

## New AMS Membership Survey

David D. Houghton

*Chair, Education and Human Resources Commission*

As the work force broadens to meet the needs of the nation, there has been an increased sensitivity to workplace and human resource issues—hiring of disabled workers, affirmative action programs, provisions for day care, etc. In an effort to acquire information on issues in the workplace for the atmospheric and related sciences professional community, the AMS is enclosing a survey with the 1993 dues statement that you will receive soon.

You may recall that a survey of the AMS membership was also made in 1990. It had a high response (72% of the membership completed it) and has been very useful in establishing the demographics of the Society. Results of the 1990 survey have been published by Vincent (1991, *Bulletin*, 983–1000) and by Stephens and Kazarosian (1992, *Bulletin*, 486–495). This current survey has some similarities to the survey done in 1990, which will allow some comparative analysis and stratification of the survey into demographic groups, but it includes additional questions designed to address a variety of issues faced in the workplace by our members.

The new survey was designed by the AMS Board on Women and Minorities under the direction of its chair, Susan Zevin. Many of the questions were originally designed around issues faced in the workplace by women, minorities, and the disabled, but it is

acknowledged that all workers are affected by hiring and promotional practices, the availability of day-care facilities, and cultural diversity in the workplace, to name a few. It is wise, therefore, to survey the entire membership on its views and experiences. The AMS hopes to use the responses from the survey to create an information base on these issues that can be used to further AMS responsiveness to its members and as a resource for members participating in the formulation of workplace policy. It is also hoped that comparison between the 1990 survey responses on the demographic questions and those in the new survey will provide some information on the way our membership and the fields represented by the Society are changing.

Unlike the previous survey, this survey allows the respondents to remain completely anonymous since it is printed on a separate sheet from the dues statement and can be returned in its own envelope. We hope this will allow the members to feel comfortable in answering questions that they may feel are sensitive. It is very important that we obtain a good response from the membership so that the statistical results of the survey are valid. Therefore, we strongly encourage you to take the 15 minutes required to complete and return the survey.

