

# Proceedings Editor's Report

## General Description:

The scope and format of the ninth annual *Proceedings* essentially paralleled those of previous years. The *Proceedings* included abstracts (with presenters' names and affiliations) and NASSH business reports. Forty of the fifty speakers at Hamilton submitted their abstracts, and I attempted to establish some themes with which to organize these. In order to give a complete record of papers read, I again included a section for unavailable abstracts. Primarily because of the August 1 deadline for submission of final abstracts and a change to a Minneapolis printer, I was able to complete the editing, printing, and mailing of the volumes by early winter, considerably earlier than was the case last year.

## Problems Encountered:

Although some people may not consider these next items as problems, I do, and I should like to bring them to the Council's attention. First, although the writing style has improved, I find many abstracts still requiring substantial editing, especially those which include excessive passive voice, first and second person pronouns, absence of topic sentences, and so on. Although I realize that making papers read "right" is part of the responsibility of any editor, I also know that editing abstracts is not like editing journal articles; one does not send them back to authors for the work because of time constraints and the general limited usefulness of the *Proceedings*. However, some authors could spend some more time composing the abstracts.

Second, the *Proceedings* fall short of being a complete record of the conference because not all abstracts are submitted. Obviously the author's reasons for not submitting vary, and just as obviously it is my fault that the *Proceedings* are not comprehensive. It might be helpful, however, if the Council or the Publications Board would establish a policy regarding withholding of abstracts or non-withholding as the case may be.

A final problem involves the cost of the *Proceedings*. Traditional printing styles are costly, and the cost is rising. Last spring I collected bids from nine printers before I could find one that would provide us with the style and quality to which we are accustomed at a liveable cost.

## Recommendation:

In light of my experience as editor of the *Proceedings* for the past three years, I strongly urge that the Council and the Publications Board immediately determine whether this publication has a future. If the answer is negative, no one need read any further. If the answer is positive, however, I recommend the following:

- a. The appointment of a new editor.
- b. Establishment of a policy regarding inclusion /exclusion of abstracts of papers presented at conferences.
- c. An appeal to authors to write abstracts accurately, lucidly, and well.
- d. A shift from traditional printing to word processing, and a commitment to convince NASSH members that a cosmetic change will not alter the contents.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Struna, Editor