

NEWSLETTER
LOUISIANA DISTRICT BRANCH
AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

September 1961

NO. 2

Members are urged to attend the September 21 meeting in order that steps may be considered to strengthen the District Branch organization. As you know, the Assembly of 53 District Branches in which we are represented is now assuming more responsibility in the over all operation of the APA. We must take steps to keep our group as near the national level as possible. The following are some suggestions which we may take up at this meeting:

1. We should consider changes in the constitution in line with the model constitution suggested by the APA.
2. We should also be incorporated.
3. The length of term of the Assembly Delegate should be increased to two years.
4. There is probably a need for a slight increase in dues because of greatly increased business activities.
5. Publication of this NEWSLETTER, its mode of operation and financing should be discussed by the members.
6. In view of this emphasis on District Branch work, we should discuss continued close liaison with the New Orleans Society of Neurology and Psychiatry. Can the scientific programs be held under the auspices of the District Branch and social activities continue as a Society responsibility?
7. Review of the membership roster with the object of bringing into the District Branch all eligible people, especially those outside of New Orleans. There should be a greater motivation to join the local branch inasmuch as the national organization is increasingly passing on responsibility to the branch level and showing increasing respect for its voice in national matters.
8. Many of the above listed changes are necessary in order that we may assume our proper function of processing APA membership applications in Louisiana. This is already being done by most other District Branches throughout the country.
9. It is possible that a mail ballot should be authorized so that Council may take action on pressing matters that arise during the summer. The membership may wish to have election of officials by mail ballot as well.

In 1955, the Congress of the United States authorized the formation of a "Joint Commission on Mental Illness and Health." This commission which consisted of leaders in all fields related to mental health was generously financed and otherwise supported by Congress. They were to attempt the most comprehensive, thorough and detailed study of all aspects of the nation's mental health and provide factual data as well as recommendations pertaining thereunto. Congress wished this important job to be accomplished before it initiated formidable plans and projects to attack the mental health problem of the nation. This survey has been completed. Eleven volumes covering all angles have been written and the conclusions summarized in a one-volume work entitled, "Action for Mental Health" recently published. A summary of these findings has been sent to us together with the request that we forward our opinion regarding these recommendations so that the APA will be able to truly represent psychiatrists throughout the land. At the coming meeting, we plan to review a few of the major features of this work and hope to elicit opinions from the membership so that we may comply with the request of the APA.

The September 21 meeting is being held at 7:30 P.M. in order to allow time for above discussion and for refreshments at Gentilich's following the meeting.

Edward H. Knight, M.D.
President

The Annual Dinner Dance of the New Orleans Society of Neurology and Psychiatry will be held at the beautiful new Lakewood Country Club in Aurora Gardens on Friday, October 20, 1961 at 7:00 P.M. A Cocktail hour, delicious buffet, dancing, entertainment and an enjoyable evening for all is in store. No charge for Active Members; Associates and guest - \$8.00 per person.