

President: Marie D. Eldridge  
V.P. & Pres.-elect: Barbara A. Bailar  
Past President: Morris R. Goldman  
Sec. Treas.: Susan Miskura  
Representatives at-large:  
Daniel B. Levine  
Dorothy P. Rice  
Joseph Steinberg  
District 3 Rep. to A.S.A.:  
Beatrice N. Vaccara  
Methodology Section:  
Chair: Frederick Scheuren  
Program: David Chapman

# Washington Statistical Society

CHAPTER • AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION



Program Committees:  
Agriculture: Robert Tortora  
Computer Tech.: Richard C. Taeuber  
Economics: Jerome A. Mark  
Phys. Sci. & Eng.: Seymour Selig  
Public Health & Biost.: John Patterson  
Soc. & Dem.: Lawrence D. Haber  
Arrangements Comm.: Robert O'Keefe  
Employment Comm.: Evelyn R. Kay  
Membership Comm.: Vito Natrella  
Publicity Comm.: Charles D. Jones

## NEWSLETTER-SEPTEMBER 1976

September 15 - Measuring Recent Trends in Industrial Countries'  
Export Prices to OPEC  
September 20 - "Election '76" Luncheon Meeting  
September 22 - Estimation of the Failure Rate Function

### ECONOMICS PROGRAM

Topic: Measuring Recent Trends in Industrial Countries'  
Export Prices to OPEC

Speaker: Ed Murphy, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Chairperson: John Layng, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Indices covering principal categories of US-OPEC trade indicates U.S. export prices have not risen relative to OPEC revenue per barrel of crude oil. This session discusses these measures and research on similar price trend comparisons.

When and Where: Wednesday, September 15, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.,  
Basement of Tower Bldg., 1401 K St.N.W.

### COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Topic: Election '76: Wither are we Drifting? - or - With Rod and Gun  
Through the Electoral Jungle

Speaker: Richard Scammon, Director of the Elections Research Center;  
Former Director, Bureau of the Census; Consultant to NBC on  
the Interpretation and Analysis of Election Results

Chairperson: Richard C. Taeuber, Commission on Federal Paperwork

Mr. Scammon, always a scintillating speaker, will discuss such topical subjects as electoral predictions in this Bicentennial year. It is hoped that this luncheon meeting will appeal to all; come and help kick-off the WSS '76-'77 program schedule.

If the wish to attend, please send payment and coupon below to Robert O'Keefe by Wednesday, September 15.

When and Where: Monday, September 20 in the Ballroom of the George Washington University Student Activities Center, 800 21st St., N.W. There will be a cash bar from 11:30 - 12:30 followed by a buffet lunch consisting of a main course, salad, a starch and a vegetable, cake, fruit cup, and beverage. Cost is \$5.50 per person.

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Robert O'Keefe, 436 Sherrow Ave., Falls Church, Va. 22046

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for the Election '76 luncheon.

Please print name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

(Make checks payable to Washington Statistical Society)

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PHYSICAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PROGRAM

Topic: Estimation of the Failure Rate Function

Speaker: Professor Nozer D. Singpurwalla  
The George Washington University

Chairperson: Robert Lundegard, Director  
Mathematical and Information Sciences Division  
Office of Naval Research

The Failure Rate Function is one of the most important parameters in reliability theory and in biometry. We propose a simple estimator of the failure rate function, and investigate its properties. Our estimator is easy to compute, is unbiased, but is inconsistent. We smooth our estimator by a smoothing window and investigate the conditions under which the smoothed estimator is consistent and unbiased.

When and Where: Wednesday, September 22, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.,  
George S. Boutwell Auditorium, 7th Floor  
IRS Building, 1111 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
(Please use Constitution Avenue entrance)

## JOB APPLICANT

Listed below is a brief description of the qualifications of an individual submitting an application seeking employment. Employers interested in interviewing the applicant should notify Mrs. Evelyn R. Kay of their interest by CODE NUMBER. The notification should be by mail and should include the employer's name, organization, and telephone number. The applicant will be notified of the employer's interest and initiation of any further contact will be left to the applicant. All contacts will be confidential.

