



American Economic Association

1989 Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession

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NEWSLETTER

Fall Issue - October 1989

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Can you believe that in just over two months we will enter the last decade of the 20th century! The CSWEP board and the newsletter staff wish you the very best of holiday seasons and a productive New Year.

ON CSWEP AND CSWEP ACTIVITIES

Shulamit Kahn

Even though you receive the newsletters prepared by the Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession (CSWEP), you may not know how CSWEP is run or about its other activities. CSWEP is a voluntary group of economists, most of whom are women. It is managed by a Board that is a committee of the AEA and its activities are funded jointly by membership dues and the AEA. Board members and the Chair are appointed by the President of the AEA, based on recommendations of the current Board. Several criteria are used, including willingness to volunteer time for Board work; professional stature; diversity of fields; geographic areas and sector (academic or government/business); and specialties needed for particular CSWEP projects. Members serve on the Board for three years in overlapping terms.

The Board identifies and works on various projects designed to further women's status in the economics profession. Some of these projects are ongoing, others are one-time undertakings. This Newsletter is one of the most demanding of our ongoing activities.

CSWEP's Board regularly organizes several sessions at the AEA meetings. Some of these sessions are on gender-related topics to promote this area of economic research, while others relate to a theme chosen by the Board for the year that is in keeping with the overall plans of the President-elect. The theme chosen for the 1989 meetings was "Theory and Applications in Industrial Organization." For the December 1990 meetings, the planned area is "Science, Technology and Productivity." (For more details on submission to either the science/technology/productivity sessions or the gender-related sessions, see the separate announcement in this Newsletter.)

In addition to these sessions, CSWEP sponsors other events to promote "networking" at the December meetings, notably a hospitality suite for people to meet or relax and a reception. At regional meetings, CSWEP sponsors technical sessions and receptions.

Another ongoing project of CSWEP is maintaining the **Roster of Women Economists**. Every few years, CSWEP publishes these names in hard copy and distributes it to its membership. Recently, we have been using the Roster in other ways to widen women's exposure and opportunities within the economics profession. Upon request and for a nominal charge, we supply potential employers, organizers of advisory panels and conferences, and the like, with specialized lists made by searching the computerized Roster. (Of course, members of CSWEP are given the option of excluding their names from these lists.) We also send lists of women working in the relevant field to all organizers of AEA sessions for the December meetings. Since these lists can pinpoint characteristics such as fields of specialization, length of time since the economist received a Ph.D., and number of publications, they can be a particularly useful way of promoting the consideration of women in situations when informal "old boy" networks may fail. We are presently informing faculty chairs, state government officials, and employers advertising in Job Openings for Economists (JOE) and the CSWEP Newsletter about the Roster by letter.

CSWEP's current projects focus on the advancement of women within the economics profession. One is investigating how women's participation on the programs of the annual AEA meetings has changed over time, while a second project is examining patterns of promotion of women compared with men within academic departments. Future Newsletters will report on these and other studies.

The CSWEP Board consists of only 12 people, which limits both the time available for CSWEP projects and the perspectives on how to best help women to advance in the economics profession. We welcome suggestions for additional projects that CSWEP might undertake and volunteers. Send suggestions to Nancy Gordon at the address on the back cover.

