

Association News

Affirmative Action in the 80s: Recognition of Women and Minorities in the APSA

Throughout the 1980s APSA presidents and council members have actively ad-

Table 1. The Distribution of Elective and Appointive Offices (Excluding Award Committees) Among Women and Minorities, 1980-89

Year	Total Positions	Positions Held by Women/ Minorities ^a	
		No.	%
1989	149	49****	33
1988	158	56****	35
1987	150	54***	36
1986	144	63***	44
1985	129	56*	43
1984	129	59*	46
1983	132	58***	44
1982	127	57**	45
1981	105	52*	50 ^t
1980	117	59**	50 ^t

*Indicates the number of black women holding office in that year. They are counted once; for this reason the data are different from data listing positions held by minorities or women.

^aBlacks and Hispanics.

^tThe data are inflated by the large sizes of the Committees on the Status of Women and the Status of Blacks. For example, in 1980 there were 10 members of the Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession. It was not until 1982 that the size of the Committee was reduced to bring it in line with the size of other standing committees of the APSA Council.

vanced the interests of women and minorities through their election and appointment to leadership positions within the Association. Women and minorities have held 42 percent of the elective and appointive offices of the Association from 1980 through 1989 excluding award committees (see Table 1). The decade closed with the appointment of the first woman Executive Director of the Association, Catherine Rudder, as well as the election of the first woman president-elect, Judith Shklar.

Women are the principal beneficiaries of affirmative action within the Association. Of the 563 leadership positions held by women and minorities between 1980 and 1989, 71 percent were held by women (see Table 2). Women held 30 percent of the elective offices and standing committees, 26 percent of the awards committee appointments (see Table 3), and 29 percent of all elective and appointive offices from 1980 through 1989 (see Table 4).

Currently 20 percent of the U.S. individual members of the APSA are women. This membership rate is approximately

Table 2. Participation by Women in Elective and Appointive Offices, 1980-89

Year	Total Positions	Positions Held by Women	
		No.	%
1989	149	38	26
1988	158	44	28
1987	150	39	26
1986	144	44	31
1985	129	42	33
1984	129	44	34
1983	132	43	33
1982	127	39	31
1981	105	33	31
1980	117	34	29

Table 3. Participation by Women on APSA Award Committees, 1980-89

Year	Total Positions	Positions Held by Women	
		No.	%
1989	54	15	28
1988	51	14	27
1987	54	11	20
1986	48	13	27
1985	48	19	40
1984	51	13	25
1983	45	11	24
1982	39	8	21
1981	42	8	19
1980	39	10	26

Table 4. Participation by Women in Elective and Appointive Offices and Awards Committees, 1980-89

Year	Total Positions	Positions Held by Women	
		No.	%
1989	203	53	26
1988	209	58	28
1987	204	50	25
1986	192	56	29
1985	177	61	34
1984	180	57	32
1983	177	54	31
1982	166	47	28
1981	147	41	28
1980	156	44	28

equal to the representation of women within the profession in general. It also represents a significant growth in membership among women, for in 1985 only 12 percent of APSA's members were women.

The participation of women is unevenly distributed across APSA committees. As Table 5 shows, however, except for three committees—Committee on the Status of Blacks, Committee on the Status of Chicanos, and Project '87—the participation of women in the Association's elective

and appointive offices is equal to or greater than their membership rate in the profession in general, or the Association in particular. The participation of women on the Committees on the Status of Blacks and Chicanos is an artifact of the small numbers of Blacks and Chicanos in the profession. While the participation of women in Project '87 is low as compared with other committees, it should be noted that both the director and assistant director of Project '87 are women.

Table 5. Rank Order of Percent Participation by Women in Elective and Appointive Offices of the APSA, 1980-89

	% Participation by Women
Elective Positions	
Treasurer	50
Vice President	33
Council	26
Secretary	20
President	0
Appointive Positions	
Status of Women	88
NEWS/TEACHER Editorial Board	47
Applied Rules	40
Education	39
PS Editorial Board	38
Publications	38
Departmental Services	38
Professional Ethics	35
Organized Sections	33
Elections	30
Nominating	30
International	30
Administrative	26
Research Support	26
Program	25
Trust and Development	21
Kirkpatrick Fund	20
Blacks	17
Project '87	17
Chicanos	0

We're looking for a few good questions and answers

and a few good men and women for APSA's Trivial Pursuit Evening on Saturday, September 3, at the 1989 Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. The evening will feature a panel of experts nominated by APSA members

who will answer (or try to answer!!) political trivia

questions. Send your nomination

for the panel of experts to: Joel

Grossman, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin,

Madison, WI 53706. Political trivia questions

and answers should be directed to:

Nelson W. Polsby, Department of Political Science, University of

California, Berkeley, CA 94720. Please

include a source for your answer with your submission.

