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## The President's Page

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## President's Page

The year 1967 has brought seven major changes in the internal workings of the National Federation.

**First:** The National headquarters was moved from the Catholic Hospital Association building in St. Louis, Missouri to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I wish to publicly thank Reverend John J. Flanagan, S.J.; Miss Jean Read, and other staff members of The Catholic Hospital Association for their many kind services and favors rendered us these many years.

**Second:** An Executive Secretary, Mr. Robert Herzog, was employed in December after the Executive Board so voted in Houston, Texas. Mr. Herzog began his work with us January 1, 1967 and is diligently making our desired changes.

**Third:** The Federation headquarters has gone to "process data" for billing, mailing the LINACRE QUARTERLY, and any mail which must go to the members of the Federation. We have approximately 11,000 names on IBM cards.

**Fourth:** The Federation headquarters has offered to relieve Guild treasurers of billing problems and will send invoices to all members of Guilds by the data processing method. This should be more orderly and business-like as there would not be the billing confusion each year as Guilds change officers. Many times it is 2 or 3 months before the incoming treasurer and the old treasurer get together to have all the records and accounts reconciled. The treasurer, himself, is busy taking care of his practice and this added work must be handled when opportunity presents itself. How much simpler it will be for local Guilds to have the National Federation handle billing directly from Milwaukee. Checks would go directly to national headquarters; national dues and the LINACRE QUARTERLY subscription fee will be deducted from the remittance and deposited in Milwaukee and the local dues refunded to the Guild treasurer. There is no charge for this service. Some Guilds have taken advantage of this offer and turned all billing over to the national office.

**Fifth:** After careful analysis of the profit and loss account of printing the LINACRE QUARTERLY the results startled the officers to see that due to increase in cost of printing, paper, postage, etc. we were 50% low in charging \$2.00 for 4 issues of the journal. To meet this deficit, we were forced to raise the yearly subscription to \$4.00. I am sure that all subscribers agree with us that this is a necessity for business survival.

**Sixth:** Bulletins are sent monthly to local Guild presidents and to the moderators to be distributed to Guild members. These bulletins will keep the Guild members aware of activities and keep them abreast of national issues.

**Seventh:** We are now attempting to secure the names and addresses of all Catholic physicians who are not Guild members. This as you know is a huge task but with the assistance of the Bishops throughout the United States and with the aid of the chaplains in the various branches of the service of this country, I think this list can be formulated. This list is a *must* and its importance should be appreciated when you realize that there are 30,000 Catholic physicians in the United States; many of whom do not belong to a Guild or the Federation as associate members.

At this time I would like to thank the nearly 1200 members of the Federation who responded to my appeal at the end of 1966. Members who did not respond through forgetfulness or who "just didn't get around to it" will have an opportunity to do so this year. The Fund Committee will no doubt contact these members in the near future. I hope that these members who did not respond will accept our plea as one of a valued contribution rather than an assessment.

In closing, I would like to congratulate various Guilds of New York State for their alertness and diligence in working to help prevent the proposed bill for Liberalization of the Abortion Law from "getting out of the Committee" and onto the floor of the New York Legislature. The proposed law was voted down in the Committee by a vote of 15 to 3, a rousing defeat, to say the least.

I hope to see and meet delegates and the moderators of each Guild in Atlantic City this June. Let the Mass and breakfast be so well attended it will inspire the officers to work more diligently, if this be possible. The Father Gerald Kelly Lecture will be delivered by the Reverend Dr. Paul B. McCleave. Dr. McCleave heads the American Medical Association's Department of Medicine and Religion.

FRANKLYN E. VERDON