

V O X P O P

The Newsletter of

Political
Organizations &
Parties

A Continuing Subfield of the American Political Science Association

PRESIDENT, 1984- William Crotty, Northwestern University
SECRETARY, 1984- Andrew J. Nathanson, Columbia University
PREVIOUS CHAIR, 1981-1983: Kenneth Janda, Northwestern University

Vol. 2, No. 4 Northwestern University; Evanston, Illinois 60201 Spring/Summer, 1984

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINEES:

- *Leon Epstein, University of Wisconsin
- *Samuel Patterson, University of Iowa
- *Alan Gitleson, Loyola University, Chicago
- *Charles Longley, Bucknell University
- *Everett Carll Ladd, Jr., University of Connecticut
- +Robert Huckshorn, Florida Atlantic University
- +Joyce Gelb, City College of New York
- +Kay Lawson, San Francisco State University
- +Lawrence Longley, Lawrence University
- +David Mayhew, Yale University
- +Gerald Pomper, Rutgers University
- +Frank Soruf, University of Minnesota

I am going to recommend that all the nominees be considered the Executive Committee and that the next election for Executive Board not be held until 1985. You can voice your support for this proposal on the attached questionnaire.

- *New Members
- +Previous Members

ABOUT THE JOURNAL:

There is a greater variety of opinion on the journal than I anticipated. This should be discussed at the annual meeting of POP, but in preparation for that I have enclosed a questionnaire to ascertain the subfield's views on this. I would like to be able to present these results at the business meeting.

My preliminary discussions with several publishers, through contacts made by a number of you, indicate

- a. it is going to be difficult to launch a journal and it will take a good amount of work;
- b. most publishers are not receptive to the idea, feeling that this is a bad time to begin a new venture of this magnitude. And
- c. the seed money costs for even the most straightforward of approaches to the journal are excessive, way beyond what this subfield could even hope to meet.

It may be advisable at this stage to appoint a committee of two to three people to come before the 1985 business meeting with specific information on

- a. the feasibility of beginning such a venture now,
- b. recommendations on format, publishers, and even an editor or co-editor. And
- c. a reasonable and practical time table to proceed with this project, if the subfield so decides that is what they want to do.

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED AT BUSINESS MEETING, American Political Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 5:30 P.M.

1. To proceed or not with the journal.
2. If yes, the election of a committee to report back one year hence.
3. The procedures for settling on a panel to represent the subfield in the program at the APSA National Meeting. Also, any other questions relating to the affiliation with APSA. Should these prove complex, a liaison person between the APSA and the subfield might prove advisable.
4. An independent editor for Vox Pop, rather than having the Chair of the subfield prepare it, and discussion of the types of materials you would like to appear in the newsletter.
5. The election/acceptance of the enlarged Executive Committee and the proposal that the next election be held in 1985.

POP PANEL:

APSA Convention - August 30 - September 2, 1984
Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C.

Vox Pop Panel - Thursday, August 30, 1:30 p.m.

"Membership Organization and Group Effectiveness"

RESEARCH NOTES:

I would like to institute a section that would perform a basically clearing house function in communicating research underway, information in funding and alternative approaches, research being contemplated, research needs, etc.

As an example, if any researchers are interested in doing a comparative study of local party organization in major urban areas I would like to meet with them at the APSA. The idea would be to use basically the same questionnaire, the same focus (party organization), and the same level of respondents (ward or precinct captains). A similar approach was taken in 1980 with some success. The two cities I would like to see covered in this comparative vein and as part of the project are New York City and Philadelphia. No, there are no funds available.

I am sure other researchers have related interests and agendas and this would be a place to develop them and plug in to an on-going research network.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS:

Howard A. Scarrow of the State University of New York at Stony Brook presented a paper at the recent Midwest Political Science Association Meeting in Chicago in which, among other things, he traced the intellectual evolution of the argument that primaries contribute to party decline. It is a rather recent doctrine (post-1960). His analysis of New York State election results challenges some of these assumptions. Professor Scarrow has also recently published Parties, Elections, and Representation in the State of New York. (New York: New York University Press, 1983.)

Patrick Kenney of Monmouth College and Tom Rice of the University of Vermont explained a related problem, the relationship between "divisive primaries" and general election success for senatorial and gubernatorial races during the period 1970-1980. They found that for reasons for unexplained the primary contests had a differential impact on the parties and the level of race.

Barbara Burrell (SUNY/Albany), James Hutter (Iowa State) and Steve Schier (Carlton College) analyzed the different values, attitudes, professionalism scores, and party commitments between those attending caucuses and state conventions in Iowa during the 1980 presidential prenomination selection process. The differences were pronounced and in the general direction expected. What is needed is comparative data to examine the extent to which the Iowa results are compatible with those in other states

Those interested in these topics might contact the authors directly.

I would like to see this exchange of information research presented expanded in future issues, presuming there is an interest in such topics.

RELATED GROUPS:

Committee on party Renewal

- Annual Business Meeting
12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Saturday
(APSA Convention)

- Roundtable on Presidential Nominating Process
Friday, August 31, 10:45 a.m.

- Roundtable on Party Renewal and the Law
Saturday, September 1, 10:45 a.m.

The Committee is also circulating a draft statement on "Principles of Strong Party Organization" that you might want to see or comment on.

Ted Lowi has called for a new APSA committee to assess the state of political parties in America. (PS, Fall, 1983, p. 706.) What do you think? Lowi's analysis of the myths and prospects of a two- and multi-party system is provocative as usual and well worth study. (PS, Fall, 1983, pp. 699-706.)