directors and one representative from each district.

The President-Elect shall serve for one year and automatically become President at the close of the annual meeting one year following his election as President-Elect. Upon completing his term as President, he shall serve one year as Past President.

7. Committee on Committees: The Committee on Committees shall consist of five members one of whom shall be elected each year by the Council for a term of five years. It shall keep a record of the committee structure of the Association and of associated and affiliated societies in order to promote cooperation and to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort. It shall....make recommendations concerning the Association committee structure and personnel.... The Committee....may recommend the appointment of continuing Section committees in sufficiently broad statistical fields to represent active and functionally unitary interests within the scope of the Association. Each section committee shall organize programs of its own field.... A section committee shall take the initiative in organizing an associated society when a majority of the members....decide that their objectives can be served better by the formation of a self-governing unit and at least 75 members so petition.