

SECRETARY'S NEWSLETTER

September 15, 1972

MEETING WITH AMA:

Mr. Godkins, Dr. Alfred Sadler (President, American Registry of Physician's Associates) and I met with representatives of the AMA at AMA headquarters on August 29. The purpose of the meeting was to formally present the Academy to the appropriate AMA officials and request recognition of the American Academy of Physician's Associates as an appropriate professional organization to represent physician's assistants on the joint review committee.

Mr. Godkins and I presented the history and current goals of the Academy. Dr. Sadler explained the relationship between the Academy and the Registry.

Although not openly expressed, it was the feeling of the three of us that the AMA Staff was impressed with the Academy, its history and its growth potential. We were cautioned, however, that it would be extremely difficult for the AMA to formally recognize any organization with an elitist membership base and it was the consensus recommendation of the AMA staff members that we consider expanding the membership base of the Academy to include individuals who are students in or will be graduates of AMA approved programs and also to include a provision in the by-laws to accept people into membership who have successfully passed the National Board of Medical Examiners Certification Examination. We feel that this is an important issue for the membership to consider very carefully as obviously recognition by the AMA is imperative if the organization is to grow as it should. If because of our limited membership we were not to become the organization recognized by the AMA as representing Physician's Assistants, I am concerned that the Academy would cease to function.

The AMA meeting will be discussed with the Board of Directors at the next meeting, and following that meeting we may be coming back to you to make appropriate decisions regarding by-law changes.

ON THE ORGANIZATIONAL SCENE:

In a recent ballot the Board of Directors has approved the following individuals to serve on the Board of Advisors: Richard G. Rosen, M.D., A. William Horsley, M.D., Don E. Detmer, M.D., Thomas E. Piemme, M.D., and William L. Stewart, M.D. All of the new members of the Board of Advisors are men who are extremely knowledgeable about the concept and utilization of the physician's assistant and are also in critical positions on the national scene.

In the same ballot the Board of Directors also approved four new student chapters which are as follows: Alderson-Broadbudds (H.C. Myers Society), Baylor (Robert J. Luchi Society), Northeastern Student Society, and University of Oklahoma (A.W. Horsley Society). Tom Godkins and I recently visited the outstanding Air Force

P.A. Program and the appropriate steps are now being taken for the development of a student chapter. Recruiting efforts are under way to develop student chapters at many new programs which have recently come into existence. We will certainly keep you posted as new chapters are approved. On the basis of projections of the assumed enrollment at these new programs as well as of enrollment in the existing student chapters, it may be possible to have a total membership, including graduates and students, of approximately one thousand by the time of the annual meeting.

On September 15th and 16th there will be a joint meeting of the American Registry of Physician's Associates and the American Academy of Physician's Associates with the officers from the Academy participating in the Registry meeting and the officers from the Registry participating in the Academy Board meeting. We feel that this meeting, set up through the efforts of Mr. Godkins and Mr. Moson (President-Elect) and Dr. Sadler (current President of the Registry), should be extremely informative and many areas of common interest will be fully explored.

The finance committee under the direction of Mr. Jarrett Wise (Treasurer) is in the process of preparing grants which will enable us to compete for monies to allow the Academy to undertake some evaluations of the effectiveness of the various training programs, profiles of its members and geographical distribution of the membership. If we are successful in negotiating these grants, it might mean the Academy could expect some secretarial assistance. Mr. Godkins has also instructed the financial committee to aggressively pursue money from private sources, i.e. foundations for money to run the organization and to develop a position of executive secretary.

Unfortunately, Mr. Russell Lawrence has resigned as editor of the Journal because of the extent of his other professional commitments. The Board of Directors has accepted this resignation with deep regrets and serious concerns. We feel that Mr. Lawrence has done an outstanding job in developing a fine Journal in the relatively short period of time that he has had the editorial responsibility. At the direction of Mr. Godkins, Paul Moson and myself will be jointly assuming editorial responsibility for the Journal until such time as the search committee can find a person who is willing to assume the challenges of the position as editor of the Journal. If you are interested or know of a graduate P.A. who is interested in assuming this very challenging and also very rewarding position, please contact either Paul or myself at your earliest convenience.

The October issue of the Journal will contain the proceedings of the Fourth Annual Duke Conference. The October issue will represent a slight change in editorial philosophy for the Journal's contents. We feel that to better serve you and make the Journal a financial asset rather than a financial liability we will need to expand our subscription base. To do so we will be devoting more space in the Journal to articles relating to the issues surrounding the physician's associate concept. We certainly would encourage, in fact we are pleading with you, to submit articles to us regarding the scope and nature of your practice, your relationship with other health personnel or any studies regarding your daily activities which have been done or are in progress.

The Fourth Annual meeting of the Academy will be held in conjunction with the meetings of the American Registry of Physician's Associates and the Fifth Annual conference on Physician's Associates. This will be at Wichita Falls, Texas in early April. If you have any ideas or recommendations regarding the content of the Academy's annual meeting, Mr. Godkins or I would certainly welcome your recommendations. We will also be looking for committee assistance with the annual conference and would welcome any volunteers to step forward.

The results of the By-Law proxy completed late in June are as follows:

By-Laws

Accept	<u>26</u>
Reject	<u>4</u>
Abstentions	<u>2</u>

Place of Meeting

(Time and place of meeting to be established by Board of Directors)

Accept	<u>29</u>
Reject	<u>0</u>
Abstentions	<u>3</u>

The insurance package which was discussed at our annual conference in April has been extensively reviewed by the Board of Directors and a final decision regarding this package may be made at the forthcoming Board of Directors Meeting. The proposed cost of this insurance proposal would raise our dues to \$100.00 per annum. Because of this high cost with a relatively low yield to subscribers, it may be necessary for the Board of Directors to poll you by proxy to see if you are indeed interested in the packages which are currently available to us. Mr. Godkins has asked the Board of Advisors for their recommendations or their opinions of the insurance package and several of our Board of Advisors have replied that they feel that the Academy's membership base is not at this time large enough for us to profitably assume the contractual obligations of such an insurance package.

This newsletter as with the previous newsletters has been put together in an attempt to keep the membership informed of the progress of the Academy under the very able direction of the current Board of Advisors. It is imperative that we get some feedback from each individual member. This is a democratic organization and each member of the Board of Directors has a deep personal conviction that he or she should do the very best job possible to represent all of the members. However, we cannot represent members who do not make their wishes known to us, nor can communications continue to be a one way street. Please contact any member of the Board of Directors if you have any questions or feelings regarding any of the things which have been discussed in this newsletter. I will do my best to keep you informed as the National Board of Medical Examiners continues to make progress toward the development of a national certification examination for Physician's Assistants.

Bill
William D. Stanhope
Secretary
American Academy of Physician's Associates