

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors and Membership  
American Academy of Physician's Associates

FROM: Committee on Relations with Other Organizations

DATE: February 10, 1972

SUBJECT: Report of meetings with the  
National Association of Physician's  
Assistants and the American Association of  
Physician's Assistants.

January 24, 1972 - John Braun, as a special representative of the AAPA appointed by the president, met with representatives of the National Association of Physician's Assistants. The purpose of the meeting was to explore the commonalities of the two organizations and to establish an effective relationship between the two. Mr. Burt Ianpher, Mr. Bill Armstrong and Mr. Max Condiotti represented NAPA.

A copy of a brochure describing NAPA is attached. Their organization is basically designed to give the physician's assistant representation as a professional. At the present time their membership consists of graduates from the Staten Island Public Health Service Physician's Assistant Program. However, they are actively involved in the planning stages at other P.A. training programs. Their organization is not "exclusive". However, they are very much in favor of high standards for membership qualifications.

The basic goals of the AAPA were presented to them. It was explained that the AAPA is very much in favor of working closely with any

organization that is concerned with the improvement of the health care system.

The results of the meeting were definitely positive. It is felt that the two organizations do have many common characteristics. Both agreed that further efforts should be made to link them in one form or another.

One suggestion is that the AAPA entertain the idea of inviting the members of NAPA to become "associate members". This is because they do not actually qualify as Fellows in terms of their formal training. As associate members they could contribute much to the AAPA. They would have a voice in general meetings but no vote. Eventually, perhaps other arrangements for membership could be made.

Another option that could be considered is to formally organize a joint commission of the AAPA - NAPA. This would provide a link of communication that could direct any actions toward a common goal.

The NAPA is in favor of either option. All members of the AAPA should qualify for membership in the NAPA.

This committee has tentatively extended an invitation to them to attend our annual conference to be held in April, 1972. However, this decision has to be made by the Board of Directors. An article, written by John Braun, has been published in their first journal. It gives an overview of the AAPA in terms of the history and goals of our organization.

January 26, 1972 - John Braun and Paul Moson met with representatives of the American Association of Physician's Assistants. The purpose of this meeting was to determine the goals and objectives and general motivations behind the Association (The word "Academy" will be used for the American Academy of Physician's Associates). Dr. Frank Norton, The President, and

Mr. Paul F. Palace, the Executive Director, represented the Association.

The meeting was cordial but not excessively informative. There was very little voluntary information. However, it is apparent that they have some significant financial support and have a vigorous, large scale public relations program. We felt that their PR effort is mainly directed toward solicitation of members.

They have not worked very closely with any of the established training programs. Nor was it obvious that they have communicated with any of the organized medical groups. It seems as though they are operating completely autonomously and without consultations.

They have employed the services of a medical marketing corporation, called Michel - Cather, Inc. Mr. Palace is also employed by this corporation and the Association's address is actually the offices of the Marketing corporation. They are not affiliated with any medical organization.

At this meeting, we suggested that the Association begin collaborating with the already established agencies in the P.A. area. It was suggested that perhaps they might meet with the members of the Academy at the annual meeting. Any final decision regarding such an invitation would have to come from the Board of Directors of the Academy.

In summary, we feel that the motives behind the Association are still unclear. It is, however, apparent that there is some force behind the organization and it should be dealt with.

One suggestion is that the Academy should prepare some article to be released to all health journals explaining what the Academy is all about.

This article should emphasize that they are not affiliated with the Association.  
It could even go further.

Other thoughts concerning the positions of the two organizations  
have been entertained, but will not be presented in this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul F. Moson, Chairman  
John A. Braun

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