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A New Look at ISTA in Iowa

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Letter from the Editor

After much effort on the part of many, this first issue of the **Iowa Science Teaching Journal** is a reality. We will all be looking forward to your comments and suggestions for future issues. We have felt for some time that the science teachers of Iowa need such a means of communication within the state as have teachers already in several other states.

Even though this issue represents a start for a journal for science teachers in Iowa, it cannot continue without the support and cooperation of many of you who will be receiving the first two issues as complimentary copies. We need your ideas for future articles. We need your assistance as active members of the Iowa Science Teachers' Association. We need your supporting and critical comments of our efforts. We need to know that we are moving in the right direction.

We hope future issues will include some attractive advertising; a news section which will provide information concerning regional and state meetings, science fairs, etc.; and a review section concerning books, articles, A-V materials, and equipment of interest to science teachers. As you see we are hoping that the Journal will grow in attractiveness, usefulness, and size.

This Journal is made possible by full support from the Iowa Academy of Science. We as science teachers are much indebted to this organization for this expression of interest and assistance. As you know affiliation with the Iowa Science Teachers' Association carries with it an affiliation as a full member in the Iowa Academy of Science as well as the Science Section of the Iowa State Education Association. We are proud to exemplify the new feeling of unity and mutual respect among science teachers, scientists, and science educators which has been felt to such a high degree in the whole nation in recent years.

You are hereby invited to submit articles, news items, or any other contribution for future issues of this journal directly to the editor. Two double spaced typewriter copies using the form exemplified in this issue will be required. Contributions from members of the Iowa Science Teachers' Association will be given preference in publication.

Robert E. Yager
Editor

A New Look at ISTA in Iowa

In early April of this year, plans of the Iowa Academy of Science to form a new section for Science Teachers within the Academy were presented to Betty Goettsch, president of the ISTA by Dr. Robert Yager, a representative of the executive council of Iowa Academy of Science. Dr. Yager suggested that the ISTA might be interested in considering the opportunity for affiliation in this new division.

Dr. Yager was then invited to meet

with the Executive Council of the ISTA in Des Moines on April 6. After a thorough discussion, the Executive Council unanimously supported a favorable recommendation for such affiliation to the present membership of ISTA.

On April 20, the Executive Council of the ISTA plus additional members met with Dr. Yager, Dr. James Kercheval, the president of the Iowa Academy of Science and several members of the Academy who are science teachers but not members of the ISTA, for a more detailed discussion of the proposed affiliation. It was the group consensus that the pro-

posed affiliation would not only greatly benefit the current membership of the ISTA, but non-members felt this would make membership in the ISTA desirable to a much larger number of science teachers.

Under the direction of the ISTA Executive Council the total membership was contacted to determine interest in and support for the proposed affiliation. The return vote was large, nearly 80% return, and was unanimous to adopting the proposed affiliation.

The Iowa Science Teachers' Association is now affiliated with both ISEA and the Iowa Academy of Science. The Association is the Science Section of ISEA and the Science Teaching Section of the Academy of Science. Membership in the Association includes membership in both of these state organizations. In the case of ISEA this includes membership in the sub-section only. In the case of the Academy of Science, this membership also includes full membership in the Academy. The dues for the Iowa Science Teachers' Association are five dollars. This covers membership as described above as well as subscription to the Iowa Science Teachers' Journal.

Iowa Science Teachers' Association
Betty C. Goettsch, President

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28 Years Ago

The following paragraphs were taken from THE IOWA SCIENCE TEACHER, a forerunner of this journal, which was printed twenty-eight years ago. The editorial staff observes that the same remarks have some real implications for us in 1963.

The Iowa Association of Science Teachers is not a new organization. The first constitution was formulated and approved in 1907, and for a good many years after that it functioned as a strong organization, supplying excellent talent for the annual state meeting and serving to unite the science teachers in a common purpose. The objective of that original organization, as stated in the old constitution, was "— to promote the interest of science teaching in secondary schools." Our more modern problem does not vary greatly from this, certainly. Some of the sciences are being taught in nearly every school in the state, so we need not "promote the interest of science teaching," but we do need to promote science teaching to insure that the patrons are keenly aware of the service which the science teacher gives in his community. Ballyhoo is not the means that will give the permanent results so much desired, but careful study of the problems of science education and application of the results in our day by day tasks will do much to impress the public of the important place which an understanding of the sciences plays in the complete training of their children. In this respect all science teachers are united whether they are biologists, chemists, physicists, or they teach in the colleges or the elementary grades.

As far as the individual subjects are concerned, we must be specialists, but that problem should be solved by adequate preparation and by keeping closely in contact with the current developments in each particular branch of science. The new and prov-