



# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN **AMWA**

Volume XI, Number 1 / Spring, 1985

## Taking Our Concerns To The White House

On February 18, AMWA leaders met with William Roper, MD, President Reagan's Special Assistant on Health Affairs. The meeting was initiated by AMWA's metropolitan Washington-area Branch 1 with the intention of establishing a liaison between AMWA and the administration.

Primarily, AMWA wanted to make the President aware of the resources (people, opinions, expertise) available to him through our organization. But AMWA representatives went further by asking Dr. Roper to elaborate upon the President's health agenda, and then presenting our own—which does differ from the administration's.

Drs. Constance Battle, Barbara Black, Clair Callan, Catherine Casey, Mary Jane England, Jean Fourcroy, and Elizabeth Jones, accompanied by AMWA Executive Director Carol Davis-Grossman, advised Dr. Roper of AMWA's 1985 political focus:

- to reduce smoking among young women;
- to encourage better child care options for working parents;
- our pro-choice stand on abortion.

Dr. Roper avoided indicating that the President would take specific action on any one of these issues. For example, he stressed the President's support for the continued 16¢ excise tax on cigarettes. In response to a suggestion that 1¢ of this tax go toward educating young women about smoking hazards, he replied that it is very difficult to earmark funds in such a manner.

Regarding child care, AMWA leaders expressed their belief that the government should encourage private employers to provide child care for their workers, and to establish guidelines for care standards. Dr. Roper said that this was an appropriate issue for individual states to determine, since the administration has pronounced itself in favor of greater state autonomy.

Finally, AMWA asked Dr. Roper whether the administration would act to ensure that pregnant teenagers receive adequate medical care and social support (such as adoption assistance) since the President is against abortion. Dr. Roper said the President expects "the private sector" to assist with this and referred his visitors to Health and Human Services Secretary Margaret Heckler as a better resource on that subject. He suggested the group make an appointment to see Secretary Heckler. AMWA leaders began making arrangements immediately after the meeting.

The administration's reluctance to support these serious issues is, of course, not encouraging. But AMWA is pleased to have established, at the very least, a continuing dialogue with the nation's most politically visible health care officials. We are beginning to be known; we intend to make a difference.

## Interim Meeting Events

Any day now, AMWA leaders (Board members, branch presidents, state directors, committee chairs and members, past presidents) will receive an Interim meeting announcement and registration form.

Although printing and mailing costs prevent the office from sending every member this information, we invite all of you to come to this exciting program. (See "How You Can Participate" for specific registration information.)

There is a great deal happening at this year's meeting that we're certain will be of interest to the general membership. The CME sessions are emphasizing communication and leadership skills in a "hands-on" fashion, via workshops on writing and presenting papers more efficiently. Communications workshops will be given by JAMA Deputy Editor M. Therese Southgate, MD—one of the best in the business.

As described elsewhere in this newsletter the first strategic planning general forum will be held in Puerto Rico. Read "Your Mission Statement" for more information.

And there will be plenty of opportunities for socializing and relaxing. Two receptions and a dinner followed by light-hearted slide presentations will bring mainland AMWA members together with their Puerto Rican colleagues.

The meeting is not far away—Thursday, May 30 through Sunday, June 2—so if you would like to attend please let us know *now*. Turn to "How You Can Participate" for instructions.

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## Your Mission Statement

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At a February 16th meeting, the Strategic Planning Committee reached its own short-term goal—it approved a mission statement to present to the Board and the membership for a decision regarding adoption.

This is the Committee's current version of AMWA's suggested mission:

"AMWA is a national leadership organization that positions its member women physicians to compete successfully, and to determine the shape and focus of health care into the 21st century.

Major strategies to accomplish this will be:

- career awareness and development;
- personal wellbeing as professional women;
- action on health care issues, with an emphasis on women."

Committee members (and several nonmembers) came to the meeting prepared to discuss sample program plans that they developed during the last two months. Discussing programs helped them reshape the mission statement into its present form.

With these two accomplishments, the Committee has, in a sense, lost its original reason to be. The purpose of putting a small group of people to work on the mission statement task was to enable AMWA to come up with a draft within a reasonably short time. At this point, the process can and must expand.

Toward this end, two forums have been scheduled for the Interim and

Annual meetings—on June 1 at 8 am and on November 7 at 8:30 pm. These will be run in an informal workshop manner to educate participants about the process so far, and to elicit and incorporate their ideas into the emerging plan.

