The unmatched character of New Orleans is reflected in its jazz, here illustrated by a crowded jam session at Preservation Hall. Such unique charm in a city with superb convention facilities is only one of the many reasons why the APA should schedule a meeting in New Orleans.

LAFAYETTE MEETING SUCCESSFUL

Scientific Program Insightful

Decriminalization of marijuana use is long overdue in this country—however the legalization of it now would be premature and dangerous.

This was the message delivered to members of the Louisiana Psychiatric Association meeting in Lafayette at the mid-winter conference. The speaker was Dr. Edward Bloomquist of Los Angeles, California.

Bloomquist is a specialist in anesthesiology and chairman of the California Inter-agency Council on Drug Abuse. He has actively researched and studied the phenomenon of drug abuse for the past 20 years and is considered one of the foremost conservative authorities on the subject of marijuana.

Acute Difference

The renowned lecturer and author said, “There is an acute difference between legalization and decriminalization and we must recognize this difference before we solve the marijuana problem.”

He said the severe laws against marijuana use must be changed. “Society is beginning to recognize that laws are wreaking havoc in the lives of our youth and something must be done.” He pointed out that these severe laws are causing problems between children and their parents and between children and law officials.

Bloomquist explained that in decriminalization the law would treat marijuana violations as misdemeanors such as traffic violations, rather than as a felony. On the other hand, legalization of marijuana would be premature at this point because not enough is known about the long-term effects of its use.

Premature, Dangerous

“While we are attempting to determine what these effects are,” he stated, “we don’t need to make it commercially available over the counter. It would be premature and dangerous.”

Bloomquist pointed out that we are attempting to determine the effects of (Continued on Page 7)

SHREVEPORT PSYCHIATRISTS ARE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN DRUG ABUSE PROBLEMS

by Bill Jamieson
Executive Director, CODAC

Drug abuse among young people is reaching epidemic proportions and Louisiana is no exception. This state has shown an increase of 982.6% in new narcotic addicts from 1960 to 1969 (according to statistics compiled by the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs) and in the Shreveport area drug arrests have climbed from 3 in 1965 to over 130 through September of this year. Many communities throughout the country have experienced a similar rise in drug abuse, but what sets Shreveport apart is the comprehensive total-community approach its citizens are using. Owing largely to the continuing efforts of the medical community, the Caddo-Bossier Community Organization for Drug Abuse Control has grown from a concept to a reality in less than six months. The organization’s $100,000 budget... raised solely on community (Continued on Page 7)

SPRING INSTALLATION DANCE TO BE HELD AT MARRIOTT JUNE 10

The brand new Marriott Hotel on Canal Street, with a grand opening on June 8, will be the scene of the LPA Spring Dinner Dance on Saturday, June 10. Our activities will thus coincide with the many exciting festivities planned for that week-end by the Marriott. For the convenience of out-of-town members, the Program Committee concentrated on the downtown and French Quarter area, and chose the new 1,000-room hotel, the largest hotel in the South, as the most exciting and glamorous location.

The band that we hope to have is Joe Douglas, a really great outfit discovered in Lafayette at our convention dance there. This is the band that kept most of our membership on the dance floor from 9 till 3 A.M. and worked off considerable poundage we had all accumulated by two days of crayfish feasting. If you have any doubts, ask anyone who was there, and we think you will become a believer.

Your invitation with final details will be mailed to you—but reserve June 10 for a great evening at the beautiful new Marriott.
By 1957, the need for a separate Louisiana District Branch was increasingly apparent. In October of that year, Dr. William C. Thompson observed in a letter to Dr. Floy J. Moore of Jackson, Mississippi that, “...the events of the last year or so have made those of us in Louisiana increasingly aware of the need for having a professional organization restricted to this State, and composed only of psychiatrists. This would permit us to carry on political activities and other administrative functions which are unique to us. A district branch restricted to the State would be ideal for our purposes because of its being purely psychiatric in membership, and because of its direct connection with the A.P.A. Also, this would allow the New Orleans Society to continue as a scientific and social organization for neurologists, neurosurgeons, and others, as well as psychiatrists.”