Mrs. Kay's address is: National Center for Education Statistics  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D. C. 20202 202/245-8340

Code Number

9-8-76

Applicant

- (1) B.A. (Economics); Master in Public Health (Biostatistics)
- (2) Design of clinical trials, statistical analysis, supervision of data collection and medical data processors, design coding for patient information
- (3) 4 years experience as biostatistician with pharmaceutical firm, 2 years experience as statistician in medical research
- (4) GS 12 or equivalent
- (5) Government or private industry in Washington metropolitan area.

## CODE:

- (1) Education
- (2) Fields of competence
- (3) Years of experience
- (4) Salary or GS level requirement
- (5) Type of employment and geographic area

## JOB OPENINGS

## Mathematical Statistician GS 12/13/14

The Measurement Research Laboratory of the National Center for Health Statistics has two openings for mathematical statisticians. The jobs focus on data errors with reference to designing complex data systems and to analyzing the data produced by these systems. The job functions include theoretical, experimental and applied work. Experience in designing complex sample data systems is required, and experience in conducting studies to evaluate the quality of data is very desirable.

Interested parties should contact Dr. Monroe Sirken, Chief Mathematical Statistician and Statistical Advisor, National Center for Health Statistics, Room 8-30 Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20852, Telephone 301-443-1224.

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 Beatrice N. Vaccara  
*Methodology Section:*  
*Chair:* Jay Herson  
*Program:* Frederick Scheuren

## President's Annual Report, 1975-1976

### Program Activities

This year is the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Washington Statistical Society. In commemoration of the occasion, the Annual Dinner was dedicated to a salute to the Society. Jerome Cornfield, A. Ross Eckler, Churchill Eisenhart, Morris Hansen, and Arynness Joy Wickens, all past presidents of the American Statistical Association and also members of the Washington Statistical Society, spoke on "The Past as Prologue to the Future." A record 158 people attended the dinner, and many more, who called at the last minute, could have enjoyed this outstanding occasion had they made their reservations in time to be included in the guarantee to the caterer. One of the speakers, Morris Hansen, had been elected to membership of the National Academy of Sciences only a short time before, adding additional distinction to the celebration.

During the year, 37 program sessions were held, topping the previous high of 32 held during the 1974-75 season. Of the total, 13 were sponsored or co-sponsored by the Methodology Section—by far our most active. The Society had no luncheon or evening meetings this year.

The Society was invited to participate in an appropriate observance of the 75th anniversary of the National Bureau of Standards. A committee consisting of Barbara Bailar, David Hulett, and Joseph Steinberg was appointed to work with the NBS in making appropriate plans.

### Organizational Activities

In accordance with the constitution and bylaws for the Society adopted last year, procedures were approved for a "local associate" category of membership. This category will consist of members in the Society who are not also members of the ASA. The purpose of the new category is to reach nonmembers who may be willing to join the local Society but are not interested in national membership. Hopefully, through association with the WSS, these members will, after a while, also affiliate with the ASA.

The Board also approved a proposal to allow the ASA members who do not live in the Washington area to join the WSS as out-of-area members.

The May meeting of the Board of Directors was designated as an open membership meeting and members were invited to attend and raise any comments or suggestions concerning Society activities.

Shown below are some comparative statistics on our membership and activities:

	<u>71-72</u>	<u>72-73</u>	<u>73-74</u>	<u>74-75</u>	<u>75-76</u>
WSS membership .....	1362	1354	1350	1460	1581
Methodology Section .....	274	265	262	278	269
Number of meetings .....	11	15	27	32	37
Joint .....	(2)	(1)	(4)	(5)	(4)
Annual dinner attendance .....	136	142	122	78	158
Ballots cast for next season:					
General .....	399	434	383	483	475
Methodology Section .....	141	139	114	150	118

Awards

In continuance of past practice, the Society awarded a year's membership in the ASA and the WSS to outstanding graduate students nominated by local universities. This year's recipients were:

- Mr. Louis Schloss ..... The American University
- Mr. Robert F. Everett ..... The Catholic University
- Ms. Nancy Spruill ..... The George Washington University
- Mr. Charles William Perdue ... George Mason University
- Ms. Anita Teresa Ducca ..... Georgetown University
- Mr. Huseyin A. Goksel ..... Howard University
- Mr. Lawrence V. Rubinstein ... University of Maryland

No nomination was received from VPI (Reston).