Also, a strategic plan educational package is being prepared for all local leaders and will be distributed before the Interim meeting. This information will help educate all members about the process and the task before all of us.

Finally, a representative from every standing committee is being appointed to the committee itself. These new members will help the committee continue as a facilitator of the planning process.

Although most AMWA members might not sense it, this is a tremendously exciting and crucial period in our organization's history. It is, in a way, a rebirth that is creating a completely new direction for the organization.

AMWA leaders have very high hopes and expectations of member participation in this critical stage of the process. Become a part of it! Attend the national meetings—write or call your leaders via the national office. More than ever, the planning process needs your assistance. Remember—AMWA exists for *you*.

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## Executive Board Report

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AMWA's Executive Board met in Chicago February 17 and approved the following:

- the appointment of Suzanne Widrow, MD, former Branch Development Subcommittee Co-chair, to the post of Membership Chair. Dr. Widrow

succeeds Hope Rice, MD, who resigned the position.

- to support Congress' reauthorization of the additional 8¢ cigarette excise tax, keeping cigarette taxes at a total of 16¢. A currently proposed bill attempts to lower the total tax back down to 8¢. Letters are being written to Congressional leaders and the Board urges AMWA members to write their local senators and representatives as well.
- to hold the 1986 Interim meeting in Denver, Colorado.

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## Nineteenth PAMWA Congress

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The Pan American Medical Women's Alliance (PAMWA) holds its XIX Congress July 2-7, 1985, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

One of the oldest sister groups to AMWA and MWIA, PAMWA brings together women physicians from North and South America for scientific and cultural exchange.

This year's meeting focuses on infectious disease, including AIDS and parasitic illnesses, noninvasive diagnostic procedures, and organ transplants. Papers on these themes are welcome. Submit titles and abstracts (100 words) to Rosa Fiol, MD, Buzon 16, Carr. 859, Puerto Rico 00630.

Registration is \$150 (PAMWA member), \$175 (nonmember) and \$75 (guest). The fee includes scientific sessions with simultaneous translation, luncheons, tours, and a banquet. Checks payable to PAMWA may be sent to Dr. Fiol at the above address. For more information about the Congress please write to her directly.

# BRANCHING OUT

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- The Yale University Office of Women in Medicine (through which Yale AMWA members work) publishes a wonderful magazine, *Women in Medicine News*, that contains a lot of good programming and project ideas for local branches. The editors also invite articles, listings and information. To subscribe, contact the Office of Women in Medicine at Yale University School of Medicine, 333 Cedar Street, New Haven, CT, 06510.

- Northern California Branch 30 (San Francisco) held a dinner meeting February 26 featuring an ambitious program on "Alternative Medicine." Drs. Mindy Fullilove, Dorothy Waddell, and Lorraine Bonner spoke on acupuncture, alternative therapies hospital units, and stress management.

Branch 30 is also setting up a child care network for medical students. Branch physician members are volunteering their time to care for students' children during exams.

- In the Boston area, Branch 39 has recently held three network dinner meetings—"for networking, career development, and informal discussion," as their announcement states. The branch also sponsored a talk by Virginia Drachman, MD, who teaches history of medicine and of American women at Tufts University, titled "Looking at Our Roots." The evening talk and discussion was followed by coffee and dessert.

- Mary Lee Holland, Branch 58 (Santa Clara County) Secretary, writes, "Our branch, while only 3 years old, has been growing steadily. We have had an active year. Our chapter is now sponsoring a student scholarship for a female

student at Stanford Medical School, based on financial need. We recently have had interesting topics at our meetings . . . 'Domestic Violence,' by members of local women's groups; 'Premenstrual Syndrome,' 'The History of Women in Medicine,' 'Assertiveness in Women.'"

- Los Angeles County Medical Women's Association (Branch 23) sponsored a joint meeting with the Women Lawyer's Association of Los Angeles on February 27. Maria Bustillo, MD, Jan Costello, JD and Vici Michel, JD, spoke on "Medical, Legal and Ethical Aspects of Reproductive Technologies."

- We'd love to include news of your branch in this column! Send newsletters, meeting announcements, program brochures etc. to Nellys Bard, Newsletter Editor, AMWA National Office, 465 Grand Street, New York, NY 10002.