The Louisiana District Branch was organized at a meeting on February 19, 1959, with Dr. David Freedman as the first president. At that point, the Louisiana District Branch replaced for the State of Louisiana the old South Central Branch of the A.P.A. This District Branch now included only members of the A.P.A. from the New Orleans area and the State of Louisiana. This meeting in February, 1959, there was a revision of the constitution of the old South Central Branch, and the submission and approval of a new constitution of the Louisiana District Branch.

Since the New Orleans Society of Neurology and Psychiatry remained the most active group in Louisiana, having the vast majority of practicing psychiatrists in the State of Louisiana as members, the practice continued of the president of the Society being also the president of the Louisiana District Branch. However, the Society and the District Branch remained two separate organizations, with the District Branch being made up of members of the Society who were also members of the American Psychiatric Association. In October-November, 1961, under the leadership of Dr. Edward Knight, who at that time was president of the Society, a series of important decisions were made by the Society and the District Branch which led to a basic structural reorganization of the latter group. In October, the membership of the District Branch petitioned to affiliate with the American Psychiatric Association, while simultaneously, the District Branch assumed responsibility for the scientific programs of the Society. At this point many of the neurologists and neurosurgeons withdrew from the Society because of its increasing psychiatric orientation. At these events were occurring the District Branch was reorganizing on a state-wide basis. A motion to change the name to “The Louisiana Psychiatric Association,” and to incorporate the organization, was submitted to the membership and approved at a meeting on January 18, 1962, in New Orleans, In that same month, the North Louisiana Chapter, with Dr. Erle W. Harris, Jr., of Shreveport as president, and Dr. Sidney Easterling of Alexandria as vice-president, was organized and formally recognized as a Chapter of the Louisiana Psychiatric Association. During this year, the Louisiana Psychiatric Association was incorporated and began to process applications for membership, as well as formally submitting its petition for affiliation with the American Psychiatric Association.

Finally, in 1965, the old New Orleans Society of Neurology and Psychiatry was disbanded, an event which Dr. Arthur S. Samuels observed “occurred as a natural corollary to the formation of a vital Louisiana Psychiatric Association and a separate neurological association.” In 1966, the Society was reconstituted as the New Orleans Area Psychiatric Association, the chapter of the Louisiana Psychiatric Association, and the bylaws and constitution of the chapter were submitted to and approved by the membership on September 22, 1966. At the present the Louisiana Psychiatric Association includes four chapters, the New Orleans Area Psychiatric Association, Baton Rouge, Acadiana, and North Louisiana. The Chapter presidents serve as vice-presidents to the Louisiana Psychiatric Association as well as members of the Executive Council.

During the course of the last decade the membership of the Louisiana Psychiatric Association has exerted an increasing influence in the areas of legislative reform affecting the mentally retarded, the treatment of the criminally insane, and procedural criminal commitment, as well as actively involving itself in the community at large to further and foster a growing sense of public enlightenment regarding mental illness in the State of Louisiana.

Wallace K. Tomlinson, M.D., Historian

Past Presidents

New Orleans Society of Neurology and Psychiatry

1942 Dr. Walter J. Otis
1943 Dr. Randolph Unsworth
1944 Dr. L. A. Golden
1945 Dr. T. A. Watters
1946 Dr. Dean H. Echols
1947 Dr. Henry Colomb
1955 Dr. Conrad Wall
1956 Dr. Henry Miles
1957 Dr. Russell Monroe
1958 Dr. David Freedman
1959 Dr. Charles Watkins
1960 Dr. Robert G. Heath

Louisiana Psychiatric Association

1961 Dr. Edward Knight
1962 Dr. Gene Ussdin
1963 Dr. Harold Lief
1964 Dr. Alvin Cohen

(Continued on Page 3)
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL NOTES

Coordinating Committee Chairman John Kuehn reported at the January meeting the Insurance Committee’s recommendations that:

a. LPA stress the primary importance of patient-physician contract in considering reimbursement for professional services rendered.

b. LPA support the report of the APA committee on financing of mental health care, to wit: “any limitations of psychiatric coverage should not defer from those that apply to coverage of other illnesses as coverage should not be determined on the basis of the type of illness but on the basis of psychiatric services rendered. The consequences of the perpetuation of a double standard would discourage overall improvement of health care facilities and services.”

c. LPA use its offices in conjunction with the Louisiana State Medical Society to promote and pursue these goals within the state through contacts with insurance companies — as well as through supportive legislative action where it is deemed necessary.

