

American Academy of Physicians' Associates

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File

December 12, 1972

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MEMO

FROM: Thomas R. Godkins, President
American Academy of Physicians' Associates

TO: Academy Fellow Members

SUBJECT: Update on Academy Activities; Call for annual and regular meetings.

I am writing for several reasons but primarily to notify you of two upcoming meetings. You will soon be receiving another Secretary's Newsletter which will brief you well on all Academy activities. I will not comment on the many issues to be discussed in the Newsletter, but would like to detail important developments.

We have actively sought affiliation with groups representing "organized" medicine and have yet to be formally recognized by the American Medical Association. Communication has been initiated and in some cases affiliation granted with the American Hospital Association, Association of American Medical Colleges, Office of Education (H.E.W.), American Academy of Pediatrics, American Society of Internal Medicine, American Academy of Family Physicians, and the Colleges representing OB/GYN, Physicians, and Surgeons. On behalf of the Academy I have repeatedly approached the American Medical Association for "formal recognition" requesting input in the accreditation process for assistant to the primary care physician programs. Their representatives to date have rejected our requests for input and have, in essence, recommended that we change our name from Associates to Assistants and merge with the American College of Physicians' Assistants.

Following American Medical Association advice and after being approached by representatives of the American College of Physicians' Assistants I established a special committee chaired by Paul Moson to investigate and review: (1) the Academy's objectives, (2) how inclusive should the Academy be and by what mechanisms, (3) necessary by-law changes to promote such a change, (4) necessary changes in "structure" to promote the change and handle the increased administrative

work load, and (5) the feasibility of merging with the American College of Physicians' Assistants. The College is composed primarily of surgical, urologic, and orthopedic Physician's Assistants. Their membership base (only 90) consists of both students and graduates, and they currently are recruiting Physician's Assistants from "Class A" university programs. Their leadership is aggressive though sincere and due to this fact we have found ourselves in direct competition with them on the "national scene". The argument for a merger is that we simply would be "buying" the College, eliminating our competition, become more inclusive, and satisfy the American Medical Association. An argument against a merger is that we would be allowing "super-technicians" into the Academy thereby sacrificing our past history of accepting Class A Physician's Assistants of the highest caliber. As President I felt it our responsibility to investigate the proposed merger and approach you (the general membership) for your vote on this important issue. The Board of Directors of the Academy has approved of the merger. Let me assure you that whether the merger is approved or not - the future of your Academy is bright and healthy!

Aside from the aforementioned this letter serves to notify you of two upcoming meetings as follows:

(1) You are invited to participate in the Annual Meeting of the Academy to be held April 14th, 1973, at the Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas. The Academy meeting will be held, as usual, in conjunction with the Fifth Annual Conference on Physician's Assistants. This year the Annual Conference will be cosponsored by the Association of Physician Assistant Programs and the Academy with the Air Force Physician's Assistant Program as our host. The Annual Conference will begin Wednesday evening April 11th, 1973, and end Friday April 13th. The Academy Annual Meeting then will follow on April 14th, 1973. Also planned is a day of continuing medical education for graduate Physician's Assistants to be held the day of April 11th. I sincerely hope you will be able to attend all three events - C.M.E. course, Annual Conference, and the Annual Academy Meeting.

(2) On Saturday February 3, 1973, the Academy Board of Directors has called a regular meeting of the Academy to discuss and vote upon: (1) proposed By-law changes including the exclusion of the prerequisite that Fellow members be registered; (2) to change the name of the Academy (and the wording throughout the By-laws) to the American Academy of Physicians' Assistants; and (3) the proposed merger with College and relevant changes necessary in the By-laws. This meeting will be held at the Montefiore Medical Center (211 East 210th Street, Bronx, New

York) in the Moses Conference Room (Moses Research Building, 2nd floor). The meeting will begin at 12:00 noon (with lunch) and end by 5:00 p.m.

We recommend that if you are arriving by air that you land at LaGuardia Airport (Kennedy - 2nd choice). For lodging we suggest the Roosevelt (212-686-9200) or Americana (212-581-1000 - a more expensive hotel) Hotels located in Manhattan. When making reservations please notify the Roosevelt Hotel that you are an Academy member and if you are arriving late you will have to guarantee the reservation at your expense.

It is important that if you plan to attend the meeting you notify me in writing by January 12th, 1973. Also if you wish to have tickets to any shows, plays, etc., you should contact Ms. Clara Vanderbilt (Hospital - 212-920-4321; Home - 2-2-798-7180).

It is also important that you complete and return (by registered mail) your absentee ballot (soon to be received). During this time of the year inclement weather forbidding your travel is a good possibility and I am sure you would want to have your vote counted. The ballot must be received by the Secretary (through the "Academy address") 72 hours before the meeting.

Before closing I would like to emphasize one point. It is not absolutely necessary nor mandatory for you to attend the February regular meeting in New York. The Annual Meeting in April in comparison is much more important and I hope to see you all then. It is extremely important, however, that you return the absentee ballot.

I am exhausted from writing this long letter. I wish you and your family a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,



Thomas R. Godkins, President
American Academy of Physicians' Associates