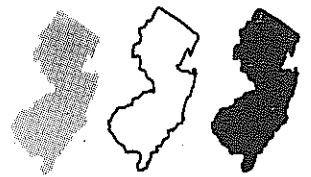


JERSEY JARGON



News of New Jersey Chapter American Physical Therapy Association

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PRESIDENT'S

CORNER

by Helen Ransky

In light of the fact that I have already taken up more than my share of space this month by reprinting my Annual Address, I will be brief — I hope.

I did want to remark on two topics. One: some chief therapists working in hospitals have remarked that their outpatient population has fallen off — in some areas more drastically than in others. Much of this is due to the opening of POPTS in their vicinity.

We are aware of this, and perhaps hospital administrators are aware of this, but the Hospital Association is not — at least not the last time I spoke with their representatives. My suggestion, therefore, is to ask your administrator to notify their organization about the effect of POPTS on the hospital's department. If they are concerned about it — we may be able to develop an ally in this matter.

Two: I think I have been neglectful in notifying you about the changes (amendments) we have made in the practice act. I recognized this after I received copies of letters you sent to Senators Saxton and Cardinale, still explaining about how practice without referral will benefit the public! I apologize for not keeping you up-to-date.

We have amended the act in minor ways, but the major amendment is the addition of the statement, "A physical therapist shall provide physical therapy treatment to an individual upon the direction of a licensed physician, dentist, or other health-care practitioner authorized to prescribe treatment." This has satisfied the Medical Society and they no longer oppose the bill.

In a surprise move, the osteopaths have come out in opposition to a certain section of the bill. We have amended the bill to the satisfaction of the legislators — we hope — but be ready to act on a moment's notice from the Chapter. We recently sent out a mailing asking members to contact two LIP Committee members. I hope this was done. Please don't be complacent — we are not out of the woods yet!

Confidential to "Concerned PT" — I'm afraid it is you who "missed the boat," not the Chapter. 350 press releases about physical therapy week were sent out prior to the Annual Weekend. Unfortunately, it is newspaper editors who decide what will be printed, not the Chapter's PR Committee. You could help the Chapter more by offering to hand carry future press releases to your local newspaper and persuading the editor to publish them than by criticizing the efforts of a hard-working Chapter group.

NJAPTA Goes Hawaiian

by Carl Gargiulo, Patty McGuirk, & Barry Inglett
Photos by Adele Williams

The social atmosphere at this year's annual weekend was rich in laughter, fun, and conversation. Starting with the Parker cocktail party and SIG meetings on Friday evening and ending with the midnight workshop on foot reflexology on Saturday, the weekend offered a great opportunity for all to mingle with their peers.

The weekend conference was held at the Ramada Inn, East Hanover, and the accommodations were quite nice. There were more scheduled entertainment events this year, including feature-length movies, which increased the attractiveness of the hotel package. Also included in the cost of the hotel room was full use of a beautiful indoor swimming pool along with poolside dressing rooms. The hotel lounge with live entertainment was just the right place for some members to relax while others ventured out to taste some of the night life in the area.

Annual Weekend Business Meeting Hosts Impressive Guests

The business meeting of the 1983 annual weekend held on March 12 not only addressed crucial topics but also acted as host for two guest speakers, Assemblyman Dean Gallo, Assembly Minority Leader, and APTA President Robert Richardson.

Assemblyman Gallo, one of the sponsors of the Practice Act, spoke to the general membership regarding his recent participation with the Chapter in supporting the legislation. His remarks on the present and potential contribution of physical therapists to the health care of New Jersey residents were enthusiastic. The need for expanding home health care in New Jersey is a topic which Assemblyman Gallo also reviewed in relation to the

(continued on next page)