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## Cornell Archives Collecting AMWA Records

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AMWA's 1984 Archives Committee, under the direction of Selma Calmes, MD, has reconfirmed the Association's relationship with the medical archives at Cornell University Medical College.

Records dating as far back as the 1940's were recently transferred from the national office to the archives, where they will be more appropriately catalogued and stored.

The archives holds a wealth of fascinating AMWA history, open to anyone

interested in doing research or simply reading the material. Members living in or visiting New York City who want to visit the archives are welcome to make an appointment. Telephone archivist Adele Lerner at (212) 472-5759.

Ms. Lerner is also happy to receive donations or bequests of AMWA member's personal records to add to her files. If you would like to have your personal papers permanently housed in the AMWA archives, please call her at the above number or write her at Medical Archives, CUMC, 25th Floor, 1300 York Avenue, New York, NY, 10021.

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## Life Membership Available

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Did you know that \$1000 can purchase an AMWA lifetime membership?

All regular physician members in good standing are eligible to apply for a life membership. This member category brings you all current regular member benefits, plus any other benefits that may be offered in coming years, for literally the rest of your life. You will never need to renew your AMWA membership.

If you are interested in becoming a life member, simply write a letter of application, accompanied by a check for life membership dues of \$1000 to the national office. Your records will be updated to reflect the change in status and you will receive a special life membership card.

## Of Special Interest

- The Women and Health Roundtable is a Washington-based membership organization, a project of the Federation of Organizations for Professional Women. The group publishes an excellent newsletter that includes detailed legislative information and other Capitol Hill news. The "Roundtable Report" would be of interest to any AMWA member who has more than a superficial concern about political factors affecting women's health.

To learn about subscriptions and membership, write WHR at 1825 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 403, Washington, DC 20009.

- The State University of New York has asked AMWA to announce that a special affirmative action registry has been established for faculty and administrators interested in SUNY employment. Over 600 openings are now available due to eased and improved early retirement options.

Interested women physicians may send CVs to the following address to receive postings describing appropriate openings:

Dolores Barracano Schmidt  
Executive Assistant to the Chancellor  
for Affirmative Action  
State University of New York  
Albany, NY 12246

- A new panel called the Yale Bush Center Advisory Committee on Infant Care Leave is studying whether there ought to be a national policy on infant care leave—that is, paid leaves of absence so that parents can care for infants without losing their jobs.

The Committee has been organized through funding from the Bush Foundation of St. Paul and the Department of Health and Human Services. Mem-

bers include Dr. Edward Zigler, the Center's Director and one of the founders of Head Start; Dr. Julius Richmond, former Surgeon General, now a professor at Harvard; Dr. T. Berry Brazelton of Boston's Children's Hospital; and Sheila Kamerman, professor of social policy at Columbia.

At a recent news conference Dr. Zigler said the group will analyze surveys on "what mothers are actually doing about the care of infants, on what is being done in foreign countries . . . we will also do a state-by-state analysis of standards for infant care . . . study the cost of such care, and ascertain what policies might be implemented by industry, the government and voluntary sector . . . Whether there is immediate action or not, we want to elevate the dialogue and to provide a continual voice."

## What's Happening in AMWA

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465 Grand Street  
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Clair M. Callan, MD, President  
Carol Davis-Grossman, Executive  
Director  
Nellys Bard, Editor

Committees and others with specific budget requests for the Finance Committee's consideration must submit their requests in writing to the national office by **April 15, 1985**.

Nominations for 1985's Blackwell and Mermod awards should be sent to the national office by **May 1**.

Recommendations to the Nominating Committee for 1985-86 officer candidates should be submitted to the national office by **May 1**.

The Interim Meeting takes place at the Cerromar Beach Hotel in Puerto Rico **May 30-June 2, 1985**. See "Interim Meeting Events" and "How You Can Participate."

Has your branch started to select delegates to the 1985 Annual Meeting? Branch presidents will receive delegate certification forms in June, so it is not too early to start considering delegates.

The second Midwest Regional Conference is being held **September 27-29, 1985** in Kansas City. Watch this newsletter and JAMWA for details.

The next Annual Meeting will be at the Hyatt Union Square, San Francisco, **November 6-10, 1985**. Watch for information in the next issue of this newsletter.

# HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

## A New Membership Drive

The Association's annual membership solicitation mailing took place in late February. Every one of the nation's 71,000 women MDs and DOs received AMWA's new descriptive brochure and a letter from President Clair Callan, MD.

