



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN

AMWA

Volume X, Number 3 / Autumn, 1984

Southern Hospitality Shines at 1984 Interim Meeting

This year's Interim Meeting, which took place June 28-July 1 in Houston, was distinguished by splendid CME and social program planning by Branch 42. Of course, serious business was accomplished, too, by the Executive Board and AMWA committees. But, continuing the precedent set in Minneapolis last year, this was a meeting quite definitely planned for broad participation.

"Breast Cancer Update, 1984" was Sunday morning's scientific topic. Undoubtedly the most ambitious Interim CME session to date, Branch President Jacqueline Hart, MD gathered experts from Texas, Washington, DC and New York to discuss current morbidity and mortality, treatment methods (including chemo- and radiotherapy, and surgery), psychological ramifications, and surgical reconstruction.

On the lighter side, AMWA members visited the NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, where they enjoyed talks on space medicine and photography and a Texas barbecue dinner. Saturday's highlight was a reception and dinner in honor of Texas women physicians, with Texas Civil Court Judge Ruby Kless Sondock as guest speaker. Her rousing address on discrimination—"It is the beginning of the end" of the days when very few women make it to the top, yet "the end of the beginning" of our first challenge for equality—brought her an enthusiastic audience ovation.

Amidst this activity, the Executive Board made a number of important decisions. Among them:

- The Board accepted the following slate of candidates for 1984-85 office, proposed by the Nominating Committee: President-Elect, Constance Battle,

MD and Marjorie Braude, MD; Vice-President, Kathryn Bemmann, MD and Mary Jane England, MD; Secretary, Edel Hondl, MD and Susan Stewart, MD; Councilor for Organization, Gail Barton, MD and Asha Wallace, MD; Director of Members-in-Training, Anne Bernstein, MD and Hope Rice, MD.

The Committee also introduced new campaign guidelines that limit annual meeting campaign material, encourage mailings rather than telephone calls, and discourage leadership promotion of any one candidate.

- This year's Elizabeth Blackwell medal goes to internationally-known antinuclear activist Helen Caldicott, MD. A medal will also be brought along on a space shuttle flight as a commemoration to women in medicine by astronaut Rhea Seddon, MD. To express AMWA's gratitude the Board voted to grant Dr. Seddon and her colleague Dr. Anna Fisher free AMWA membership for one year.

- Next year's Interim Meeting dates are May 30-June 2, in Puerto Rico. The Board also selected Tucson and Colorado as 1986 and 1987 Interim Meeting sites and will recommend Daytona Beach and Chicago for 1987 and 1988 Annual Meetings to this year's House of Delegates.

- Strategic Planning Chair Anne L. Barlow, MD made her first report to the Board on the Committee's maverick work so far this year. See "Strategic Planning Update", inside, for a progress report.

Annual Meeting Bulletin

Important Annual Meeting news for all members:

- If you haven't yet registered, and can't put your hands on the program brochure you received last June, call the national office now for another registration form. Fill it out and return it *by October 16*. You'll save substantially by preregistering—and remember: *you cannot register on site for any special event or meal function.*
- To reserve a hotel room, telephone Hilton reservations via the appropriate toll-free number—call (800) 555-1212 to find it—or Waldorf reservations directly at (212) 872-4534. Room prices are from \$95 single and from \$120 double—not from \$115 double as was stated in the program brochure. We are very sorry for any inconvenience caused by this error.
- Exciting additions to the program include guest appearances by AMA President-Elect James Rogers, MD and, tentatively, New York City Mayor Ed Koch and New York State Governor Mario Cuomo. And New York City Branch 14 is planning a number of festive surprises in celebration of its 75th anniversary.

Meeting excitement is growing . . . registrations are coming in strong . . . it looks like a fabulous convention is taking shape, better-planned and more activity-packed than ever before. Don't miss it! Join us November 14-18 at New York City's Waldorf-Astoria.

BRANCHING OUT

Strategic Planning Update

"Planning to Plan" and "Data Gathering" are the current buzzwords among AMWA's Strategic Planning committee members. The group met with facilitator Denise Cavanaugh for the second time during AMWA's Interim Meeting. Members planned a course of action that will involve reaching out to thousands of AMWA members and non-members in the next two months.

Data gathering means asking questions of all sorts of individuals and organizations to find out what women physicians will face in the near future. This includes analyzing demographic information, looking at specialty society impressions and activity involving women members, interpreting other organization surveys of women physicians (such as AWIS and *Medica* magazine) and surveying women physicians ourselves.