After a lapse of a year, WSS resumed its joint sponsorship (with the American Society for Quality Control) of the "W.J. Youden Memorial Scholarship" at the Washington Technical Institute by authorizing a \$200 contribution.

Elections

The Nominating and Elections Committee announced the following results of the election for 1976-77:

- Vice President and President Elect: Barbara Bailar
- Representatives-at-Large:
  - Daniel Levine
  - Dorothy Rice
  - Joseph Steinberg
- Secretary-Treasurer: Susan Miskura
- Methodology Section, Program Chairman: David Chapman

The participation in the election continues to be very disappointing—only 30% of members cast ballots.

Other

I wish to express my appreciation to the members of the Board of Directors for their contribution toward making the past year the outstanding success that it was. I especially want to acknowledge with thanks the efforts of Charles Jones, the Secretary-Treasurer, and Sol Loew, Chairman of the Arrangements Committee. I would also like to express my gratitude to Harold Nisselson for his handling of the Youden scholarship and the proposals for processing local associates; to Marie Eldridge for handling the Employment Committee; to our Committee on Fellows (Monroe Sirken, Chairman, Barbara Bailar, Seymour Selig, and Joe Gastwirth); to our Nominations and Elections Committee (Joe Waksberg, Chairman, Jack Alterman, and George Hall); and to the Committee on planning the NBS anniversary observance (Dave Hulett, Barbara Bailar and Joe Steinberg). Finally, my thanks to Theodore Gearhart for auditing the Society's financial statement.



Morris R Goldman  
President, 1975-76

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES FOR  
JULY 1, 1975 TO JUNE 30, 1976

On hand June 30, 1975 \$3,391.45

Receipts

1.	Dues collected for May 1975 thru April 1976	\$2,906.00	
2.	Interest on Savings Account, Home Federal S&L	98.40	
3.	Conversion of Escrow Account to Operating Acct.	114.66	
4.	From ASQC for Youden Scholarship	125.00	
5.	Annual Dinner	1,386.00	<u>4,630.06</u>
Total Operating Funds			8,021.51

Expenses

1.	Direct Newsletter costs	4,573.31	
	a. Graham letter service	3,708.11	
	b. Bulk Mail Postage	614.53	
	(Includes one first class mailing)		
	c. Bulk Mail Permit	40.00	
	d. Permit envelopes	141.74	
	e. ASA addressing charge	68.93	
2.	Frame, Presidential Appreciation Certificate	5.20	
3.	Graduate Student Scholarships	98.00	
4.	Postage for election ballots received	67.06	
5.	Postage for constitution ballots	35.20	
6.	Society letterheads and envelopes	133.90	
7.	Misc: Stamps, bank service charges, corrections for overpayments to the society	112.05	
8.	Navy yard officers club (annual dinner)	1,302.80	
9.	Youden Scholarship	<u>300.00</u>	
Total Expenses			<u>6,627.52</u>
Difference, Operating Funds Minus Expenses			1,393.99


On hand June 30, 1976

Suburban Trust Company Savings Account	1,201.08		
Suburban Trust Company Checking Account	<u>192.91</u>		
Total on hand June 30, 1976			1,393.99

Accounts Payable

ASQC (Funds being held in Escrow)	25.00		
Total Accounts Payable			<u>25.00</u>

Net Society Reserves as of June 30, 1976 1,368.99

  
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Charles Jones, Secretary-Treasurer

I have examined the Secretary-Treasurer's report of the Washington Statistical Society for the period July 1, 1975 to June 30, 1976. The examination was made in accordance with general accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such test of the accounting records considered necessary in the circumstances. In my opinion the report presents fairly the cash receipts and disbursements of the Washington Statistical Society for the period July 1, 1975 to June 30, 1976.

  
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Theodore C. Gearhart  
Chairman, Auditing Committee