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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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President, AAHP*

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For those of you who were unable to attend the open meeting of the American Academy of Health Physics in Boston, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about what you missed and review what the Academy has been up to. Academy year 1995 has definitely been a busy one!

De-incorporation of the ABHP

First, the de-incorporation of the ABHP is complete as of the end of July. The ABHP now operates as a body within the corporate structure of the AAHP. As a result, changes to the bylaws are necessary. An *ad hoc* committee, comprised of George Vargo and Jerry Thomas, is putting the finishing touches on the final version of the ballot that will be sent to you in early spring of 1996.

Legal Counsel

The AAHP Executive Committee secured the services of legal counsel for Academy activities. Tom Esslinger, Esq., of the firm Schmeltzer, Aptaker and Shepard, was asked to serve as General Counsel to the Academy. Mr. Esslinger has already proven his worth by providing important and insightful input on the proposed bylaws, the draft "Standards of Professional Responsibility for Certified Health Physicists," and other operational issues. We are benefiting from his participation.

Feedback Survey

In January, a survey was published in the *CHP News* to solicit your input on issues that were under consideration by the Executive Committee. The responses we received were summarized by Jerry Martin and published in a subsequent edition of the "CHP Corner." During the AAHP Executive Committee meeting in Boston, these comments were given serious review. Many triggered new action items that will be reported upon in the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

Investment Policy

The AAHP Treasurer and Finance Committee have successfully implemented a financial plan for the funds of the Academy. Smith Barney has been selected to serve as the Financial Advisor to the Academy, and accounts in the name of the Academy have been opened. The need for and the smooth implementation of this financial strategy is a reflection of how the Academy has matured over the years.

Committee Activities

The Academy's committees have been quite active since January of 1995. The Professional Development Committee has been investigating the Academy's participation in the National Organization of Competency Assurance. They are also pursuing development of Standards of Practice for the Professional Health Physicist. We're

As Program Director, Nancy Johnson and her staff at Burk and Associates Inc. provide the support services and continuity in performance that are critical to the smooth functioning of the Academy. Nancy's interests in the Academy's activities go beyond merely the professional. She has been and continues to be an active and important player in Academy functions and the font of our institutional knowledge.

To each and every one of you that has joined a committee, served as a proctor, attended a Special Session or an Open or Executive Committee Meeting, contributed to the *CHP News* or "CHP Corner," completed and returned a survey form, took a stand on a technical issue of interest to the Academy, served as an instructor in an AAHP Continuing Education Course, or just dropped us a line when something interesting or important came up, I am most grateful. Please don't stop there.

Finally I wish all Academy members the happiest of holidays and extend my best wishes to each of you and your families for 1996. Thank you again for the honor of serving you as AAHP President for 1995. I look forward to hearing from you. ■

FROM THE CHAIR DECEMBER 1995

*E. Scott Medling, CHP
Chair, ABHP, 1995*

Certification Renewal

One of the duties of the American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) is to sponsor a Certification Renewal Program, including issuance of recertifications. One of the requirements for recertification is that

the CHP be "engaged substantially and currently" in professional health physics. "Substantially and currently" has been held to mean that the CHP had to be working at least 25% of the time in professional health physics at the time of recertification application.

This interpretation causes a problem for CHPs who find themselves temporarily out of health physics, or in short- or long-term positions in which it is a "stretch" to claim that the job is "professional health physics." It is not the intent of the Board that such persons be prevented from recertifying or to cause people to have to "stretch" to recertify.

To ensure consistency, the ABHP has approved a policy that the "25%" test would be applied as an AVERAGE over the preceding four-year interval, rather than, "at the time of application."

As a further improvement, the Board is now also considering whether "employment" should be a hard requirement for recertification. Specifically, the question is: "Should a CHP be able to maintain certification solely by earning a specified number of Continuing Education Credits (CECs), with a certain number of CECs being awarded for active employment?"

As an example, the current recertification Continuing Education requirement is 64 CECs. Perhaps the requirement could be raised to 128 CECs, with an allowance of up to 64 CECs for four years of full-time professional employment. Such a program would enable the person who is not currently employed to remain certified, if he/she were willing to complete a sufficient number of CE creditable activities.

I'm sure the Board would be receptive to comments from CHPs

relative to this issue. Any comments sent to me by E-mail at medlines@songs.sce.com would be submitted to the ABHP for consideration. ■

COMMITTEE UPDATES

CONTINUING EDUCATION

*David D. Snellings, CHP
Chair*

1995 activities of the AAHP Continuing Education Committee include:

- ✓ Sponsored five refresher training courses at the HPS Annual and Mid-year meetings on a variety of topics. These courses are very well received by attendees and will continue to be offered in the future. (See page 7 for descriptions of the Scottsdale courses.)
 - ✓ Evaluated applications for Continuing Education Credits (CECs) from CHPs for application toward the recertification requirements. The evaluation process has been significantly improved, with a resulting reduction in the required review time.
 - ✓ Revised the Continuing Education Policy to allow awarding CECs to CHPs for college credits taken to complete requirements for an advanced degree.
- The Committee is currently developing the following draft Policy revisions to present to the AAHP Executive Committee for approval in 1996:
- ✓ Provide expanded criteria and detailed guidance for CHPs to apply for CECs for self-study programs.