

## THE ANTARCTICAN SOCIETY Washington, D. C.

The Antarctic Society was organized in the autumn of 1959 at the suggestion of the Honorable Paul C. Daniels by a group of persons interested in Antarctica. In the words of its by-laws, the Society "is non-profit making and non-political." It is expressly enjoined by the same by-laws from any attempt to influence legislation or policy. The Society exists to facilitate the exchange of friendly and informal views about the Antarctic,

To attain this objective the Society holds four or five meetings a year. Usually, there will be a program consisting of a speaker or speakers, or perhaps a film will be shown. The latter have varied from those depicting the most recent events to historical items such as the films of the second Scott expedition (1911-1914). Programs usually are short, and the members are given ample opportunity to meet and discuss matters of common interest. One meeting a year, with suitable refreshments, has been devoted almost entirely to this pleasurable activity. The key note of the Society has been informality.

The Antarctic Society is headed by a president elected by the members. Past presidents have been Dr. Carl EkLund, Dr. Paul A. Siple, and Mr. Gordon D. Cartwright, all of whom are distinguished scientists and explorers. The routine activities of the Society are administered by a Board of Directors, composed of 12 persons, four of whom are elected each year. More important matters are referred to the members at business meetings.

The membership is presently made up of more than 200 persons representative of the diverse groups interested in Antarctica: scientists, diplomats, support personnel, administrators, and the public. There are women as well as men, for the only requirement to become a member is an interest in the area.

To apply for entrance into the society it is sufficient to write a letter expressing this interest to the Treasurer-Membership Secretary, presently Mr. Fred G. Alberts, enclosing \$1.00 initiation fee plus \$2.00 annual dues. (A sample letter, which may be signed and forwarded to Mr. Alberts, is attached,)

The funds of the Society are used for mailing out notices and other material to members, renting a meeting place, and for other necessary expenses.

Since the Society has adhered strictly to its objective of informality and has not sought to publicize itself, it is felt that many persons interested in Antarctica may not be aware of its existence. Those who would like to avail themselves of the opportunity to meet and talk with other persons possessing a common interest in the area are invited to do so.

Mr. Fred G. Alberts  
Office of Geography  
Department of the Interior  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Alberts:

My attention has been directed to the Antarctic Society as an organization dedicated to the friendly and informal exchange of views about Antarctica. Since I am interested in developments in this important area, I would like to join the Society. For that purpose, I am enclosing a check for \$3.00, payable to you, to cover the initiation fee of \$1.00 plus annual dues of \$2.00.

Notices should be sent to me at the following address:

Name  
Street  
City, State

Sincerely,