

SRDG NEWSLETTER

November 1978
Number 33

The Southern Regional Demographic Group is sponsored by Oak Ridge Associated Universities. The *Newsletter* is compiled and edited by William J. Serow, Tayloe Murphy Institute, University of Virginia.

SRDG News

Report on the 1978 Annual Meeting

The ninth annual meeting of SRDG was held at the Menger Hotel in San Antonio, Texas, October 11–13. Approximately 120 persons attended the meeting, which was our first held west of the Mississippi River. Approximately 90 persons appeared on the program, which had as its theme "Demography for What?" Specific sessions dealt with such topics as Southern migration and poverty, health and mortality, metropolitan versus non-metropolitan growth, racial and ethnic change, special methods, political and economic consequences of Southern population change, aging, data uses, and a discussion of the possible role that SRDG can play in organizing research on the 1980 Census. Special thanks are due to both the program chairman, Ed Cahill of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and the local arrangements chairman, Dudley Poston of the University of Texas at Austin.

1978–79 Executive Committee

At the annual business meeting, President Leon F. Bouvier announced the results of this year's elections to SRDG's executive committee. Elected to 3-year terms were Calvin L. Beale of the Department of Agriculture and Larry H. Long of the Bureau of the Census. Ronald R. Rindfuss of the University of North Carolina was elected to fill the remaining 2-year term to which William J. Serow was elected last year and to which Harry M. Rosenberg was appointed after Serow's acceptance of the secretary-treasurer position. At the same time, Bouvier expressed

his opinion that SRDG had matured to the point that a 1-year term was appropriate for the president and that, in this light, he would be unavailable to serve a second year as president. Bouvier also expressed his thanks to the departing members of the executive committee — Anne S. Lee, Richard A. Engels, and Harry Rosenberg — for their continued dedication to SRDG. Immediately after the business meeting, the executive committee elected Robert H. Weller of Florida State University as president of SRDG and Gladys K. Bowles of the Department of Agriculture as vice president. In addition to the new president and vice president, the newly elected members of the committee, and the immediate past president, continuing members of the executive committee include Serow and Philip L. Johnson of ORAU.

Nominations Committee Appointed

The executive committee appointed the following members to serve as the nominating committee for 1978–79: Anne S. Lee (chairwoman), University of Georgia; Parker Frisbie, University of Texas; and C. Jack Tucker, Atlanta University. The committee is charged with nominating at least four members of SRDG for election to the two executive committee posts that will become vacant next year. The election will be by mail ballot to be conducted during the summer of 1979.

Executive Committee Meeting

In addition to the various appoint-

ments made, which are reported elsewhere in this issue of the *Newsletter*, the executive committee conducted the following business during its meetings on October 11 and 12 in San Antonio. The secretary-treasurer reported that prior to the meeting, SRDG had 331 dues-paying members, an increase of about 60 during the year. The current balance in the treasury, not including receipts and obligations resulting from the meeting, is \$1,533.63. A summary of the year's transactions appears below. The membership committee reported that its efforts to solicit memberships among persons who had previously received the *Newsletter* but had never paid dues met with very limited success. Several SRDG publications are in various stages of readiness. The first *Membership Directory* was distributed to those members attending the meeting, and copies will be mailed to others in the near future. The majority of papers for *Population Change in the South*, edited by Bob Weller and Dudley Poston, will be delivered to the University of Texas Press by November 15. Plans are being made for the publication of SRDG's *Second Occasional Paper*, hopefully during 1979. Ken Shin, local arrangements chairman for the 1979 annual meeting, informed the committee that tentative arrangements had been made for SRDG to meet at the Holiday Inn—Downtown in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, October 17–19. The final report of the committee on nonacademics and persons from nonmajor universities was presented to the executive committee; because of the importance the executive committee places on this report, it is printed elsewhere in this issue. The by-

laws committee presented a report expressing the view that while no formal changes in the bylaws seem appropriate at the present, several issues worthy of review exist, including the possibility of direct election of the president and vice president. Copies of the report are available from the secretary-treasurer upon request. Finally, the executive committee decided to try to obtain outside funding for a conference dealing with "Demographic Correlates of Southern Energy Use," which would seek a dialogue between demographers and energy specialists. In addition, SRDG expects to send delegates to an ORAU-sponsored conference focusing on the questions of coal reserves in the South.

