

Publications Board's Report

Members: Bill Baker, Tom Jable, Nancy Struna, Hal Ray, and Don Mrozek (chair).

Narrative Comments: The first important issue facing the Board was the problem of escalating costs of the *Journal*. This matter requires little elaboration here, since it is largely covered by the report of the *Journal's* editor. However, we should add that the Board communicated its concerns to the editor, knowing that the editor share those concerns; and we are pleased to see a favorable outcome which permits the continuation of publishing of the *Journal* at a site proximate to the editor.

The second determination was to allow latitude to the editor of the *Proceedings* in such matters as the investigation of word-processing as an alternative to conventional type-setting. Although the difference in cost was not significant in this case, this option of word-processing may need to be considered again in the future.

During the year, the issue of reprint rights to authors of *Journal* articles once again came up. The Board agreed, with concurrence of the President, that the organization should allow authors free right to reprint or use in substantial part those articles they may have had in the *Journal* in larger or other works of their own authorship. This determination was not taken to overturn a previous Board's decision concerning anthologies, nor was it taken to alter reprint policy for those outside the organization.

Information was circulated among the Board members concerning a variety of issues - whether to continue the *Proceedings*, the nature of the concerns to be taken into account for policy on the tri-annual NASSH book award, a possible understanding or policy concerning chairmanship of the Board with a specific eye to possible annual turnover, and other matters.

During the early months of 1982, the Board's efficiency of operation was decreased as the chairman's activities with respect to the convention increased. Nonetheless, a variety of measures were brought up through mail circulation. Various of these will be undertaken at a preliminary "rump" meeting of the Board on Friday, May 21; and they will be considered in greater detail during a meeting later in the convention at Manhattan.

It is the expectation of the chairman that no recommendations requiring immediate action from the Council will be made at the later meeting but that, instead, it will provide the basis for longer-range policies and practices. Frankly, few issues have emerged which have struck the Board as a whole as requiring swift and compelling action. Instead, a more gradual accretion of practice has seemed not unreasonable; and, as noted, perhaps the most potentially threatened matter - the cost of the publications- has subsided for now. The expectations to this are to be found in the following matter of recommendations.

Recommendations: 1) The Board is in substantial agreement that the *Proceedings* should be continued. We request concurrence of the Council. We have not deter-

mined an editor-we plan to do so at this meeting and we ask you to authorize us to make the appointment (with informal approval of the Council members at the convention in the event the Council wishes to avoid having an additional meeting merely for the purpose of considering the nominee that we can settle on). Our sense is that the *Proceedings* can be produced in line with past costs; we have, for example, received a bid of \$2,450 for 1,000 copies of last year's issue if it were done this year.

2) It is the general sense of the Board that the first Tri-annual NASSH Book Award be given in 1984 and that it deal only with books published in the preceding three-year period. This will, first, allow additional time to refine our criteria. Second, it will allow for thoughtful consideration by the Council of those procedures. In addition, we should note that this procedure does not preclude the possibility that in the future some award-procedure does not preclude the possibility that in the future some award-procedure could be used for books with an imprint prior to 1981. Such a matter needs to be aired more thoroughly, however.

Attachments:

- 1) letter to Steve Hardy stating policy on author's use of author's own material from the *Journal*
- 2) letter to Betty Spears specifying the compatibility of the Hardy letter with existing policy
- 3) copy of the agenda of this year's meeting of the Publications Board

Respectfully submitted,

Don Mrozek