

## **GPMFC June 2006 Newsletter**

The Executive Committee Meeting and the Business Meeting of the GPMFC were held on Wednesday, May 17, at the DAMOP Meeting. Following the Business Meeting, attendees were invited to an ad-hoc Reception at local pizza and beer establishments, an alternative to be considered for future DAMOP Meetings.

2006 GPMFC election winners were: Steve Lamoreaux, Vice-Chair; Scott Dewey and Eric Burt, Members-at-Large, in closely contested races. Voting were 102 of our present 415 dues-paying members, 99 electronically and 3 by paper ballot, for a 24.6 % participation. We congratulate the winners and thank all of the candidates for their willingness to participate in these important elections.

Congratulations to our 2006 Fellows Dmitri Budker and Lute Maleki. Eric Hessels was ex officio chair of our Fellowship Committee this year, to be succeeded by Steve Lamoreaux. APS has not forwarded the present nominations for consideration by our Committee at this time. Please consider nominations of our Group members for Fellowship for next year.

At the end of 2005, our available funds were \$27,899.47, an increase of \$2,502.22 from the previous year. Our income comes from three sources: dues (\$5/member) totaled \$1990.00, our share of the April Meeting revenue was \$617.00, and investment income on the available funds was \$1914.75, for a total income of \$4521.75. Expenses included costs for the 2005 DAMOP reception, a small amount for mailing, travel grants to graduate students to attend DAMOP or the April Meeting (\$800), the Executive Committee lunch, and staff travel related to abstract sorting at the meetings, etc. for a total expenditure of \$2019.53 in 2005, with some bills still to be paid in 2006. This can be compared to total expenditures of \$1004.89 in 2004 and \$1798.45 in 2003.

Our Nominating Committee has consisted of Chair Tiku Majumder, Mike Snow, and APS representative Steve Rolston for the last two years. We thank the Committee for their efforts, and for nominating some candidates who are not joint members with DAMOP. Kurt Gibble will chair next year's Nominating Committee. Please let Kurt know ([kgibble@phys.psu.edu](mailto:kgibble@phys.psu.edu)) if you are interested in being a candidate for office next year. The open positions are Vice-Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, and Member-at-Large (2),

Carol Tanner chaired our Program Committee for the April Meeting jointly with the Gravity Group. Invited Speakers were Michael Zucker, Patrick Brady, and Patrick Sutton, with talks related to LIGO. Our Executive Committee and Business Meetings will be held at the April Meeting of the APS in 2007. Siu Au Lee will chair our Program Committee for that meeting. We thank Harvey Gould and Siu Au Lee for representing our group at the April Meeting programming committee in Dallas/Fort Worth. Siu Au Lee points to the new enthusiasm in the Astrophysics, High Energy, and Cosmology aspects of the April Meeting (and their associated interests in precision measurements and fundamental constants) as beneficial to our Group participation. It was pointed out that DAMOP schedules the posters and invited talks related to precision measurements and fundamental constants independently of our group input, and that we should have more representation on these matters. Ron Walsworth will look into this.

No business has been brought before our Publications Committee in recent years. If you have any concerns about publications not addressed satisfactorily by APS, please let ex officio chair David Church ([church@physics.tamu.edu](mailto:church@physics.tamu.edu)) know about them.

Carol Tanner reported on the Pipkin Award Committee. The present Chair is Alex Kostelecky; Tiku Majumder was nominated by Carol for Vice Chair. Alejandro Garcia (University of Washington) is our new "outside" committee member. Deadline for nominations for the 2007 award is July 1, 2006, with nominations possible from any APS member. Please consider nominating candidates for this important award, presently the only award for work in precision measurements and fundamental constants presented through our Group. Nomination details are

on the GPMFC webpage at <http://www.aps.org/praw/pipkin/index.cfm>. Our Pipkin Award Fund at the end of 2005 was \$37,131.83. The present award is \$2000 plus travel expenses to present an invited talk at the April Meeting.

The proposed Deslattes Prize was discussed at the most recent APS Prize and Awards Committee meeting according to information obtained by Ron Walsworth from Chair Kate Kirby. The Deslattes Prize faces issues of potential overlap and conflict with the Keithley Prize, as well as the question of fund-raising for the prize. It is now up to the sponsoring groups, DAMOP and GPMFC, to re-start the nomination committee procedures. It was suggested that present members of the nomination committee now work with Alan Chodos of APS to prepare an appropriate response and nomination package, to restart the procedure.

It was proposed that the dues for all graduate student members of our group be paid from Group resources. Siu Au Lee will look into the details for implementing this. Consideration of a graduate student prize for best PMFC poster was put aside until next year.

Ron Walsworth is interacting with DAMOP and the Gravity Topical Group about possible contributions from our members to their newsletters. Joining with Division of Laser Science as a minor partner in their Distinguished Traveling Lecture Program is also under consideration. Costs would be \$1000 per speaker for the honorarium plus travel costs, with the home institution paying local expenses. This is usually a two-day affair, with both a public lecture and a colloquium in the range of activities. Ron Walsworth will continue discussions with DAMOP and DLS on this proposal.

Decisions on a possible PMFC Reception at the Calgary DAMOP in 2007 were withheld pending more information from the organizers.

Next year's GPMFC election will likely be a web-based election rather than our customary e-mail election, since APS is encouraging movement in this direction. This will probably necessitate a somewhat earlier election. Details will be sent out next spring.

## **2007 GPMFC Executive Committee**

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