



Minutes of the 2023 meeting of the TAAAPT

Friday and Saturday, March 25-26, 2023

The annual meeting of the Tennessee section of the Association of American Physics Teachers was held at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville on March 25-26, 2023.

The event began on Friday evening, March 25th with registration at 5:30 pm, followed by dinner at 6:00 pm, and a presentation by the keynote speaker, Dr. Hanno Weitering, a Chancellor's Professor of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Tennessee. His talk titled "Engineering Chiral Superconductivity on a Silicon Template" was held at 7:30 pm. The evening concluded with a visit to the Nielson Physics Building for a planetarium show.

The meeting resumed on Saturday, March 26 with breakfast and registration at 8:30 am. Contributed talks were held from 9:00 am to 11:15 am, followed by poster presentations from 11:15 am to 11:45 am, awards announcement and business meeting from 11:45 am to 12:30 pm, lunch from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm, and a workshop on the Cavendish Experiment from 1:30 to 3:30 pm.

The meeting was well-attended, with faculty representing the east, middle, and west regions of Tennessee. The list of faculty attendees is provided in Table 1.

Eight undergraduate students from four institutions participated in the meeting, with most of them making either poster or oral presentations. Table 2 lists student attendees and their awards.

Mr. Tommy Eggleston, an IB Physics teacher at West High School in Knox County, received **the best local high school physics teacher of the year award**. Mr. Eggleston worked with faculty from University of Tennessee for the past six years to establish a pilot program, which has now expanded to other county schools. The program is very popular among students, introducing them to various frontier science and research topics.

During the business meeting, the following matters were discussed:

- A. Officers: Dr. Nat Smith from Middle Tennessee State University is the chair-elect for 2023-2024. Drs. Spencer Buckner and Pei Xiong-Skiba, both from Austin Peay State University, were re-elected as the section representative and secretary/treasurer of 2023-2024, respectively. Host for 2025 meeting is yet to be decided, but Dr. Spencer will contact institutions located on the west side of Tennessee to explore the possibilities. Dr. Spencer also indicated that 2023-2024 would be his last year serving as the section representative, and we need to elect a new section representative in the next meeting.
- B. The 2024 TAAAPT will be held at Middle Tennessee State University, and the meeting time will be announced later.

C. During our 2022 meeting, we discussed membership dues and decided to raise them from \$10 to \$15, effective from 2023. However, it has come to our attention that the dues collected may not be sufficient to cover the costs. During the 2023 meeting, we unanimously agreed that we will reward student(s) with \$50 for each group award and \$100 for the best high school teacher award. To cover the expenses, members unanimously agreed that annual membership fees will increase to \$20 for college faculty members and \$10 for high school teachers, beginning in 2024. The following table shows the estimation of future budget for the organization.

| Items | Costs | Dues | |
|---|--------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Best Student Poster Award | \$50 | Membership | \$20 |
| Second Best Student Poster Award | \$50 | Attendees | 15-20 |
| Best Oral Presentation Award | \$50 | | |
| Second Best Oral Presentation Award | \$50 | | |
| Best High School Physics Teacher Award | \$100 | | |
| Website Maintenance | \$80 | | |
| Total Cost | \$380 | Estimated Dues | \$300-\$400 |

We also discussed changing the way we collect dues. In the past, we collected fees during our annual meetings on-site, thus only the meeting attendees paid their dues each year.

It is suggested that we separate paying membership dues from paying for meeting registration to encourage more members to pay dues even if they don't attend our annual meetings. A PayPal account has been set up for the organization, allowing more members to pay their dues online.

Another issue discussed during the meeting was whether we should award the teacher nominated for the best high school physics teacher of the year if he/she is unable to attend the meeting. After careful consideration, it was decided that we will award the teacher, regardless of his/her attendance at the meeting.

Finally, we would like to thank Dr. Christine Cheney and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville for hosting this meeting! The construction of the Cavendish apparatuses is impressive! We love Knoxville, what a vibrant city!

Pei Xiong-Skiba
 Secretary/Treasurer, TAAPT
 March 27th, 2023

Table 1 - List of Faculty Attendees

| Last Name: | First Name: | Affiliation: | Presentation |
|------------|-------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Breinig | Marianne | The University of Tennessee | |
| Buckner | Spencer | Austin Peay State University | |
| Burks | Geoffrey | Tennessee State University | Oral |
| Carter | Brooke | L&N STEM Academy | |
| Cheney | Christine | University of Tennessee | |

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|-------------|-----------|--|---------------------|
| Donev | Eugenii | Austin Peay State University | Poster by student |
| Farvin | Allen | Pellissippi State Community College | |
| Jones | Kate | University of Tennessee | |
| Kochat | Suja | Christian Brothers University | Poster |
| Laing | Blake | Southern Adventist University | Oral, with student |
| Lindsay | Sean | University of Tennessee | Oral |
| Naseri | Neda | Middle Tennessee state university | Oral |
| Parks | James | University of Tennessee, Knoxville | |
| Pokhrel | Nau Raj | University of Tennessee, Knoxville | |
| SamarBakhsh | Abdorreza | Middle Tennessee State University | Oral |
| Sternberg | James | Hardin Valley Academy | |
| Terletska | Hanna | Middle Tennessee State University | Oral |
| Varriano | John | Christian Brothers University | Oral |
| Wang | Ling Jun | University of Tennessee at Chattanooga | Oral, via zoom |
| Wolff | Nicholas | Lane College | Posters by students |
| Xiong-Skiba | Pei | Austin Peay State University | |

Table 2 - List of Student Attendees and Awards

| Last Name | First Name | Affiliation | Presentation | Awards |
|------------|------------|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Davis | Daniel | Lane College | Poster | |
| Filinovich | Anjali | Southern Adventist University | Oral | The First-Best Oral Presentation |
| Helms | Malliyah | Lane College | Poster | The Second-Best Poster Presentation |
| Kope | Eden | Austin Peay State University | | |
| Lanier | Meleah | Austin Peay State University | Poster | The First-Best Poster Presentation |
| MacLeod | Jonathan | Austin Peay State University | | |
| Rye | Joshua | Austin Peay State University | Poster | The Third-Best Poster Presentation |
| Winston | Ariel | Lane College | Poster | |