

NATIONAL MEETING

All student members should have by now received or had access to the Monteleone Hotel reservation forms, the program brochure of the Conference and its attached registration form. Reservations at the Monteleone must be in three weeks prior to the opening date of the convention (March 27) and reservations can be made by writing direct to: Reservation Manager, The Monteleone Hotel, New Orleans, La. 70140. Registration fees (\$35.00 AAPA Student Member only, \$50.00 Student and Spouse) should be mailed to: Mr. James Bartow, Physician's Assistant Program, c/o Medical Service-V.A.H. 2002 Holcomb Blvd, Houston, Tx 77031, with checks payable to: SECOND NATIONAL CONFERENCE. Unfortunately by the time this Newsletter reaches you, conference time will be close at hand and hotel reservations may be at a premium. Two changes in the program have been made: 1) AAPA Business Meeting and election changed from March 30 to March 29 from 9:00 - 12:00 am. 2) A Board of Directors meeting will be March 29 from 4:30 - 6:00 with new fellow and student members attending.

STUDENT ELECTIONS

A student caucus and election of officers has been scheduled for 1:30 - 4:30 pm, Friday March 29. However, plans for conducting this election have not been finalized, but by the time you receive this correspondence, the election committee may have a memorandum in the mail to your society president concerning the election. For your information and at the risk of being presumptuous, the following proposals are receiving consideration:

1. The student elections be run by an Election Committee composed of a Chairman, the National Student President, and the National Student Secretary. Mr. Charles Clark of Duke has already been appointed to the post of Chairman.
2. Nominations be made by self declaration, verbal or written and submitted to the Election committee at a designated time prior to the scheduled election.
3. One representative per society will have one vote per office and he or she as well will be eligible for office according to preestablished criteria drawn up by the Election Committee.
4. The vote be by secret ballot.
5. The student representative must be a first year student and a dues paid member to be eligible for office and voting privileges. Other details are yet to be agreed upon by the Election Committee and may not be completely resolved until we meet in New Orleans.

Society Presidents are reminded to forward the name of you duly chosen student representative, who will be the voting member from your Society, to Mr. John McElligott at Duke University before March 1, 1974.

NATIONAL OFFICE

Alas, the National Office, AAPA-APAP, is scheduled to open in May. Mr. Don Fisher, Ph.D. from the University of Mississippi, P.A. Program will serve as Executive Director of the National Office and Jointly coordinate activities of the American Academy of Physician's Assistants and the Association of Physician Assistant Programs. The office will be run by Mr. Fisher, an administrative assistant and a full time secretary. New by-laws are being drawn up to pave way for the change in tax status which will then make it possible to use the grants necessary to establish our part of the combined National Office. Members of the by-laws committee are: Mr. Jim Konopa, Carl Fasser, Jarrett Wise, Charles Parks and Don Fisher.

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CERTIFICATION OF PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANTS

At the November 28 meeting in Chicago, representatives from fourteen various medical organizations reviewed the "Proposals for a National Commission on Certification of Physician's Assistants" and approved of or agreed upon the following:

1. Name - approved the title "National Commission on Certification of Physician's Assistants.
2. Purpose - Purpose of the Commission would be to safeguard patients and potential employers by maintaining high professional and ethical standards in the profession of physician's assistants through recognition of those achieving and maintaining appropriate knowledge and skill in the field, and to safeguard properly qualified workers by providing them with nationally validated evidence of their competency, thus facilitating geographic and career mobility.
3. Administration - a) The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology stated that they supported the concept of the commission but felt they should decline participation in the Commission because of their commitment to developing alternative manpower categories as physician extenders.
b) The American Nurses Association decided they would lend support contingent on the assumption that there would be no pressures on nurses, but that the certification procedure would be available for their use.
c) The American College of Surgeons supported the principle and desire to participate with the proviso that surgeons' assistants be represented in the Commission's governing body and further felt that essentials for the surgeon's assistant be approved by the AMA and a suitable certifying exam be developed for this specialty group.

