

Petition to Form the Southern Nevada Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers

The American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) recognizes many local organizations of physics teachers as AAPT Sections. There are currently 47 sections throughout the country, including the Northern California/Nevada section (NCNAAPT). From their bylaws, the stated purpose of NCNAAPT is “to effect communication between physics teachers within the area approximately connoted by the term Northern California and [the entire state of] Nevada...”

In the past 20 years, a sharp population increase in Southern Nevada has created a burgeoning enclave of physics educators at all levels: university, community college, high school, and middle school. This new physics education community, which is centered in the Las Vegas area, is significantly separated from Northern California and Northern Nevada. For example, the distance to Reno, NV—home to the University of Nevada, Reno and the only other large population of physics educators—is about 450 miles, and distances from Las Vegas to Sacramento and San Francisco are even greater. Such great distance is a barrier to active participation by Southern Nevada physics educators in NCNAAPT.

However, the now large community of physics teachers in the Las Vegas area wishes to develop an active support network that will engage current and prospective physics educators at all levels to exchange information about physics content, new research results, and effective educational strategies (including research-based, learner-centered instructional methods). Therefore, the community proposes to create the Southern Nevada section of the American Association of Physics Teachers (SNAAPT).

SNAAPT will be an active group of physics educators that would include faculty from graduate and undergraduate universities, community colleges, high schools, and middle schools. We plan to meet four times yearly (twice in the fall and twice in the spring) to share ideas, discuss concerns, and find ways to further our own professional development as physics educators. SNAAPT would target physics educators in zip codes starting with 890 and 891 (approximately covering Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, and Nye Counties of Nevada), though other educators are of course welcome to join as well.

According to the National AAPT bylaws, the following actions need to take place to create SNAAPT.

Ten or more members of National AAPT, from the area where the section is to be formed, may petition the National Council to form a section.

The NCNAAPT section must release from its jurisdiction all zip codes starting with 890 or 891, approximately covering Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, and Nye Counties in Nevada.

SNAAPT must have a set of bylaws approved by the National Council.

This document is intended to serve as the petition to National AAPT (when the appropriate

number of member signatures is obtained) and as the basis for a release motion to be made at NCNAAPT's Spring 2008 Meeting. If the signatures are obtained and the motion is passed, then bylaws will be developed for the approval at the National AAPT meeting to be held in Summer 2008, Edmonton, Alberta.

Initial planning activities will be directed by the AAPT members listed below. Any can be contacted for additional information.

Doug Lombardi, Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program
702-799-3835 x 258 or dalombardi@interact.ccsd.net

Dr. Janelle Bailey, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
702-895-4756 or janelle.bailey@unlv.edu

Dr. John Farley, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
702-895-3084 or farley@mailaps.org

PAGE

PAGE 2