

SRDG NEWSLETTER

The Southern Regional Demographic Group, Inc. is a scientific and educational corporation operating under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is comprised of persons with professional interests in demography and population studies. The Newsletter is compiled and edited by Stanley K. Smith, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida.

ANNUAL MEETING HELD

The Southern Regional Demographic Group held its thirteenth annual meeting on October 6-8 in Greensboro, North Carolina. Total registration was 130, an increase of 23 from the 1981 meeting held in Little Rock. A total of 22 sessions were held, including 55 contributed papers, four panel discussions, five luncheon roundtable discussions, the presidential luncheon and the annual business meeting. Special thanks go to President Anne Lee and President-Elect Jeanne Biggar for putting together an excellent program and to Daniel Price for skillfully organizing local arrangements.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETS

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors was held in Greensboro on October 6 and 8. President Anne Lee announced that Daniel O. Price of the University of North Carolina-Greensboro has been elected president-elect of the SRDG and that W. Parker Frisbie of the University of Texas-Austin has been elected to the Board of Directors. Both will begin their terms on November 1, 1982. The Board selected Clifford H. Patrick of the Social Security Administration for the position of vice president of SRDG, also beginning November 1.

Secretary-Treasurer William Serow reported on the sound financial position of the SRDG (see following item). The audit committee, composed of Clifford Patrick and Abbott Ferriss, supported the veracity of the financial report. Current membership of the SRDG was announced as 323, with 194 having already paid 1983 dues.

The Applied Demography Committee of the SRDG, chaired by Julia Martin of the University of Virginia, reported that most of its efforts during the past year were concentrated on planning activities and sessions for the 1982 annual meeting. Some concern was expressed by the Board about the formation of a PAA

Committee on Business Demography. It was agreed that the Applied Demography Committee of the SRDG should attempt to incorporate such interests. The Board voted to allocate \$50.00 to conduct a survey to determine the interests and needs of applied demographers.

The local arrangements committees for the 1983, 1984 and 1985 annual meetings submitted reports. The 1983 meeting will be held on October 19-21 at the Read House in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The 1984 meeting, which had been tentatively scheduled for New Orleans, has been tentatively moved to Orlando, Florida, with Atlanta serving as a back-up site. The 1985 meeting remains scheduled for Annapolis, although no formal arrangements have been made.

The president, with the advice and consent of the Board, appointed a committee to consider the ways in which the SRDG might expand its services to members (see following item). Two SRDG committees were temporarily discontinued: the committee on establishing a federal registry for demographers, pending the emergence of a more favorable atmosphere in Washington; and the membership committee, pending the actions of the membership services committee. In other business, the Board voted to contribute \$100.00 to the Council for Professional Associations of Statistics and to allow the SRDG Newsletter to expand to six or eight pages per issue when necessary to accommodate additional news items.

1983 SRDG MEETING

The 1983 SRDG meeting will be held October 19-21 at the Read House in Chattanooga, Tennessee. President-elect Daniel O. Price is program chairman and Edward Cahill is local arrangements chairman. All SRDG members are invited to send suggestions regarding contributed paper sessions, luncheon roundtable discussions, invited speakers and other activities to Daniel O. Price, Sociology Department, University of North Carolina-Greensboro, Greensboro, NC 27412.

SRDG FINANCIAL REPORT

The SRDG improved its financial position between October 1, 1981 and September 30, 1982, as cash on hand rose from \$4445.53 to \$6657.25. Income and expenditures during the 1982 fiscal year were as follows:

Income

Dues	1630.00
Annual Meeting	2898.00
Interest	466.15
TOTAL	\$4994.15

Expenditures

Annual Meeting	1792.89
Newsletter	490.73
Special Mailings	109.34
Legal Fees	36.00
Contributions	100.00
Archives	15.84
Secretary-Treasurer	137.63
Membership Committee	100.00
TOTAL	\$2782.43

Net Gain \$2211.72

NEW SRDG COMMITTEE

An ad hoc committee on the expansion of SRDG services was appointed by President Anne Lee at the Board of Directors meeting held prior to the 1982 annual meeting in Greensboro. This committee has been instructed to develop ideas on how the SRDG might expand its services to its members. As an example of expanded services, the SRDG might institute workshops or seminars on subjects of special interest to members, such as new analytical techniques, new methods of population estimation or projection, and so forth. These workshops might be held immediately before or after the annual meeting.

