

American Statistical Association
Teaching of Statistics in the Health Sciences Section
Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting
August 11, 2004

The meeting began at 7:07 AM, and was attended by Robert Oster, Chair (presiding), Lynn Ackerson, COS Representative, Walter Ambrosius, Chair-Elect, Patrick Arbogast, Program Chair-Elect, Dan Byrne, Book Review Editor, Madge Haven, ASA Liaison, James Leeper, Past Chair, Cyndy Long, Chair-Elect-Elect, and Renee Stolove, Publications Officer.

Corrections were made to the 2003 minutes which were then approved.

The Treasurer's report was given by Robert Oster (this report was prepared by Reena Deutsch, Secretary/Treasurer, who was unable to attend). Our balance has increased from \$4205 to \$9203, attributable to last year's continuing education course and an increase in dues. Madge Haven will find out if there is any existing ASA policy pertaining to the maximum allowable balance for a section.

Madge Haven encouraged us to direct all questions concerning ASA policies and procedures to her and encouraged us to increase our use of the *AMSTAT NEWS*. ASA's current membership goal is to keep its current members and attract new ones. Madge will find out if reduced dues can be offered as an incentive to join both the Stat Ed and TSHS sections. She also mentioned that TSHS announcements could be placed on the ASA web page.

Patrick Arbogast reported on our current program. Overall, it was felt to have gone well. Although we had relatively decreased attendance at this year's CE course, the Monday Roundtable was sold out and the Wednesday roundtable was nearly filled to capacity. We had 70 attendees at our Invited Speaker session. Next year's Invited Speaker panel will be on Distance Learning.

On August 10, members of the executive committees of TSHS and Stat Ed sections met for an informal dinner to discuss ways in which the two sections could work collaboratively. The dinner was felt to be quite enjoyable and a list of ideas was generated.

Lynn Ackerson reported on the August 8 Council of Sections meeting. All future JSMs will be held at convention center rather than hotels. This will increase the registration fee. Issues discussed included: changing JSM days from Sun-Wed or Wed-Sat, the status of Special Interest Groups, CD publication of the complete JSM proceedings, placing the complete JSM proceedings on the ASA website, and having a welcome letter sent out to new section members. JSM signed a new partnership agreement with ASA. The number of competitive sessions will increase from six to 14. Lynn also mentioned that the 2011 JSM will be held in Miami.

Renee Stolove reported that she wrote articles for the April and July issues of the *AMSTAT NEWS* publicizing the section's activities.

Robert Oster reported that Stephen Looney will be resigning as the section's newsletter editor. He is willing to stay in the position for the time being in order to provide for a smooth transition. The newsletter has transitioned from paper to electronic versions. Copies of past newsletters are being kept on our section's website and we plan to have our meeting minutes posted there as well.

James Leeper reported that nominations are needed for 2007 Chair and Secretary/Treasurer for 2006-2007.

Robert Oster led discussion on an award for the organizer of the best topic contributed panel (this idea was proposed in 2003). He also proposed a Distinguished Achievement award for the section. Lemuel Moye was chosen for the Best Topic Contributed Paper award.

Robert Oster reported that the proposed section charter revisions will be voted on by section members during the upcoming ASA elections.

Walter Ambrosius announced that Janet Tooze will be the Section Program Chair for the 2006 JSM. Janet will be joining the faculty at Wake Forest University this fall.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Stolove,
Publications Officer

**American Statistical Association (ASA)
Section on Teaching Statistics in the Health Sciences (TSHS)
Treasurer's Report
Period: August 1, 2003-July 31, 2004**

ASA TSHS Fund

Beginning Balance (8/1/2003)	\$4205.15	
REVENUE		
Dues		2,780.00
Page Charges		195.00
Section Interest Allocation		241.30
CE/Conf/Proceedings		4,340.35
Joint Section Revenue Allocation		30.86
	REVENUE SUB-TOTAL	\$7,587.51
EXPENSE		
Internet Webmaster Fee (to R. Wang)		1,000.00
JSM 2003 Executive Committee Meeting		232.41
JSM 2003 Business Meeting/Mixer		1,142.34
Plaque, Gift certificate (to S. Looney for Newsletter Asst.)		95.20
2003 Best Contributed Paper Award (to R. Hassad)		100.00
Joint Section Expense Allocation		19.64
	EXPENSE SUB-TOTAL	\$2,589.59
Ending Balance (7/31/2004)	\$9203.07	

Respectfully submitted,

Reena Deutsch, Ph.D.
ASA TSHS Treasurer January 1, 2004-December 31, 2005
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Newsletter Editor's Report
Section on Teaching of Statistics in the Health Sciences
American Statistical Association
2004

Three issues of the TSHS newsletter were published between JSM 2003 and JSM 2004: Fall 2003, Spring 2004, and Summer 2004. All three issues were published "electronically"; that is, the newsletter was posted as a .pdf file in Adobe Acrobat format to the TSHS website. For each issue, all section members for whom the ASA had an e-mail address were sent an e-mail informing them that the latest issue of the newsletter was available on the website. Approximately 30 e-mails "bounced back," indicating that the e-mail address on file with ASA was incorrect. An attempt was made to notify each of these members by mail that ASA had an incorrect e-mail address for them. In addition, another 30 or so TSHS members have chosen not to inform ASA of their e-mail address. Hardcopies of the Fall 2003 and Spring 2004 issues of the newsletter were mailed to the 60 or so section members who were unreachable by e-mail. This practice was discontinued with the Summer 2004 issue.

Distributing the "notification" e-mail to TSHS members was made much easier with the establishment of the TSHS distribution list "asa_tshs_members-l" in Spring 2004. Prior to that, a list of e-mail addresses had to be constructed each time a new issue of the newsletter was ready to be distributed, and the "notification" e-mail sent in batches of 100 e-mails at a time. (This is because of limitations imposed by the Microsoft Outlook e-mail server at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center.) For the Summer 2004 issue, a single "notification" e-mail was sent directly to the TSHS distribution list, resulting in a tremendous reduction in labor. Of course, the 60 or so TSHS members who remain unreachable by e-mail will not receive notification even if the TSHS distribution list is used. I recommend that the next article published by the section in *Amstat News* contain a paragraph notifying TSHS members that they will no longer receive a hardcopy of the newsletter, but that the most recent issue, as well as all past issues of the newsletter, will be available on the TSHS website. Section members can expect the fall issue of the newsletter to be published in November, the spring issue in April, and the summer issue in July.

Finally, I have decided to retire as TSHS newsletter editor, effective December 31, 2004. I have enjoyed my six-year tenure as editor, and hope that I have contributed in some small way to providing a useful service for our section members. Best wishes to the new newsletter editor, the TSHS Executive Committee, and all TSHS section members.

Stephen W. Looney, PhD
TSHS Newsletter Editor