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Catholic Physicians' Guilds

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Minutes of Winter Meeting of The Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds—December 1, 1953

The winter Executive Board meeting of the Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds was held in St. Louis, Missouri, December 1, 1953 at Hotel Sheraton, 9:30 a. m.

The officers attending were:

J. J. Toland, Jr., M.D.—President
 M. F. Yeip, M.D.—First Vice-President
 Wm. J. Egan, M.D.—2nd Vice-President
 D. L. Sexton, M.D.—3rd Vice-President
 J. J. Graff, M.D.—Secretary
 L. D. Cassidy, M.D.—Treasurer
 Rt. Rev. Msgr. D. A. McGowan—Moderator

Members of the Board present were:

E. Murphy, M.D.—Bronx Guild
 J. Kolp, M.D.—Canton, Ohio Guild
 W. P. Chester, M.D.—Detroit Guild
 W. L. Bushard, M.D.—Minneapolis Guild
 G. Broun, M.D.—St. Louis Guild
 N. Thiberge, M.D.—New Orleans Guild

Others at the Board Meeting were Rev. J. J. Flanagan, S.J., Editor of LINACRE QUARTERLY, Rev. John J. Lynch, S.J., Weston, Mass., M. R. Kneifl, Executive Secretary, and Jean Read.

Minutes of the June 1953 meeting were read and approved.

Linacre Quarterly

First order of business was discussion of editorial material. Rev. John J. Lynch, S.J., Professor of Moral Theology, Weston College, Weston, Mass., was invited to the meeting to review the field and to lend effort to the endeavors of the Editorial Board to secure articles for LINACRE QUARTERLY. Among the subjects suggested for writing were:

Obligations of Physicians to Work in Rural Areas
 Fertility Clinics Under Auspices of Catholic Hospitals
 Exorbitant or Excessive Fees
 Refresher Course on Morals and Ethics
 Training Marriage Counselors

Discussion of Fertility Clinics ensued and the work carried on in this regard at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Boston, Mass. was discussed at length. A series of articles for LINACRE QUARTERLY is to be prepared.

Magazine Article

Discussion occurred regarding fee-splitting as developed in Collier's magazine cover and article and its effect on young doctors and prospective patients. It was decided that the Federation would not pursue the matter in any official way.

Past Presidents

In line with the proposal that past Presidents of the Federation be made members of the Executive Board, the following was submitted by the Committee appointed at the June meeting:

Article VI, Section 4, entitled, "The Executive Board," would have to be amended. The section now reads:

"The elected officers of the Federation and one delegate from each active constituent Guild in good standing shall constitute the Executive Board of the Federation."

It is proposed that after the word "Federation" a comma be inserted followed by the phrase, "the past Presidents of the Federation," followed by the remainder of the sentence. Also, it is recommended that the following sentence be added: "The past Presidents shall serve ex-officio, without voting privileges."

The section would then read, as amended:

Article VI

Section 4

The Executive Board

The elected officers of the Federation, the past Presidents of the Federation, and one delegate from each active constituent Guild in good standing, shall constitute the Executive Board of the Federation. The past Presidents shall serve ex-officio, without voting privileges.

Board members present approved the proposal. In order to make this effective, the proposed change is being submitted to all Guilds two months in advance of the annual meeting at which time it will be voted upon.

Promotion of Guilds

Monsignor McGowan reported that the Bishops in conference at Washington, D. C. are favorable to the formation of Guilds throughout the United States. It was proposed that a letter on this subject be sent to the Hierarchy giving more details of the Guild movement. It was also recommended that Sisters Superior of Catholic hospitals be informed of this activity so that they might encourage staff doctors to organize Guilds or join those presently existing.

It was also urged that Guilds in medical schools be encouraged. To acquaint medical students with the activities of these groups, it was suggested that Guilds furnish them with copies of LINACRE QUARTERLY regularly. A student rate of \$1.00 a year prevails, when 10 or more copies are sent to one address. The Bronx, Cleveland, and Minneapolis Guilds are doing this at present for such students in their areas.

The following cities were mentioned as prospective centers for Guilds: San Francisco, Providence, R. I.; Danbury, Conn.; Santa Fe, N. Mex.; Camden, N. J.; Greenburg, Pa.; Elizabeth, N. J.; Seattle, Wash.; Morristown, Pa.; Scranton, Pa.; Trenton, N. J.; Tucson, Ariz.;

Burlington, Vt.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Baltimore, Md.; Columbus, Ohio; Cincinnati, Ohio.

Exhibit for Cana Conferences

Correspondence was read regarding an exhibit that is available for use at Cana Conferences and can be transferred from place to place. The Bronx Guild is interested in the project which is to be financed by an individual in New York who is active in the Cana movement. It could be used at medical conventions to counteract the activities of the Planned Parenthood Association. It had been suggested that the Federation sponsor the exhibit. Further study was recommended. Details will be secured and the Guilds advised.

International Physicians' Meeting

Interest was manifested in the World Congress of Catholic doctors to be held in Dublin from June 30 to July 4. No official delegate of the Federation was nominated at this meeting, but some members are planning to be present.

International Affiliation

Membership of the Federation in the International Congress of Catholic Doctors was authorized. The fee will be sent shortly.

Honorary President

Article VI of the Federation Constitution (Section 1, paragraph A) reads: "The honorary officers may include an Honorary President and Advisor who shall be invited to hold office by the Executive Board; and such other honorary officers as circumstances may seem to make desirable." In line with this provision, it was moved and seconded that Dr. Narcisse Thiberge of New Orleans, La., long-time member of the New Orleans Catholic Physicians' Guild and loyal supporter of national activities, be elected Honorary President of the Federation. Unanimous approval was accorded the motion. Dr. Thiberge is the first to hold this office.

St. Luke's Day

Several Board members advised that their Guilds attended High Mass as a group on St. Luke's Day, October 18. This custom is encouraged wherever possible.

Annual Meeting of Executive Board

The annual meeting of the Executive Board is scheduled for June 23, 1954 in San Francisco. The usual luncheon and meeting for all Catholic doctors is to follow the Board meeting. Details are to be arranged shortly.

Finances

The annual financial statement was presented, discussed and approved. A proposed budget for 1954 was submitted and approved. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p. m.