The committee solicits ideas and suggestions from members on how the SRDG might provide additional useful services to its members. Ideas and suggestions may be sent to any member of the committee:

- Abbott Ferriss (chair), Sociology Department, Emory University, Atlanta, GA 30322.
- Leon Bouvier, 217 S. Virginia Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22046.
- Julie Martin, Tayloe Murphy Institute, 2015 Ivy Road, Charlottesville, VA 22903.
- Charles Nam, 659 Bellamy Building, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306.
- Daniel Price, Sociology Department, UNC-Greensboro, Greensboro, NC 27412.

JOB MART

Florida State University. The Center for the Study of Population seeks applications for a tenure-track appointment at the assistant professor level, beginning in September 1983. The appointment will be held jointly with the appropriate academic department. Areas of specialization are open, but preference will be given to persons with a micro-orientation and interest in formal demography. Candidates should exhibit substantial research training and evidence of ability to publish and prepare research proposals. Send curriculum vita and names and addresses of three references to David Sly, Director, Center for the Study of Population, Institute for Social Research, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306. Closing date for applications is November 30, 1982.

University of Louisville. The Urban Studies Center, an applied research institute which serves as the official population research and information agency for the State of Kentucky, seeks applications for the position of research demographer. Applicants must hold an advanced degree with specialization in demography and have skills in demographic analysis and the preparation of population estimates and projections. The position includes supervisory responsibilities and provides the opportunity to teach (optional). Starting salary is approximately \$20,000 for a 12-month appointment. Application deadline is December 1, 1982 and starting date is January, 1983. Send curriculum vita and salary history to Personnel Services, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292.

University of Michigan. The Department of Economics and the Population Studies Center seek applicants for a position in Economic Demography, beginning in September 1983. Rank and salary depend on qualifications. Candidates should have training and demonstrated interest in demography and population economics, strength in economic theory and econometrics and evidence of intellectual promise and leadership. Send vita and references to Professor Eva Mueller, Population Studies Center, University of Michigan, 1225 South University, Ann Arbor, MI 48109. Application deadline is December 1, 1982.

University of Michigan. The Department of Sociology and the Population Studies Center seek a population specialist for a tenure-track position, open at all ranks. Area of specialization is open. Strong evidence of excellence in teaching and research is required, with a minimum of three years postdoctoral experience. Send vita, samples of written work and three letters of reference to Professor Martin White, Population Search Committee, Department of Sociology, 3030 LSA Building, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109. Application deadline is December 1, 1982.

COMMENTARY

It seems appropriate, now that we have a new Directory of SRDG members, to examine who we are and whether we have changed. Our first Directory made its appearance at the 1978 annual meeting and provides data for a 5-year comparison. Active membership prior to 1978 is hard to determine. There were no dues and anyone who asked was added to the mailing list, which was rarely purged.

It is striking how little the SRDG appears to have changed since 1978. Each directory lists 313 members and their geographic distribution is not dissimilar. More than half live in the South Atlantic region and about one-third live in the South Central region. Areas with noticeably fewer members are Tennessee (accounted for in part by changes at Oak Ridge) and the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, which still includes nearly a quarter of the membership. Significant growth has occurred outside the South. Persons from non-southern states account for one-sixth of the membership today, compared to only one-tenth in 1978. Membership in Florida has grown rapidly, which is possibly less a reflection of national trends than of the relocation to Florida of our actively-recruiting Secretary-Treasurer.

The appearance of numerical stability masks heavy turnover. Not quite half the members listed in the first directory were still members in 1982. Moreover, in each of the last five years from a quarter to a third of the members have failed to renew. The total number of members has fluctuated since 1978 but it has generally reached a peak around 325 by the time of the annual meeting. That means that those who have dropped their membership have been replaced by new members. Indeed, if everyone who had ever been a member in the last five years were still a member, SRDG would be twice as big as it is now.

