

1965

Open Letter from the Editor

Robert Yager

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Recommended Citation

Yager, Robert (1965) "Open Letter from the Editor," *Iowa Science Teachers Journal*: Vol. 3 : No. 1 , Article 3.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/istj/vol3/iss1/3>

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Open Letter from the Editor:

Volume 3 of the Iowa Science Teachers Journal becomes a reality with this first issue. It is an integral part and an indispensable organ of the Iowa Science Teachers Association. ISTA has become a more potent form in educational as well as scientific circles during the last two years. However, this form could be more potent with the involvement of more and more of the very fine science teachers which are in the classrooms of Iowa schools.



It is always easy to sit back and say, "Yes, it's nice to have an Iowa Science Teachers Association. However, I do not have time to contribute. I do not have the five dollars necessary for membership. It's really for others to carry the burden." We have too many persons with the attitudes reflected above.

We can not realize our full potential in this state or nationally until ISTA can boast of a membership which is a significant percentage of the science teachers of the state. Advertisers will not purchase advertisements; granting agencies will not provide grants; we can not progress satisfactorily—**unless** we gain more dynamic support from the people we say we represent.

The Iowa Academy which has accepted ISTA as one of its sections has asked the ISTA and the Journal to attempt to become more self-sufficient. In fact the interest of the Board of Directors is to gradually decrease the amount of subsidy to ISTA and ISTJ. This puts the responsibility clearly upon our shoulders. Do we have what it takes to stand on our own? Can we be counted as a potent voice in Iowa? Are we the science teachers of Iowa?

Robert Yager,
Editor

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THE COVER

Inexpensive equipment Home-made brunton compass can be used by students to determine the dip and strike of a rock outcrop. Composed of a square base and perpendicular support, protractor, line level, small compass, brass hinge, non-magnetic bolt and thumb screw and two non-magnetic nails. Developed by Silas W. Schirmer, Science Education, University of Iowa. Total cost less than \$2.