Some of you might have already received a copy of the Strategic Planning committee member survey. This questionnaire was recently sent to a random sample of AMWA members; a similar document went to nonmembers. If you are part of the sample, *please help the committee* by returning your completed survey on time. This is one of most important things you can do, right now, as an AMWA member.

Survey results will be put together with the rest of the data gathered to draft a preliminary mission statement. The committee is working on this at its September 22 meeting, and will make its recommendation to the Board in November. If the Board adopts the statement, the committee will develop program proposals after examining existing programs in light of the stated goals.

Nineteen eighty-five should bring the birth of a new AMWA agenda that will mix valued existing programs with new, relevant policies and activities.

- A joint meeting with the Nassau/Suffolk, NY Women's Bar Association was held by Branch 60 on May 15. Over 85 participants heard Dr. Vicky Seltzer, Director of OB/GYN at Queens General Hospital, talk about the medical needs of professional women. A social hour with refreshments followed, and the general consensus was "very successful . . . look forward to having a repeat meeting next year."

- Atlanta Branch 29 is meeting on September 19 to plan its activities for the following year. The next meeting, on October 20, will be held jointly with the Georgia Association of Women Lawyers and will focus on menopause and plastic surgery. President Nyda Williams Brown, MD also reminds us that the new President of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Dr. Luella Klein, is a Branch 29 member.

- While not branch-related, the Texas Psychiatric Society women members are promoting a number of programs for Texas women psychiatrists. These are part of its Committee on Women's efforts to establish a two-way communication network between established physicians and women in training. The committee wants to initiate residents in medico-political awareness, and give them access to a group experience that will help them form their professional identities. For more information, write Margo Restrepo, MD, Chair, Texas Psychiatric Society Committee on Women, 5300 San Jacinto #130, Houston, TX 77004.

- New York State Branch 18 held a day-long conference July 1 featuring Drs. Margaret Madden, Alexandra Symonds and Lila Wallis. Participants

heard presentations on diabetes self-care, pediatric cardiology, menopause management, and "Violence Against Women: The Myth of Masochism." The scientific session was followed by the branch's annual business meeting.

- This year's top graduate of Emory University Medical School was Lillian Romine Meacham, an active member of the AMWA student branch there. She has accepted a Pediatrics residency at Emory for the next three years.

- San Diego Women Physicians (Branch 13) have planned a busy year. Their first Dinner Dance was held August 25; Student Sunday, to welcome new and returning medical students, is scheduled for October 14; speaker for their November meeting will be Carol Hollan, MD on "Field Surgical Correction of Child Congenital Deformities".

President Leslie Mark, MD also recently wrote us about the branch's community service program, developed to give women physicians the chance to become active in community medical services. So far they have contributed medical screening services and educational sessions to the Salvation Army Drug and Alcohol Rehab Center and the House of Ruth, a facility for homeless women and children. Their efforts serve as an admirable and inspiring example to other AMWA branches. For information, write or call Carla Fox, MD, 4094 Fourth Avenue, Suite 301, San Diego, CA 92103; 619-299-2570.

- A Career Options Workshop, presented on March 17 by Los Angeles Branch 23, was enthusiastically received by participating students, residents and new physicians. Three speakers discussed a wide variety of concerns including establishing a successful private practice, "How to Play the Game" in academia, how to work within an HMO, and discrimination issues.

Physician, Student Branch Presidents

AMWA has 56 active physician branches and 79 active student branches across the country. The following list offers names, addresses and (when possible) telephone numbers of every AMWA branch president.

For many members, activity at the local level is the most accessible and meaningful benefit of AMWA membership. If you haven't been locally active and find there is a branch in your area, please contact the branch president. She'll be happy to hear from you. You may also call the national office for more information about branch officers and activities.

Members-at-large—AMWA members living in areas distant from existing branches—are also urged to contact the national office for names of other local members-at-large. You might be surprised to find how many other women physicians live near you! Complete branch development packages are available for those of you who decide to start a branch. Don't hesitate to call the national office for help.

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BRANCHING OUT

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Branch Presidents have received **1984** Delegate Certification sheets from the Credentials Committee. Completed sheets must be submitted to the national office no later than **October 1** to ensure your delegates' place in the 1984 House.

All members received a nominating committee ballot in early September. Complete and return your ballot by **October 15**. Results will be announced at the **1984** House of Delegates meeting in New York.

November 14-18 are the dates for the **1984** Annual Meeting at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York. If you haven't yet registered be sure to do so before **November 2**.

The **1985** Interim Meeting is scheduled for **May 30-June 2** in Puerto Rico. And the **1985** Annual Meeting will be **November 5-10** at the Hyatt Union Square, San Francisco. Plan to attend both!

