

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PHYSICIANS' ASSOCIATES

SECRETARY'S NEWSLETTER #3

Journal: As you are all aware the Academy's Journal is again late coming off the press. The copy was slightly delayed getting to the publisher, and the publisher was more than slightly delayed in getting the Journal printed and distributed. We hope that these problems with the Journal will soon be resolved as the Board of Directors has approved the appointment of Dr. Don Detmer as the new Editor-In-Chief at the November Board Meeting. Dr. Detmer has suggested a name change for the Journal to The P.A. Journal. We are open to suggestions regarding the name of the Journal, and I would appreciate it if you would let me know if you have any ideas regarding the Journal's name.

Social Security: We have been "unofficially" informed that the Social Security Administration is preparing to reimburse physicians for services performed by their assistants. This will initially cover all current graduates and will be on an experimental basis.

Research: The Board of Directors is most concerned about the proliferation of "research" on the graduate Physician's Assistants at various levels of professional competence ranging from "Please Tell Me Everything I Need To Know About P.A.'s As I Am Doing A Highschool Term Paper" to "Enclosed You Will Find A Copy Of A Research Questionnaire Which I Need You To Complete For My Ph.D. Thesis".

In an effort to curb this practice and also to coordinate the various research activities the Academy President has appointed a Research Review Committee to be chaired by Mr. C. Emil Fasser. The functions of this committee are as follows: (a) Review proposals for evaluating graduate and student Physician's Assistants, (b) Coordination of data collection, (c) Administration of approved survey on semiannual basis, and (d) Tabulation and categorizing the results of completed study. Although this committee has been established to attempt to reduce the number of requests for participation going to the individual members, the establishment of this committee would in no way prohibit an investigator from approaching Academy members on an individual basis and requesting their participation irrespective of action taken by the Review Committee. This committee will offer an advantage to the members in that it will attempt to separate the "wheat from the chaff", and members can be certain that studies approved by the committee will be valid studies necessary to further define the field.

Finances: As the membership base increases daily we are growing more affluent than ever before.

Unencumbered cash on hand - \$ 1,000
Anticipated 1973 Budget - \$18,000

It has become increasingly apparent to the Officers and the Board of Directors that the Academy has reached the point where it can no longer be dependent upon voluntary contributions of time, office supplies, and postage currently being made by the various members of the Board of Directors.

The Treasurer has been instructed to develop an anticipatory budget to reflect the costs of hiring an executive secretary for the Academy, and establishing and equipping a permanent office. Realizing that it is impossible to expect to fund these endeavors from dues base, three significant grants are in various stages of completion. One is a grant which has been submitted to the Department of Labor which would provide funds for an evaluation of who and where the P.A.'s are located. We are in the process of writing a grant for submission to the Bureau of Health Manpower to sponsor regional workshops to train physicians in the utilization of Physician's Assistants. We are in the process of requesting a significant sum of money from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for the development and evaluation of a model continuing medical education program for Physician's Assistants. It is anticipated that the overhead from these grants could be used to sustain portions of the operating expenses.

Mr. Paul Toth has been working diligently to come up with rational guidelines for meeting the post-graduate education requirements now specified by the By-Laws. In the near future Mr. Toth will be mailing a copy of these guidelines to you for your consideration.

Paul is also developing a list of self-study programs which are now available or could be made available at a nominal cost to members who are unable to travel to many meetings.

Annual Conference: This will serve as the official call for the Annual Meeting as requested in the By-Laws. The Annual Meeting this year will be held in conjunction with the First National Conference on Health Practitioners being jointly sponsored by the Association of Physician Assistant Programs and the American Academy of Physicians' Associates. The meetings are being hosted by the United States Air Force Physician's Assistant Program at Wichita Falls, Texas. The National Conference will begin Tuesday evening, April 10th and will run through Thursday evening. Friday, April 13th, has been set aside for continuing medical education for all members of the Academy. This will be followed by the Annual Meeting of the Academy which will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. Please put the dates from April 10th - April 16th on your calendar. I can assure you that this will be a most exciting and dynamic conference, and I think you will find the continuing education program to be most profitable for you.

Relations: As you are no doubt aware one of the primary goals of the Academy has always been the development of a close and effective working relationship with the American Medical Association and other components of organized medicine. It is only within the past five months that we have seen what I would consider to be any kind of a dialogue developing between the Academy and the various concerned components of the American Medical Association. As you know Dr. Sadler, Mr. Godkins, and I met with the various staff members of the American Medical Association on September 29th and is evident by the attached summary of that meeting things went relatively well.

The Board of Directors now finds itself between the proverbial rock and a hard place. The American Medical Association perhaps justifiably

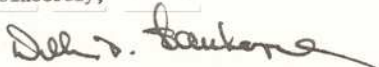
does not want to involve itself with more than one organization purporting to represent P.A.'s, and because of the multiplicity of organizations has been moving slowly albeit steadily forward in its dealings with graduate P.A.'s. It has been stated several times that if there was one reputable organization of graduates things could be farther along. To meet these ends the American Medical Association has been encouraging a merger between the Academy and the American College of Physicians' Assistants.

Several of the members of the Academy are very vocal in protesting that such a merger would violate the sanctity of the Academy and are predicting the dissolution of our organization if such a merger takes place. The Board of Directors after a long and heated discussion unanimously without a single dissenting vote agreed to move forward to develop such a merger.

The matter as I see it is now most appropriately in the responsible hands of the voting membership. I feel that if we are to seize this unique opportunity (in time) and go on to become the organization representing middle level medical workers then we better get with it. On the other hand, if we are going to remain an elite fraternity that's fine, then let's stop kidding ourselves, let's recognize the Academy as an elite fraternity, decide what color the school tie is going to be, and announce our abdication of responsibility to the world.

Board of Directors 1973-74: Within the next two months a call will be made for nomination of Officers for the next year. It must be emphatically stated that we need a continuing infusion of fresh talent on the Board. I would, however, urge each candidate to honestly evaluate his total potential resources. When our term ends there will have been Board Meetings which take time away from work and depending on the location are expensive. The work which is generated by the dynamics of the organization are staggering and difficult to appreciate as an observer. Without the physical, fiscal, and moral support of our employers it would have been impossible for us to make any of the limited gains made so far. To these understanding employers Thank You. To the potential candidates Welcome.

Sincerely,



William D. Stanhope, Secretary
American Academy of Physicians' Associates