

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANTS NEWSLETTER

January-February, 1974

Attached are enclosures concerning the establishment of the National Commission for the Certification of Physician's Assistants, the report of the Goals and Priorities Committee Meeting, and the Preliminary Minutes of the most recent meeting of the Board of Directors.

The long, long awaited National Office finally is beginning to become a reality. Dr. Donald Fisher, Ph.D., has been appointed as the Executive Director. This appointment was made by a search committee composed of members from the Association of Physician's Assistants Programs and the Academy. Dr. Fisher has located very adequate office space in an excellent location in downtown Washington, D. C. It is anticipated that the National Office will be open some time in early May. There is one little hitch, however, and that is, the current tax status of the Academy. At the present time, the Academy is considered a tax deductible trade organization by the Internal Revenue Service. If we are to receive our portion of the foundation grant for the National Office, we must have "501C-3" or, tax exempt status granted to us by the Internal Revenue Service. A noted Washington tax attorney has been placed on retainer and is working through the mountain of forms required for the change of tax status by the Internal Revenue Service. A major barrier to our tax problem in the past has been our bylaws, which have grown increasingly cumbersome with each passing year. Mr. E. Michael Paturis, the attorney, has advised the Board of Directors that a new set of bylaws must be drafted, approved, and submitted to the Internal Revenue Service before there is any real chance of a change in tax status. At the last Board meeting, the President charged a special committee with the responsibility of working closely with Mr. Paturis to completely redo the bylaws so that they will comply with the Internal Revenue Service guidelines for tax exempt organizations. These bylaws will be presented to the Academy membership at the annual meeting, and if passed, will go into effect immediately so that we can move forward as necessary with the tax changes. At the last Board of Directors meeting, the Board unanimously voted to approve a comprehensive package of fringe benefits offered by the National Association of Professions. The benefit package includes such things as discount purchases on major household appliances, automobiles, tires, and stereos. This package will also make available to the members extremely low cost life and disability/income insurance. The complete benefits program will be explained to the membership at the annual business meeting of the Academy in New Orleans. The American Hospital Association has appointed a special committee to evaluate the role of the Physician's Assistant in hospitals. This committee has met several times and a very carefully developed and positive policy has been developed by the committee and passed from the committee to the various councils within the American Hospital Association for their appropriate action. The final outcome of this committee's work will be reported at the Plenary Session of the annual conference by Dr. Bruce Raymond of the American Hospital Association. The membership of the Academy continues to grow. We currently have forty-four student chapters, with 938 student members and 630 graduates.

The Academy's first National Board Review Session was attended by 360 candidates for the National Board Examination. It is anticipated that in future years, the Board review sessions will be offered on a regional basis so that all members may have the opportunity to attend the review sessions within their geographical region. The review conference was successful, not only from the number of attending

candidates and the material presented to those candidates, but also from the financial point of view. The Academy realized a net profit of \$1,000.00 from that review session. The Academy is indebted to Dr. Thomas Piemme, Director of the Division of General Medicine, our Treasurer, Jerry Wise, Director of the P. A. Program at George Washington University, and Kevin Sorem, Associate Director of that program, for all their efforts in making the National Board of Review Session the success that it was.

Annual Meeting

By now, hopefully, you all have registered or at least reserved a hotel room at the Monteleone, located in the heart of the exciting French quarter in elegant, old New Orleans. It is imperative that you make your hotel reservations and return the registration card for the annual conference to Mr. James Bartow, as soon as possible. Mr. Bartow and Mr. Peterson have done a superb job in developing the scheme for the conference, and I am sure you will all agree when you get to New Orleans that the site is an ideal one for an Annual Meeting. A debt of gratitude is owed to my secretary, Mrs. Carolyn Stapp, who designed, guided through the printers, and circulated 4000 copies of the flyer announcing the meeting. That's right. Four thousand copies have been mailed to individuals and local and national organizations. So you can see, it really is imperative that you make your reservation with the Monteleone as soon as possible and return your program registration card to Mr. Bartow. We are expecting that all 400 available rooms in the Monteleone Hotel will be reserved by the middle of February, so if you are planning to stay where the action will be, send in that reservation form right away.

ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION!!!!!!

As you are by now, no doubt, aware, the Annual Meeting this year promises to be the best ever held in the seven year history of the Academy. Not only is it being held in one of the most historic and beautiful cities in the United States, but the meeting place itself is a warm, charming, and gracious hotel. The topics which have been included for discussion in the Plenary Session are indeed timely ones, and they should be of interest to all of us involved in the P. A. movement.

Mr. Toth and Mr. Fasser have developed an outstanding program for continuing medical education. Approximately twenty guest lecturers will be speaking on new modalities of diagnosis and treatment for common problems in medicine, surgery, pediatrics, and obstetrics.

The annual business meeting of the Academy will be held Friday, March 29, from 9:00 to 12:00 so that you all will have ample opportunity to exercise your voting rights and learn firsthand what some of the accomplishments of this current administration have been and what the goals and priorities of the incoming administration will be. By now I hope that you have notified Mr. Alan Sams of your intent to seek a position on the Board of Directors of the Academy if you are so inclined. The Academy, more than at any other time, is indeed in need of new ideas through new talent on the Board of Directors and I would certainly encourage any of you who are at all interested in the growth of the Academy to make a bid for a position on the Board of Directors. Dues must be paid up before voting.

If, for some reason, you are unable to attend the meeting, absentee ballots will be provided to you by this office and Mr. Sams, who is chairing the election efforts, so that you may still exercise your electoral prerogative.

For those of you who are bringing a guest, there will be a schedule of events for the wives and guests of the individuals attending the meeting, offering such varied activities as tours of the historical area, guides to the antique and art galleries, a cruise on a river boat, and other exciting and cultural events have also been planned for the guests of those in attendance at the conference. As soon as you have returned your meeting registration form to Mr. Bartow, you will be receiving information about the tours and scheduled activities.

As the recipient of numerous poison pen letters and telephone calls, I am well aware that there continue to be problems in communication with the membership. I would urge you to notify our office and the publisher of the Journal if you change your address. We have recently had two people spend three days calling around to various programs trying to get correct and current addresses, as we have had many pieces of mail returned marked "Return to sender, address unknown." I would also encourage those of you who have a real interest in the growth of the Academy to give serious consideration to becoming involved with either the committee structure or through the Board of Directors, as it is only through the directed efforts of the people involved with the committees and the Board of Directors that the Academy can continue to anticipate the positive growth trends it has over the past several years. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have served as your Secretary for the past two terms in office. I would hope that if you are aware of any ways we can improve our services to you, you will please feel free to contact us at your earliest convenience.

REMEMBER: The deadline for registration for the Annual Meeting is
MARCH 1, 1974!!!!

Respectfully submitted,

W. D. Stanhope, Secretary
American Academy of Physician's
Assistants