Financial Statement (1977-78)

<i>Income</i>	
On hand, 10/30/77	\$2,370.74
Dues	1,461.50
Interest	5.63
	\$3,837.87
<i>Expenses</i>	
Personal services	205.00
Postage	232.43
Dues refunds	7.00
Printing	956.45
Membership drive	100.00
	\$1,500.88
<i>Cash on hand 8/30/78</i>	
Checking account	803.36
Savings account	1,533.63
	\$2,336.99

Changes in 1979 Meeting Structure

In planning for the 1979 annual meeting to be held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, October 17-19, the executive committee announced several changes in policy regarding the meeting. First, the committee decided that, except under unusual circumstances, any individual will be limited to one appearance (as author, discussant, or session chairperson) per meeting. This does not preclude, for example, an individual who serves as session chairperson from co-authoring a paper presented at the meeting, but it does preclude that individual from presenting the paper. Second, the program chairperson is instructed to take all steps possible to ensure that any mem-

ber who wishes to present a paper at the meeting will have the opportunity to do so. In those cases where this is impossible, the program chairperson is instructed to take all steps possible to ensure that the member has the opportunity to appear on the program in some other capacity. Finally, the timing of events leading up to the annual meeting has been changed. THE FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE 1979 MEETING WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER (JANUARY); THE SECOND AND FINAL CALL WILL APPEAR IN THE FOLLOWING (circa April) ISSUE. This will enable the program to be put into final form by the middle of the summer and will afford members a longer period of time to plan their meeting activities. In a move related to the foregoing changes, the executive committee has appointed Clifford H. Patrick of the National Institute on Aging to serve as program chairman for the 1979 meeting.

Report of the Committee on the Role of Nonacademics and Persons from Nonmajor Universities

At the October 1977 meeting of the executive committee, we were charged with investigating the role of persons from nonacademic settings and nonmajor universities in the annual meetings of SRDG. This charge was based on the premise that the participation of such persons is consistent with the primary objectives of SRDG and should be encouraged. Some people also believed that the participation of persons from nonacademic and nonmajor university institutions has declined through time.

The available evidence does not support this latter belief. We compared the 1972 and 1977 programs and differentiated between four types of institutions:

1. Nonfederal, nonacademic
2. Federal, nonacademic
3. Major university
4. Nonmajor university

Participants were also stratified according to whether their paper was contributed or whether their participation had been solicited. We felt that types 1 and 4, listed above, were of primary interest to the committee. The following results were obtained:

1. In 1972, there were 39 participants. Three (7.7 percent) were from nonfederal, nonacademic settings. In 1977 there were 93 participants. Eleven (11.8 percent) were from such settings.

2. In 1972, 7 persons were from "nonmajor" academic institutions. This was 17.9 percent of the total participants. In 1977, the figure was 19.4 percent.

3. Combined, the number of persons from nonacademic, nonfederal settings or from nonmajor academic institutions increased from 10 in 1972 to 39 in 1977. In terms of percentage, the increase was from 25.6 percent to 41.9 percent.

Thus, there is no empirical evidence to support the contention that the participation of persons from nonacademic, nonfederal settings or from nonmajor schools has declined. If anything, it has increased. The principal mechanism facilitating such an increase appears to be contributed papers. In 1972, 30 percent of the participants reading contributed papers were from nonmajor schools or nonfederal, nonacademic settings. In 1977, the figure was 37.9 percent. The percentage of solicited contributors from such settings remained constant at 20 percent. The following points can be made:

1. Traditionally, contributed papers have involved relatively more participation by persons from nonmajor schools and from nonfederal, nonacademic settings.

2. The participation of such persons in contributed paper sections has increased through time.

3. The participation of such persons in solicited roles has not increased through time.

4. The ratio of solicited to non-solicited participants has decreased through time from 0.95 in 1972 to 0.60 in 1977.

We should make several caveats about the preceding analysis. Classifications into major university and other academic settings are, by necessity, arbitrary. We have not performed tests of statistical significance. At least one of us is philosophically opposed to such tests. Care should be taken in generalizing from two annual programs. There are no guarantees that using data from other years would yield the same results. Interested parties are invited to do so and to make their results known to the executive committee and the membership. We also would welcome more refined analysis of the available data.

We recommend that SRDG try to maximize the participation of people from small colleges and nonacademic settings. We realize there are considerable structural obstacles to their participation

SRDG News continued—

in terms of relative noninvolvement in funded research and in the travel resources available to them. We do not know how to negate such obstacles, other than to urge persons from large universities to work more closely with such persons and to involve them in research endeavors.

We do believe that every member should be able to participate in the program and that a sufficient number of contributed papers sessions should be scheduled each year for that purpose. We also believe that program chairpersons should attempt to schedule activities that will attract persons from small colleges or nonacademic settings. We also make an open suggestion to future program chairpersons that the participation of all members not affiliated with major universities and federal agencies be encouraged.

Robert H. Weller (Chairman)
Florida State University

Edward E. Cahill
University of Tennessee—
Chattanooga

Jeanne C. Biggar
University of Virginia

Publications

Federal Agencies

Bureau of the Census: (GPO) Current Population Reports

Series P-20: Population Characteristics

"Households and Families by Type: March 1978" (advance report), No. 327, 60¢.

"Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States: March 1978" (advance report), No. 328, 90¢.

Series P-23: Special Studies

"1976 Survey of Institutionalized Persons," No. 69, \$6.00.

"Perspectives on American Fertility," No. 70, M. Moore and M. O'Connell, \$2.40.

"Racial Succession in Individual Housing Units," No. 71, L. Long and D. Spain, \$1.20.

