

Washington Statistical Society

CHAPTER-AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

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NEWS LETTER

December 1953

OPERATIONS RESEARCH

December 14, 1953

Statisticians may regard themselves as experts in the definition of the informational needs of a problem, the methods of obtaining relevant data, analysis, and in drawing such conclusions as can be defended on logical grounds. During World War II, however, a new group of experts emerged. Their problems heavily overlap those of the traditional theory of statistics, but their methods include approaches not in the literature or practice of the statistician. New terms like "programming," "operations research," "activities analysis," "theory of information," and "theory of games" appeared in a rapidly-growing literature.

What is the meaning and importance of these developments to statistics? What parts of the technique are really new or an addition to traditional statistical technique? For the most effective definition and solution of important problems, how can each of these techniques serve the others?

Chairman: Franz Alt, National Applied Mathematics Laboratories, National Bureau of Standards

Speaker: Joseph F. McCloskey, Operations Research Office of Johns Hopkins University - *6410 Connecticut Ave., Chevy Chase, Md.*

"The Concept of the Model in Operations Research"

Discussion: Roger Crane, Melpar Corporation - *452 Swann Ave., Alexandria, Va.*
Oscar Hoffman, Operations Evaluation Group of M.I.T. → *Office of Chief of Naval Operations (OP 374) Navy Dept. Washington D.C.*
Bert Klein, Rand Corporation - *Capitol Bldg., D.C.*

The meeting will be held at 8 P. M., in Room 101, Hall of Government, George Washington University, 21st and G Streets, N. W.

(Over)

A.S.A. December Meetings

Volunteers Wanted

Arrangements for the meetings at the Shoreham, December 27-30, are fast being made. Chairmen of the various activities are looking for volunteers, to spread the work among a large number of local members. We have jobs to suit all tastes:

- To man the Exhibits "library"
- To provide professional assistance to the Employment Register
- To handle registration files, operate message center, maintain bulletin boards
- To monitor meetings
- To act as "attractive registration executives" for tours
- To type, run mimeograph machines
- To sell tickets for fee events

Hours are short, surroundings attractive and pay non-existent. If you have not already been approached by a Committee Chairman, and would have time to work one or more shifts, on any of the four days, call Emmett Welch, Sterling 3-5200 (Code 141), Ext. 4250.

Pre-Registration

You have already received a card from the National Office so that you may pre-register for the meetings. If you plan to attend, you are urged to make use of this card. Pre-registration will save your colleagues head-aches in getting ready for the meetings, and will save you the prospect of waiting in line when the time comes.

Employment Register

You have also received a notice from the National Office concerning the operation of a joint inter-association Employment Register at the meetings. If you have jobs to fill, or are looking for a position you are urged to follow the procedures outlined in that letter. Not only will the U. S. Employment Service operate a Placement Booth at the Statler, but space will be made available so that interviews can be arranged between prospective employers and employees in private at the Shoreham, to suit their convenience.

Margaret Martin
Secretary-Treasurer