

# NEWSLETTER

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER  
AMERICAN PHYSICAL  
THERAPY ASSOCIATION



February, 1971

## REPORT FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

by Patti McLaughlin

Our Chapter President, Jim Tucker, reports that for the first time the New Jersey Chapter is covered by liability insurance. Also, we are in the process of getting estimates for retainer fees from various New Jersey attorneys. No commitment will be made to any lawyer until the cost is known and until members have an opportunity to speak on this.

The Chapter has purchased an addressograph machine for the secretary to utilize for chapter mailings. In the long run, the initial cost will be made up for, as it would cost a great deal more to have the mail addressed by an outside firm.

Jim is pleased with the results of our first fiscal year of operating on a projected budget and spending program. We overestimated our income by \$150.00 and we went past our predicted expenditures by \$600.00—not bad for our initial effort.

We are asked by Jim to remember that according to our standing rules and regulations, the committee chairmen must give *explicit* reasons for expenses when sending the treasurer their bills.

And now for the continued saga of Bill S922. Since Gov. Hughes vetoed it, our bill was resubmitted and passed by the House. Subsequently, Gov. Cahill gave it to the Bateman Commission whose purpose it was to study the performance of all New Jersey State Boards. Jim testified before the Commission along with Ed Meara, our public relations man. However, the Commission recently made public a report which stated that along with barbers, practical nurses, dental hygienists, mortuary science practitioners, practicing psychologists and bio-analytical laboratories, the physical therapists should be regulated by the State Health Department. The newspaper article from which this information was taken did not explain the term "regulation". Some other statements made by the Commission — "No licensed profession or occupation should be entirely self-regulating." The report recommends that the governor appoint the members of the board and only "consider" the association-submitted names. Also, it feels that "disciplinary power should be handled by hearing officers appointed by the state attorney general". In February the Bateman Commission will submit these recommendations in the form of a bill. Jim says we plan to go ahead, in spite of this, and submit our bill to the Senate.

### SOUTHERN DISTRICT NEWS

by Alicia Bez

Poor attendance is a problem all over. It was discussed and a few suggestions for improvement were made. These were: 1) round table discussions of individual problems in Physical Therapy; 2) to divide the membership geographically; and 3) telephoning members just prior to meetings. Attendance was doubled at the next meeting as a result of the phone calls.

The idea of discussions on "Personal Problems in Physical Therapy" was also put into effect. Problems were presented and suggestions followed. 1) Suggestions to speed up the legal process of hiring a foreign-trained therapist with a temporary visa. 2) To develop a file on places of employment of all A.P.T.A. members. 3) To develop a direct route to Medicare agents so that complaints, suggestions, etc., can be expressed. There was an October and November meeting.

### NORTHEAST DISTRICT NEWS

By Rita Goldberg

The Northeast District meeting was held in October at Barnert Memorial Hospital in Paterson. The guest speaker was Dr. Steven Markowitz, a neurologist who spoke on "Parkinsonism and L Dopa." He discussed the etiology of Parkinsonism and how L Dopa was derived. Slides showing clinical results were viewed followed by a question and answer period.

The meeting was very lively and attendance was good: approximately 40 members.

*Editor's Note:* It appears by these reports that membership attendance at meetings have greatly improved since the Northeast and Northwest districts have been formed. Previously, a chapter meeting would have an "average turnout of 35 members. The districts are off to a good start.

### NORTHWEST DISTRICT NEWS

by Patti McLaughlin

The Northwest District held a meeting December 7th at Morristown Hospital to elect officers. A good turnout of 38 persons was present. The newly elected officers are: Chairman — Art Weisbrode, Vice Chairman — Gwen McCollagh, Treasurer — Art Brown, Secretary — Charlotte Carey.

Dr. Kummel, orthopedic surgeon at Morristown Memorial Hospital, spoke about the treatment of arthritis, and with the help of excellent slides, he discussed the prosthetic replacement of finger joints.

At this time the groundwork is being laid for a system of phone calls and car pools to enable members to get to meetings more easily. Each member will be contacted by phone to remind them of the meeting and to find out if they would like to share a ride.