WHAT'S V?  

A monthly newsletter for physics teachers in LA and Orange Counties

Upcoming Events

March 2  
PhysTEC Open House  
Location: CSULB HSCI  
Time: 8:30 AM -12:30 PM  

Research from Dr. Andreas Bill and hands on activities for all students and teachers! A great brunch. A student panel discussion. Don’t miss this!

Contact: Michael Tran at michael.tran@csulb.edu to RSVP.

March 14  
PhysTEC Demo-Day  
Location: CSULB PH2-122  
(Note: New Room!)  
Time: 4:30 – 5:30 PM  

Topic: Electricity & Magnetism

Contact: Michael Tran at michael.tran@csulb.edu to RSVP and request parking before 3/11.

March 6  
Occidental PhysicsDay  
Location: Occidental College  
Time: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM  

A full day of Physics fun! A yearly event for nearly 50 years. Lots of presentations by college and high school teachers.

For more information: http://members.dslextreme.com/users/oxyday/

April 11  
PhysTEC Demo-Day  
Location: CSULB PH2-122  
Time: 4:30 – 5:30 PM  

Topic: Thermodynamics, Fluids, Nuclear Physics

Contact: Michael Tran at michael.tran@csulb.edu to RSVP and request parking before 4/8.

April 20  
SCAAPT Spring Mtg  
Location: Santa Monica College  

Another full day of Physics fun! Presenters in the past have included Demo Day veterans Bill Layton and James Lincoln.

For more information: http://www.scaapt.org

Check out more upcoming events at www.physicsatthebeach.com

PHYSYTEC DEMO DAYS

The second Thursday of every month is a chance to collaborate with other physics teachers and share your favorite fun demonstrations and activities. This month, March 14, the topic again will be Electricity and Magnetism. Last month we started our exploring of E & M. From pickles to motors to kissing balloons (our prize winner for Top Demo, congratulations Tamara), we saw lots of fascinating demos. But wait there’s more! Since this topic is so broad we decided to devote a second Demo Day to Electricity and Magnetism. We hope to see you at 4:30 on March 14 in PH2-122. Free (and close!) parking is provided and so is food!

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Are you a member of American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) or the California Science Teachers Association (CSTA)? Why should you join? What are the benefits?

As a physics teaching professional (or soon to be), you really should belong to a professional organization that represents you and offers many benefits. Both AAPT and CSTA work to influence state and national policies that affect you in the classroom. For example, CSTA helped prevent California from reducing high school graduation requirements from two years of science to one. Both groups are actively involved in the review process associated with NGSS. They also support many programs that we benefit from locally, such as AAPT’s support of PhysTEC here at The Beach and CSTA’s Future Science Teacher Club at CSULB.

Both organizations offer lots of professional development, particularly crucial for physics teachers since we are often the sole physics teacher at our sites. AAPT holds two national conferences each year (this summer in Portland, Oregon). CSTA holds a statewide conference each fall (in Palm Springs this fall). Members receive registration discounts at these conferences.

Local AAPT organizations also hold their own professional development. The Southern California AAPT has hosted numerous workshops for new physics teachers, including one at CSU Long Beach in December. Additionally, the websites of AAPT and CSTA have a wealth of resources available for teachers with access to some materials limited to members only.

As a member of AAPT you receive a monthly magazine, The Physics Teacher, full of creative teaching ideas, such as “YouTube Physics” and online access to previous issues. CSTA also publishes a monthly e-newspaper, California Science Classroom, also full of ideas, resources and timely CA articles.

A 1-year membership in CSTA is $39 ($25 for students).

AAPT membership varies depending upon the number of journals chosen, but starts at $112 (just $45 for students).

Consider the benefits of joining a vibrant community of physics and science educators. Engagement and membership ought to be part of your professional identity as a teacher. “The best PD that I receive is a direct result of my membership in AAPT. The publication "The Physics Teacher" is a wealth of ideas and inspiration and something that I read thoroughly and I look forward to the opportunity to attend professional meetings sponsored by AAPT and the information that I learn at them.”

Jon Anderson, Centennial High School

http://www.aapt.org/Membership/  
http://www.cascience.org/csta/aboutMembership.asp

If you have any questions or would like to contribute to this newsletter, please contact me at dwyer_k@auhsd.us or visit the website www.physicsatthebeach.com
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