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Of Special Interest

- The American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR) has asked us to inform AMWA members of their new public service campaign to help women remind themselves to perform monthly breast self-examination. AICR's research has shown that women do not necessarily need more BSE instruction—rather, they need to remember to put what they know into practice. To promote this, they developed a Breast Symbol Sticker to be posted inside medicine cabinets, on calendars, in closets, or anywhere else a woman might glance regularly.

The stickers, illustrated below, are available free from the AICR. AMWA members can order them directly from the AICR's Breast Self-Examination Program, Washington, DC, 20070.



American Institute for Cancer Research
Breast Self-Examination Program

- *Crime of Silence: The Sexual Abuse of Children*, a documentary broadcast last April over National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*, provoked such a tremendous response that its producers have made the series available for public educational use.

The program features accounts from victims and offenders as well as health care specialists, legal professionals, social workers and psychologists. It describes the problem's scope, some of its devastating effects on its victims, and the more promising strategies for treatment and prevention. Its four parts are "Family Portrait," "Dispelling the Myths," "The Secret Revealed," and "Breaking the Silence."

Crime of Silence was independently produced by Portia Franklin and Janice Ball. To order the series (available on two 60-minute cassettes for \$30) write to Portia Franklin, PO Box B, Old Chelsea Station, New York, NY 10011.

- Anne Bernstein, MD, AMWA's Director of Members in Training, shares this suggestion with us:

"Upon hearing that a young lady from our neighborhood had been accepted to medical school, it occurred to me that I would like to send her a gift. I wanted the gift to say 'Welcome future woman physician.' The choice became plain—why not sponsor an AMWA student membership for her? It was a good idea, well received.

The thought might be extended to young women finishing their medical or osteopathic training, as well. What better gift, than sponsoring a member-in-training?

'We have all traveled the same road.' Let us extend our hands down the ladder. It is good for these young women, refreshing and gratifying for us, and it contributes to the strength of AMWA.'

CME Survey Results

Last year, AMWA's Medical Education and Research Committee conducted a survey through this newsletter to judge member CME topic preferences. The results were tabulated and analyzed, and here is the summary:

One hundred thirty surveys were returned, the majority coming from internists, family practitioners, psychiatrists, pediatricians, obstetrician-gynecologists and neurologists.

Many of the respondents had not attended recent national meetings and therefore did not rate recent topics. Those who did found Preventive Health to be the best program, followed closely by Gender Discrimination and the Breast.

Consciousness-raising, career-marriage problems and problems faced by women physicians in academia all were rated highly as potential topics—69%, 73% and 65%, respectively.

Only a slim majority (49% yes, 39% no, 22% no answer) felt that CME programs are a necessary factor in choosing to attend AMWA national meetings. Almost no one (7%) relies on AMWA as a major source of CME credits.

Seventy percent felt that AMWA CME speakers should be women, if possible.

Topics suggested by respondents for future meetings included, in order of popularity, osteoporosis, preventive health, menopause, politics and medicine, "women physicians—personally and professionally", menstrual disorders, alcoholism, alternatives to drug therapies, pediatrics, sports medicine, legal/ethical issues.

The committee has shared these findings with CME Director Constance Battle, MD and her committee. They will be valuable in planning national meetings for 1985 and beyond. Once again, the committee thanks the members who responded for their interest and concern.

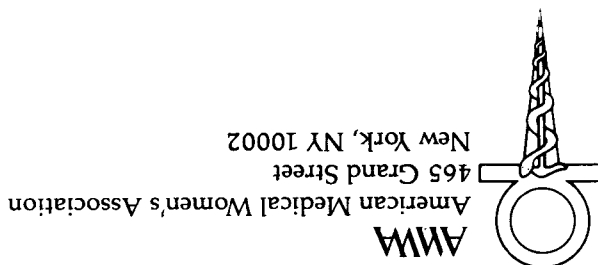
What's Happening in AMWA

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In This Issue:

- Interim Meeting News
- Branch President List

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN

AMWA

AMWA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (HOME) _____ (WORK) _____

MEDICAL SCHOOL _____ YEAR _____

SPECIALTY(S) _____ LICENSES _____

SPECIALTY BOARD CERTIFICATION _____

- Regular Member \$75
- Member-In-Training \$30
- Student Member
 - one year \$6
 - two years \$10
 - three years \$15
 - four years \$20
- Check Enclosed
- Bill Me
- VISA/MC # _____

(For Regular Membership only)

Exp. Date _____

- Local Dues _____

MAIL TO: AMWA, 465 GRAND ST., NEW YORK, NY 10002