

**Gerontological Health Section  
Leadership Conference Call  
May 8, 2009**

**Attendees:** Nancy Miller, Steven Wallace, Pat Alt, Karen Peters, Susan Miller, Daniela Friedman, Jim Swan, Lene Levy-Storms, Steve Alpert, Jan Warren-Findlow, Karon Phillips

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

II. Minutes from March 13, 2009: Approved

III. Aging themes for 2011 Conference: Nancy reported that there are components of our proposal in the Science Board's topic of "Ensuring Healthy Communities for a Healthy and Long Life". The Executive Committee will review the four top themes, hold discussions at the Annual meeting, and make the final choice.

IV. Annual Meeting plans: Nancy reported for Ashley.

a. Abstracts: There were over 200 abstracts submitted. Ashley was not able to complete the program for this year, but she, Nancy, Jan and PJ worked on it. At least five reviewers reviewed each abstract. The papers have been reviewed and organized into sessions, as the preliminary program is due 5/29. The review process is almost done at this point, with the announcements due in early June. During the summer, we will also have to decide about cosponsoring panels.

b. Research Awards: Daniela indicated that there were 70 abstracts submitted, 60 of which were eligible for these awards. All were sent off to review committees.

c. Archstone Awards: Allan couldn't participate today. This year we only received three applications, a much smaller number than usual. It is possible that using an abstract process slowed and reduced applications.

d. Erickson: Nancy reported for Connie. At present, we've received five submissions for the Erickson Award. Nancy will look for more abstracts which might be eligible. We did have submissions for all the award categories, which is better than last year.

e. Leadership: We've selected to Philip G. Weiler award (Connie Evashwick) and Lifetime Achievement (Joan Van Nostrand). We'll have the award winners speak during the ceremony for about 5-10 minutes each. It will be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Weiler award (formerly known as the Key award). Because of that, there was discussion about asking further support from all former award recipients and friends of Philip Weiler.

e. Student representative: Karon Phillips suggested a special session for students? Perhaps on the job market in the field? In the past we've done roundtables with Funders and Aging Experts. We decided to try a mentoring program, matching students with more senior members and Karon Phillips will coordinate the effort.

f. Local arrangements & booth: Nancy and Karen are considering how to spice it up. We are in a good spot this year. We discussed setting up the booth schedule in advance via email? Karen indicated a willingness to help.

V. Elections status: Susan reported that the ballots have been sent out, with the elections held later in the spring. Results will be available in July.

VI. Membership: Daniel wasn't able to participate on this call.

VII. Policy Process: Karen reported that the response by the Joint Policy committee to our proposal for expansion of Federal spending on health promotion research centers for older adults was to give back some comments (no criticism) and ask for more information. We have until June 12 to respond. The plan is to re-send the policy and letter to all of us to reconsider and tidy it up for resubmission.

Nancy asked if we wanted to propose another one. Maybe over the summer/fall we could be thinking about possible late-breakers on "community-base care" and rebalancing health policy? Allan is also looking at one on lead, which has many folks interested, including the Rhode Island Public Health Association. Late-breakers are due by 6pm on 11/7, during the Annual Meeting.

VIII. Other items:

Steve Albert reported that the newsletter is being developed. It seems to be a good time to feature the history of the Wyler award and do an article on Connye. We could also write further on the Erickson award and link back to the Nation's Health article.

He also asked how we can best keep former leaders (including Section Chairs) involved. Would it be helpful to do that? Could we use them for mentors for students? We'd have to recruit the students first and then solicit leaders to serve as mentors.

The question was asked about whether there is a list of former leaders and their contact information. Nancy has it, and it includes all elected positions in the section.

The meeting was adjourned with thanks to all at 3 p.m.

The next call will be on June 12.