The drive reflects many of the sentiments that are taking organizational shape in the strategic planning process, as well as facts made prominent through the data gathering phase of the plan.

AMWA was not permitted to separate its membership from the mailing list. Therefore, as in previous years, members as well as nonmembers received the package. We believe, however, that the brochure is worthwhile reading for members as well. It describes not where AMWA has been, but where it is going and how it is getting there.

If you work in a hospital or other institution, please use your letter and brochure to do a little "one-to-one" recruitment. Share the information with nonmember colleagues; invite them to the next local meeting; encourage them to explore for themselves what AMWA is becoming. Personal membership recruiting helps you build your own personal network, too.

AMWA membership has been steadily growing, but the overall number of women physicians is growing faster—and this population explosion has just begun. More than ever, effective membership recruitment and retention methods are crucial to AMWA viabil-

ity. There is a great deal more to be done in this realm that can start to happen after a new mission statement and new programs are in place.

For now, we ask you to do what you can to help us keep growing. Remember that your local leaders and the national office are able to help you run local activities. Don't hesitate to ask them for help!

## Register for the 1985 Interim Meeting

The need to hold down costs precludes our mailing an Interim Meeting registration form and brochure to every AMWA member. But we want you to join us!

The meeting takes place Thursday, May 30 through Sunday, June 2 at the Cerromar Beach Hotel in Puerto Rico. Registration fees are as follows: Physicians, full program, \$170; physicians, Saturday and Sunday, \$140; Students, full program, \$55. Physician registration includes 6 category 1 CME credits.

Please register by May 1 to avoid the late charges. To receive a registration form, write or call:

Karen Bader  
AMWA National Office  
465 Grand Street  
New York, NY 10002  
(212) 477-3788

To make low-priced hotel and flight reservations, telephone Ellen Cohn of Morrison Travel as soon as possible—the hotel reservation deadline is April 15.

Please call toll-free (800) 328-1005. (In Florida, call (800) 432-2069.)

## Support AWHS

In a few weeks, you will receive a letter from Anne Barlow, MD, asking you for a contribution to AMWA's American Women's Hospitals Service committee.

This committee demonstrates AMWA's concern for the indigent who live in medically-underserved areas. Contributions go directly to six clinics that bring desperately-needed health care to the poor in Kentucky, Tennessee, Bolivia, Haiti, and Taiwan.

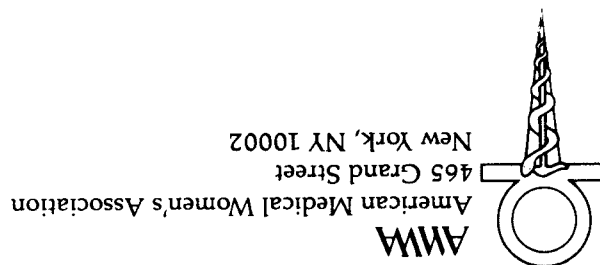
The committee is now doing more—offering a travel scholarship to an AMWA student member for the 1985-86 school year. This grant will help the recipient pay travel expenses toward working (with school accreditation and approval) in a distant clinic serving the poor. For information and an application form, students should write Nellys Bard, c/o the national office.

AWHS is also looking at several individual grant requests, including a proposal for medical assistance to South American victims of terrorist attacks.

These important new ventures can only take place if you are able to help. Tax-deductible contributions go directly to these projects, and bring you news twice a year (via the AWHS Good News Letter) about those projects.

Please help! Demonstrate your concern about good health for the poor by returning Dr. Barlow's envelope with a generous check enclosed.

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U.S. Postage  
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Albany, NY  
American Medical  
Women's Association



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# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN

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# AMWA

## AMWA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (HOME) \_\_\_\_\_ (WORK) \_\_\_\_\_

MEDICAL SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIALTY(S) \_\_\_\_\_

LICENSES \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIALTY BOARD CERTIFICATION \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO: AMERICAN MEDICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION**  
465 GRAND ST., NEW YORK, NY 10002

- Regular Member \$100
- Member-In-Training \$40
- Student Member
  - one year \$10
  - four years \$35 (including one year's subscription to JAMWA)
- Check Enclosed
- Bill Me
- VISA/MC # \_\_\_\_\_
- (For Regular Membership only)  
Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_
- Local Dues \_\_\_\_\_