

Group SR2 Meeting Notes

What local/national/global structures would make it possible:

- For local networks to better support the mission of the national organization?
- For the national office to serve the local networks more effectively?

Why isn't the section a better advocate for physics teaching? Issues such as curriculum, standards, testing, etc. Why are meetings not more "professional?" Keep family atmosphere but move to a more professional stance.

Need a professional person to assist with meeting structure, to make sure that the meetings are professional, well-planned, etc - as assistant only – not as decision maker.

Trouble having state education departments to take organization seriously.

Primary problem with lines of communication – often not aware of all of the things the national office is offering, so not able to relay that information to the sections. Sections need to be aware of what is going on at national, national needs to know what is going on in sections. This viewed as a fundamental issue.

Section reps need to know how they can formally bring things (concerns of section officers) to the attention of national office i.e. at national meetings for open discussion must be a formal part of structure

Decisions need to be widely disseminated; i.e. disappearance of Announcer.

Section members have found their niche without realizing they are carrying out a national mission. National meetings about national issues and local meetings about local issues and there is a disconnect.

A problem maintaining continuity in quality of section meetings – quality of meetings and subsequently level of membership and participation highly dependant upon who is in charge (officers) – possibly a regional meeting person (paid by national) who helps sections plan meetings and maintain a consistent professional meeting quality

Section web sites – help in developing section sites – web masters having trouble getting information.

Need an organized way of maintaining membership lists, new teachers, etc – assistance in helping sections maintain contacts – people need to feel that they are a member and that someone is paying attention to them – cards to remind them to renew section membership – a check box on national membership renewal for section membership

How to find physics teachers so that sections can contact them – need to find ways to facilitate gathering that information – national find out how that information can be obtained for each section (will vary) and provide that information to sections

Help sections come together for occasional regional meetings and to provide programs that would give teachers esp HS reasons to come (workshops with professional development/continuing ed credit)

Joint meetings with NSTA or other state teacher organizations; provide “the box” and other resources for sections at those meetings

Opportunities for sections to do service for local teachers exist (demo shows, workshops, etc), serving national mission, but often doesn't impact section membership (few new members, no increased section meeting attendance, etc) – how to translate these service activities into stronger sections/national organization

There must be a value for membership – most HS teachers cannot afford \$120 a year, especially if it is only one of several subjects they teach – check off option for membership with membership through other organizations

Lots of these problems go away when there are many members – increase membership to solve the problems – how?

Problem with increased national staffing: staff comes to believe they are the organization, rather than they are working for organization – must work to make sure this does not happen - cannot give up the volunteer nature of the organization

If 3 teachers want to get together to learn something, have a workshop, whatever, the resources needed should be available

Facilitate mentoring

Structure

- paid regional and national staff members to act as communication/organization assistance/contact persons
- maintain contact – continual follow-up
- tiered membership structure to make membership more affordable for HS teachers
- all section members should feel that they are members of national - have opportunity to be members of national organization at a substantially reduced fee, perhaps with reduced services
- regional meetings, with national meetings having a different focus (national meeting as birthplace for regional meetings – all resources coming together, to be disseminated to regional meetings – showcase for best of “everything:” demos, presentations, curriculum, etc, where regional members can choose what they want to bring to their sections/regions.
- Eliminate workshop fees
- Newsletters with new ideas (labs, demos, teaching techniques) for a reduced membership – target levels: middle school, high school, college - could also be

used to announce meetings, workshops, national/section membership, etc – would need regional resource person to do the newsletter (electronic and/or print)

- Assistance from national office to create regional/section listserves
- Technology exists for face-to-face interactions electronically; national office should be able to facilitate that