Greetings Iowa High-school physics teachers…

My name is Nathan Quarderer and I am acting president of the Iowa section of the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) for the 2015 calendar year. Let me start by thanking you for taking the time to open this email message during such a busy time of year! I hope your semester is off to a great start and your students are back from their breaks fully energized and ready to learn.

I am beginning my fifth year as a member of the Arts and Science Department at Northeast Iowa Community College, Calmar campus. In addition to teaching physics, I also teach a few sections of math, as well as environmental science. While I’m lucky to have the opportunity to wear many hats, the one I enjoy wearing the most is the one that says ‘PHYSICS’ and I credit my membership to, and participation in, AAPT-sponsored meetings and workshops in helping to keep me interested in physics teaching and exposing me to a wonderful community of fellow physics teachers. As the sole member of the physics ‘department’ on my small, rural, campus I rely on the relationships I have developed with other physics teachers from around the country, but particularly in our own home state, to discuss physics teaching ideas.

With this in mind, I want to take a minute to personally invite you to our annual section meeting of the AAPT, happening Saturday, November 7, at the Central Academy in Des Moines, Iowa. Thank you Sara Karbeling for agreeing to be our local host this fall!! The meeting will begin at 9:00 AM and coffee, doughnuts, fruit, and other snacks will be provided. Registration for this meeting is $7 which will help to cover these costs.

The morning sessions will include opening remarks, an update from our chapter representative (Prof. John Zwart – Dordt College – Sioux Center, Iowa), comments from those who attended this summer’s national meeting in College Park, MD, and any other pertinent information from the national AAPT office. The remainder of the time before lunch, will consist of presentations. We are currently seeking proposals and abstracts from any of you who might be interested in giving a short (8 min) talk about things that you and your students are doing in the physics classroom. This could be anything from a lab activity that you have designed, research projects you or your students are working on, or something you picked up at another workshop or professional development experience. Anything relevant you can think of that you’d like to share with the broader community of physics teachers in the state of Iowa would be great and we would love to hear from you. If you’re interested in presenting please submit your abstract by Oct. 19th, 2015. We’re also in the process of looking for a Keynote speaker to give a longer (~30 minute) talk. If you or anyone you know might be a good candidate, feel free to send them our way. Be sure to include any special needs you might have related to technology. PowerPoint and internet access will be available, along with a USB drive. Please supply your own power cords, and adapters if you plan on using your own laptop.

Following the presentations, we will eat lunch together. Your response to this invitation will dictate what we end up doing for lunch, so please RSVP to this invitation by Oct. 19, 2015 so that we can get an idea of our potential headcount. We will update you as to our decision for lunch once we have a better understanding of how many people will be in attendance.

After lunch we will have our annual section board meeting, and hold elections to determine officers for 2016. Section officers in attendance should attend this meeting and participate in elections. This meeting is also open to the general audience and your participation is welcome.

I should mention that presenting is not required (but it is strongly encouraged) and membership to AAPT is also not a prerequisite to attend our state section meeting. If you just want to come, hang out, listen to the presentations, and have some coffee…that is fine! Simply attending this meeting will be an excellent opportunity for you to meet new people, catch up with old friends, and network with other physics teachers from around the state. In a place like Iowa, where we are spread out, often working in small districts, we have the tendency to feel isolated and alone. Don’t let this happen to you! Please, come say ‘hello’ and introduce yourself. We would love to see you in Des Moines, on November 7.

On behalf of the other members of our section officer team, thank you for taking the time to read this and please consider attending our section meeting. If this message was delivered to you in error, but you know of physics teachers in your building or on your campus that might benefit from this, please feel free to forward our message on to them. We hope to see all of you at the Central Academy!

Nathan Quarderer (President – AAPT Iowa Section), (BS Physics/Astronomy ’05, MS Civil/Environmental Engineering ’10,)

GO HAWKS!!

IAAPT Webpage = <http://faraday.physics.uiowa.edu/IAAPT_index.htm>