"Registration and Voting in November 1976: Jurisdictions Covered by the Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1975," No. 74, \$1.50.

Series P-25: Population Estimates and Projections

"State and Local Agencies Preparing

Population Estimates and Projections: Survey of 1975-76," No. 723, \$2.40.

"Estimates of the Number of Households for States: 1976 and 1977," No. 725, 60¢.

"Annual Estimates of the Population of States: July 1, 1970, to 1977," No. 727, 70¢.

"Estimates of the Population of Puerto Rico and the Outlying Areas: 1970 to 1976," No. 731, 70¢.

"Projections of the Population of Voting Age for States: November 1978," No. 732, 80¢.

Series P-60: Consumer Income

"Money Income in 1976 of Persons and Families in the United States," No. 114, \$4.75.

"Characteristics of the Population Below the Poverty Level: 1976," No. 115, \$4.25.

"Money Income and Poverty Status of Families and Persons in the United States: 1977," (advance report), No. 116, \$1.40.

Technical Papers

"1976 Survey of Institutionalized Persons: Methods and Procedures," No. 42, \$2.50.

Other Publications

"Country Demographic Profiles: Thailand," ISP-DP-15, no price given.

National Center for Health Statistics (VHS)

Series 2: Data Evaluation and Methods Research

"National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle I: Sample Design, Estimation Procedures, and Variance Estimation," No. 76.

Series 14: Data from the National Health Survey

"The National Inventory of Family Planning Services: 1975 Survey Results," No. 19.

Series 21: Data from the National Vital Statistics System

"Divorces and Divorce Rates: United States," No. 29.

Other Publications

"Background and Development of the National Reporting System for Family Planning Services," No. 78-1313.

"NCHS Policy Statement on Release of Data for Individual Elementary Units and Special Tabulations."

Department of Labor (GPO)

"1978 Employment and Training Report of the President," \$5.25.

Veterans' Administration

"County Veteran Population, March 1977," (Research Monograph No. 12).

"Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures — FY 1977."

Single copy of each available from Reports and Statistics Service, Office of the Comptroller, Veterans' Administration, Washington, D.C. 20420.

National Center for Educational Statistics (GPO)

"Digest of Education Statistics" (1977-78 edition), \$4.00.

"The Condition of Education" (1978 edition), \$6.50.

National Institute of Mental Health

MHDPS Working Papers

"Demographic Characteristics of Mental Health Catchment Areas," No. 34, H. Goldsmith, C. Windle, and B. Rosen.

"Demographic Structure of Mental Health Catchment Areas," No. 35, H. Goldsmith, J. Shambaugh, C. Windle, and B. Rosen.

Single copy of each available from National Institute of Mental Health, Mental Health Study Center, 2340 University Blvd. E., Adelphi, Maryland 20783.

Civil Rights Commission

"Social Indicators of Equality for Minorities and Women."

Single copy available from U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 1121 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20425.

Nonfederal Agencies

"1977-78 Source Book of Health Insurance Data." Single copy available from Health Insurance Institute, 1850 K Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20006.

"American Demographics" (monthly publication beginning January 1979). Subscription information available from American Demographics, Box 68, Ithaca, New York 14850.

"Population Projections for Alabama Counties for 1980, 1990, 2000 AD," J. Gundlach and R. L. Dittman. Available for \$2.00 from Office of Public Service and Research, Room 2232 Haley Center, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama 36830.

Demographic Research in the South

QUESTIONNAIRE

We would like to have information on demographic research in which you and your colleagues are involved. This information will be carried in future issues of the *Newsletter* as part of SRDG's goal to provide a communications vehicle for exchanging demographic information about the South. Please describe the research using the following format:

Key Topics, e.g., fertility, migration, spatial distribution, education.

Area Focus, e.g., national, the South, specific state, county, sub-county.

Title

Author or Principal Investigator

Institution. Provide detailed address.

Sources of Support

Study Period. Specify beginning and ending dates of project or publication date of report.

Brief Description. Specific objectives of study, major analytic techniques, specific data sources.

Job Mart

Vacancy

Senior Urban Systems Researcher (Demographer), Urban Studies Center, University of Louisville. Specific responsibilities include demographic analysis in the areas of population estimates and projections and developing detailed analyses of the social demographic aspects of Kentucky's population. Ph.D. in social sciences or a related field and 2 years applied research experience required. Salary \$16,760. Appointment on 12-month basis, including option for teaching at undergraduate and graduate level. Please apply by December 1 to Douglas Nunn, Director of Urban Studies Center, Gardencourt Campus, Alta Vista Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40205, (502) 588-6626. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

SRDG NEWSLETTER

Oak Ridge Associated Universities
P. O. Box 117
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

27 ISD
DR. ANNE S. LEE
165 TIPPERARY ROAD
ATHENS, GA 30601

Bulk Rate
U. S. Postage
PAID
Oak Ridge, Tennessee
Permit No. 80
A Nonprofit Organization

Address Correction Requested
Return Postage Guaranteed