It was agreed that each of the following 13 organizations appoint one representative to the Board of Directors (the controlling body made up of a President and other soon to be elected officers): American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Physicians, American College of Surgeons, American Hospital Association, American Nurses Association, American Society of Internal Medicine, American Medical Association Association of American Medical Colleges, Association of Physician's Assistant Programs, U.S. Department of Defense, Federation of State Medical Boards of the U.S., and National Board of Medical Examiners.

It was also agreed upon that the American Academy of Physician's Assistants appoint five representatives. Those AAPA Members proposed to fill these positions are: 1) President of AAPA, 2) Past President AAPA, 3) Chairman

Of the CME, 4) A MEDEX, AAPA, representative, and 5) a Surgical P.A. the decision as to who would fill these slots was tentatively submitted at the January 19 AAPA Board of Directors meeting. Three other members at large will be appointed to the Commission's Board of Directors.

4. Functions. The Commission has agreed that:

- a. Establishment of pass-fail levels would be the joint responsibility of the Commission and the NBME. (National Board of Medical Examiners)
- b. Eligibility criteria for the examination would be the responsibility of the Commission with cooperation of the NBME.
- c. Any physician signing a P.A.'s application should be endorsed by his state board of medical examiners.
- d. Difficulties would erupt in assigning a title to a "certified Physician's assistant" as one alternative.
- e. Recertification be based on intervals longer than one year.
- f. There is a need for a revocation and appeal mechanism within the Commission for those P.A.'s who have certification revoked or are refused renewal.
- g. The Commission be able to investigate upon request the eligibility of a certified physician's assistant for practice in a specific state.
- h. Examination updating and review should be performed by a test committee of the NBME with input from the Commission.
- i. The Commission would publicize and enlist the assistance of other groups in publicizing the availability, prerequisites, and administration schedule of the examination. It would attempt through appropriate means to secure acceptance and support of the certification procedure from state and local medical societies, licensing authorities, educational institutions, government agencies, and the public.
- j. On request, the Commission would explore and make recommendation extending examination and certification to physicians assistants functioning in specialty areas other than that of primary care.

The first meeting of the Commission will be in March at which time the Board of Directors will elect officers and administrative functions will be gotten underway.

Expense for P.A.'s wishing to take the exam was discussed at the January 19 Board of Directors meeting. It was proposed that the following expenses might be incurred:

Application fee:	\$25.00	-	\$50.00
Fee for certificate			10.00
Fee for taking exam			55.00
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	\$90.00		\$115.00 total

The recertification fee might be as much as \$30 every two years. These previously quoted figures are to be taken as only proposals for the present time, however.

Although we have no official documented figures to pass on to you concerning the results of the first NBME exam, the echos of stalwart disapproval on the part of many who took the exam would certainly make the figure of \$115 and unrealistic one unless the content of the exam is changed. There is a spot reserved during the morning session, March 28, concerning the first exam, and this should be of interest to all.

PHYSICIANS PLANNING SERVICE

It is being recommended to student and Fellow members that they make application for membership to the Physicians Planning Service, National Association of Professions on a volunteer basis. Since the total Academy membership has not yet reached the magnitude which would make feasible a group insurance package for its members, members can join on an individual basis until such time when a group package becomes available. After research into this firm, the Academy Board of Directors has found PPS to be reputable and a provider of the types of insurance coverage of interest to physicians assistant students and graduate, and has requested PPS to mail informational brochures to AAPA members. You should soon be receiving this material by mail.

STUDENT BUSINESS AT JANUARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

Those items brought to the floor by Mr. John McElligott and Mr. Dave Terp and affirmatively agreed upon by the Board of Directors were as follows:

1. The Student Executive Board would draw up a budget for the next fiscal year with Mr. Don Fisher. This budget will be drawn up within the margin of the recently established student account.
2. The Student President will be on the goals and priority committee.
3. The Academy President Elect will be present at the student caucus, National meeting time.
4. The President should if at all possible correspond on a regular basis with student societies.
5. One student at large will be a guest at each Board of Directors meeting at the expense of the national student account.
6. Although no specifics have been formulated, the suggestion that BOD members visit societies in their respective geographic area was discussed.

QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY FROM LAST NEWSLETTER

There have been a very limited number of questionnaires returned at the time of this writing, but they continue to flow in. The purpose of the questionnaire was twofold: 1. To aid the student board in knowing what basic informational material Society Presidents are lacking and 2. To ascertain whether members are receiving the very minimum information as well as open the opportunity for constructive suggestions. Conclusions from this rather crude survey thus far indicate:

1. The majority of society presidents responding do not have a student society roster or president roster, Academy Bylaws, BOD minutes, List of Academy Board of Directors, Information on the new Commission of Certification, adequate supply of brochures and membership application forms.

2. About 50% of respondents have not yet received the Summer Volume of the P.A. Journal and the vast majority did not receive the other items listed.

The following plans will be considered by the Student Board and acted upon soon:

- A. All society presidents will have in their possession:
 1. Society Roster and President Roster
 2. Copy of the Academy Bylaws
 3. Adequate supply of brochures and membership forms
- B. Society Presidents should be receiving BOD minutes, but due to the horrendous amount of paper work already confronting Bill Stanhope, our expectations in this area as well as communication in general will have to await the soon to be functioning National Office.
- C. As for the Journal, the names and addresses of those respondents who did not receive the summer issue will be forwarded to the Editor Dr. Don Detmer.
- D. PPS brochures concerning insurance will be handled by PPS as stated earlier.
- E. A letter will be written to Mr. Paul Toth requesting that he send his CME brochure to each society president.

Examples of some of the comments and suggestions sent in by students include:

"Publish continuing education programs and acquire and publish employment opportunities."

"The National Board should meet with each society once per year."

"More frequent communication would help."

"Would like to become more involved in the Academy. How may I be of assistance?"

OTHER ITEMS:

1. According to Mr. Bill Stanhope, American Hospitals Association's stand on P.A. employment in hospitals will be finalized and out by May of this year.
2. At the last Board meeting the "Essentials of an Approved Educational Program for the Assistant to the Primary Care Physician" by the AMA Council on Medical Education was distributed to board members for consideration and approval. Once fully approved, Bill Stanhope will compose a letter of acceptance and if all parties are in agreement the AAPA will be an organizational member on the Joint Review Committee along with the American Academy of Family Physician's, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Physicians, and the American Society of Internal Medicine.
3. A proposal is being drawn up by Carl Fasser, Jarrett Wise, Paul Moson, and Mr. Don Fisher to be submitted to the Department of Labor for the purpose of obtaining a grant to do research on P.A. utilization.
4. A warm thanks to Mr. Paul Moson, Academy President, for spending a day in Fort Wayne with Indiana University P.A. students and faculty. We enjoyed his visit and appreciated his interest in coming to Fort Wayne to talk with us.

NATIONAL JOB PLACEMENT

A continual subject of interest to all is that of jobs and salary. As mentioned in the last Newsletter, the MEDEX Communication Center in Seattle Washington is probably the most active firm with respect to nationwide placement of P.A.'s and MEDEX as well as other allied health professionals, e.g. lab workers, ambulance personnel, respiratory therapists, etc. This is a computer based center that attempts to match information provided by persons seeking employment with the needs of the prospective employer. For those who write the Center they will receive 1. Communication Center Information pamphlet, 2. An application form and 3. A current bulletin listing positions available in allied health professions.

The Center is funded through the Bureau of Health Manpower, HEW and now provides a basically free placement assistance service for medically trained personnel. Unfortunately there is current information to the effect that the center's funding will be cut in April and thusly place this worthwhile service in jeopardy. What will happen after April is left to mere speculation for the present. Address: MEDEX Communication Center
444 N. E. Ravenna Blvd. Room 203
Seattle, Washington 98115

In concluding this Newsletter, the members of the Student Board wish to thank the Board of Directors and the membership for their cooperation in making this a very productive year. We'll look forward to meeting with many of you in New Orleans and for those of you unable to attend an appropriate suggestion would be to meet with your student representative and outline items which you would like discussed at the spring conference.