

**Gerontological Health Section
Leadership Conference Call
April 18, 2008**

Attendees: Nancy Miller; Jan Warren-Findlow; Steven Wallace; Gerry Eggert; Connie Evashwick; Susan Miller; Pat Alt; Cindy Bryant; Keith Elder; Allan Goldman; Ashley Love

I. Welcome and introduction: Nancy Miller opened the meeting and welcomed all.

II. Minutes from 2/15/08: The minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Update on Annual Meeting:

A. Abstracts:

Jan reported that there were 205 abstracts submitted (down a bit from 2007). Ultimately approximately 10% were rejected. There will be 9 poster sessions and 18 oral sessions. Five of the oral sessions are symposia: health and aging nursing; elder service systems; international long-term care; falls prevention; and nursing home staffing. There may also be a symposium co-sponsored with the Disability section. The date for final titles and preliminary program wasn't clear at this time.

B. Research Awards:

Nancy reported for Caryn. There have been submissions for all awards, although some only had a few, so additional nominees are being solicited. The materials have been sent to the Chairs now for selection. Awards will be finalized in July. There was discussion about whether to keep the awards papers with their sessions or move them all to the time currently reserved for awards. It was decided to keep the awards session reserved, using it for the Archstone awardees and a few others, although we will encourage all the awardees to attend.

C. Archstone Awards: Allan Goldman indicated that there are 18 applications, and the committee will have awardees selected by mid-May.

D. Leadership Awards: There are nominations for each of the three awards: Carroll Estes for the Philip G. Weiler Award for Leadership in Aging and Public Health; Etsuji Okamoto for the Philip G. Weiler Award for Leadership in Aging and Public Health - International; and Fernando Torres-Gil for Lifetime Achievement Award. There was considerable discussion about having the leadership winners speak at the Awards Session. Each will be asked to speak for approximately 10 minutes

E. Section 30th Anniversary:

There was a discussion related to ideas to celebrate the 30th Anniversary. Gerry suggested inviting the founding members and recognizing them. Perhaps on Sunday evening we could have a dinner for the new members and founding members. Also discussed was a reception on Monday with a Chair's citation to all the founders. Nancy suggested we have a ceremony with certificates of appreciation for founders, including group photos before the reception on Monday night. If we have a statement by the end of June, the anniversary could be published in the larger APHA program.

F. Local Arrangements: No discussion.

IV. Membership update:

Nancy reported for Daniel Meng. At present, the section has 458 members, and has lost 276 in the past three years. Recently, we've gained 15-18 new members. There was discussion about redoing the member survey, working on activities aimed at new members, etc. Connie stated that she has the previous survey and the Committee is working on it. Key questions seem to be how much value section membership adds, who pays for memberships, how individuals get support to attend conferences, etc.. Doing the survey online would require minimal resources, but getting responses might be difficult.

V. Election status: Susan Miller reported that the GHS nominees for the 2008 ballot are:
Section Councilor: Irena Pesis-Katz, Denys Lau, Xinzhi Zhang, and Daniela Friedman
Governing Council: Lene Levy-Storms and Charles Mouton

Other leadership appointments: Nancy nominated Gerry for the APHA membership committee.

VI. Newsletter: No report, as Steve Alpert was unavailable.

VII. Website: Steve Wallace reported on the website. APHA now requires that sections use their site. They are working to make it more useful for the 10/08 Annual Meeting.

VIII. Student members: Karon L. Phillips is our student liaison to APHA..

XIX. Policy Committee: Karen will report after the large meeting in May.

X. New Award Idea: There is the possibility of an annual research award from the Erickson Foundation for "prevention" and "housing alternatives". Gerry Eggert spoke with John Parrish, president of the foundation, about the award. It would be fully funded for three years, and then we'd move into an endowment model. We'd need a sufficient number of abstracts to select from. Dana Mukamel offered to help. Nancy requested feedback from others within two weeks.

XI. APHA funding of sections:

There was discussion of what we would prefer APHA do as far as distributing any new funds to the sections. There is no routine schedule for updating funding. The dues increase this past year was not allocated to the sections, and the Intersectional Chairs Council expressed their concern. The allocation to sections was upgraded by \$.50/person. Nancy asked for feedback about which method of allocation we'd prefer -- flat rate per section, a per person rate, and/or grants.

XII. Budget: Gerry requested an update on our funding. We had \$25,000 in revenue last year, and \$15,000 interest from APHA, totaling \$40,000. Our total assets are around \$300,000, putting us way ahead of other sections. The hardest thing to pay for is the awards reception (costs around \$8,000), but donations, etc., do help.

XIII. Aging Forum: No report at this time.

XIV. Healthy People 2020: More will be circulated from Allan about this.

The meeting was adjourned with thanks to all.