What distinguishes those who continue their membership from those who drop is not easy to discern. Some of the attrition might be expected: deaths, retirements or leaving the South (particularly foreign students). Some of the nonrenewals have moved to other parts of the country but at the same time some of our most devoted members are outside the South, often persons with a prior Southern connection who use the annual meeting as an occasion to renew old friendships. Some of the shift outside the South cited above comes from continuing members who have left the region.

One might also expect that lack of participation within the association would contribute to nonrenewal. Using as a measure participation in the annual program, it turns out that two-fifths of our members of five years standing have never been listed on the annual program.

Nonparticipation rates decline as years of membership increase, but roughly half of those who have joined in the last two years have already appeared on a program. The rate of nonparticipation among those not renewing was only 60 percent. In fact, a not uncommon pattern for nonrenewal is to appear on the program once, join at that meeting and then drop within a year or two. It should be noted that long-time members have been among the most active. Nearly a third have appeared on the program in at least three years, and one in ten has been a program participant at each of the last five annual meetings.

What does all this mean for the SRDG? Obviously, some of our membership is extremely dedicated to the SRDG whether they are active or not. Others try us and then drop out. Clearly we cannot be all things to all people, but we are willing to improve. President Biggar and other members of the Board welcome your comments and suggestions about what you think SRDG can do better.

Anne Lee
Athens, GA

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY NOW AVAILABLE

A directory listing names, addresses, telephone numbers and areas of specialization of SRDG members is now available. Members who attended the annual meeting in Greensboro received a copy with their registration materials. Members who did not attend the annual meeting will receive a copy through the mail. All SRDG members are entitled to one free copy; additional copies may be purchased for \$5.00 each. If you have not received a copy, or would like to order additional copies, please contact Bill Serow, Center for the Study of Population, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306, telephone (904) 644-1762.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

All SRDG members are invited to submit items for publication in the Newsletter. News items may include information on job openings; movement of members from one job to another; announcements of seminars, workshops or meetings; and information on new sources of data and new publications. The deadline for submitting items for the February issue of the Newsletter is January 25, 1983. Please send all items to Stanley K. Smith, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, 221 Matherly Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611.

A CALL TO ARMS

During the plenary session of the SRDG meeting in Greensboro, Conrad Taeuber, long-time Associate Director of the Bureau of the Census, highlighted the types of demographic data which will not be collected during the 1980s due to proposed cuts in the President's budget for 1983. Detailed descriptions of these cuts and their consequences are published in "Impact of Budget Cuts on Federal Statistical Programs" (House Report No. 97-41) and "Reorganization and Budget Cut May Jeopardize the Future of the Nation's Statistical System" (House Report No. 97-901). He suggested that demographers who are concerned about these cuts should contact their congressmen with specific recommendations to restore budget support for various programs, and should provide those congressmen with exhibits of the types of analyses which will be lost if such cuts are made. When Congress reconvenes in late November, the budget for fiscal 1983 will be up for final action. If congressmen are to be influenced to restore these funds, action must be taken soon. Demographers, now is the time to stand up and be counted!

PERSONAL NOTES

Mary Kay Healey, formerly with Donnelly Marketing in Stamford, Connecticut, has moved to Marietta, Georgia and is engaged in demographic consulting activities.

Carol Hogue, formerly with the University of Arkansas, has accepted a position with the Family Planning Evaluation Division, Center for Disease Control, in Atlanta.

Grey Swicegood, formerly a graduate student with the Population Research Center at the University of Texas, has taken a post-doctoral fellowship with the Carolina Population Center in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Robert Weller of Florida State University won the 5 kilometer run held October 8 in Greensboro. Rumor has it he was sole participant.

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Center for the Study of Population
Florida State University
Tallahassee, Florida 32306

ANNE S. LEE
165 TIPPERARY ROAD
ATHENS, GA 30606