* * * * *

Other committees reporting at the January meeting were Allied Professions, which endorsed the APA’s statement on Psychiatric Nursing, and the Ad Hoc Committee for Liaison with Family Health, Inc. The latter recommended ongoing liaison between the respective organizations.

* * * * *

Dr. Thomas Gladney of Blue Cross, Baton Rouge, discussed at length confidentiality and insurance carrier’s need to review hospital records at the Council’s February meeting.

* * * * *

At the same meeting, Coordinating Chairman Wayne Hill presented the Alcoholism and Addiction Committee Report. In it, Chairman Chet Scrignar asked LPA support for an $800,000.00 state grant to set up Drug Abuse Programs. The Council invited Dr. Serignar to present more details of the program.

* * * * *

Worth Wilkinson proposed that members visit penal and mental institutions in the state to evaluate programs. An ad hoc committee will be appointed to contact the institutions, explain our interest, arrange visits and report findings back to the council.

* * * * *

NOTED AND QUOTED: “You are only young once but you can be immature all your life.”

John Raudonis
President's Column...

The Winter Meeting of the Louisiana Psychiatric Association held in Lafayette, La., Feb. 25-27, 1972, was truly a memorable occasion. Arrangements were handled by the newly formed Acadiana Chapter of the LPA, and the membership is indebted to them for their outstanding performance. Accommodations were convenient, and the meeting area adequate. The program, ranging from routine business to scientific sessions to an afternoon discussion of timely state issues, was well-attended, provocative, and of practical importance. There was further work left unresolved, however, and there is much to be done in the coming year.

Social events were great — starting with the cocktail party Friday evening and ending with the Sunday brunch! I have attended most LPA Mid-Winter Meetings, and I don't ever recall seeing the membership have as much fun as at the dinner dance. The food was superb; the band, excellent; the setting, near perfect; and the membership was ready for a blast!

The following are some of the highlights of the many issues discussed and/or acted upon: It is anticipated that the Treasury will not run into debt as at the end of last year, but will barely be in the black. Strong control must be instituted. Duncan Burford made timely recommendations in this regard, which were acted upon by the membership.

The Membership Committee has been very active and reports that we now have an even 200 members in the LPA. This represents an increasing percentage from outside the New Orleans area. In keeping with this, a mandate was heard from North Louisian psychiatrists that makes it clear that they want to share in the future leadership of this organization. In the past there have been other opinions in this matter. Most of us have foreseen that future growth of the state organization must be state-wide, using the chapter system to deal with local issues and grass roots activities.

Certain members have felt that in order to maintain a certain continuity of activity, it would be administratively wise to make it possible for the President to succeed himself. Although I agree with the principle, I personally took a very neutral stand regarding this issue. However, the membership did see fit to pass this constitutional amendment permitting the President to succeed himself. Thus the slate of officers as presented by the Nominating Committee is as follows: President, J. Paul Pratt; President-elect, Jack Weisler; Secretary, Al Olinde; Treasurer, Millard Jensen; Delegate, Bill Sorum; Alternate Delegate, Remi Gonzalez; and Nominating Committee member for 3-year term, Bill McBride.

Duncan Burford, our outgoing Treasurer, received a most deserved vote of appreciation from the organization. Duncan has served as Treasurer for four years; he has been very conscientious and steadfast in performing his duties.

Bill Sorum and Ken Ritter had a panel on Insurance and Confidentiality. Malcolm Latour was able to shed some light on some of the local problems in this area. Hopefully, this might lead to some practical resolution. However it is apparent that the matter of confidentiality and privacy will continue to be of great concern to all of us. The second panel held on Mental Health Planning, chaired by Hank Olivier, Ed Long, and Karr Shannon, was also of considerable interest. These three, along with Ernie Svenson, Chet Scipior, and others offer LPA strong leadership in this area.

Bill Sorum gave an excellent report and resume of LPA-APA relationships. The political upheaval at the national level was analyzed. It seems that our state organization leans toward the Constitutional changes as recommended and the candidates as endorsed by the Nominating Committee. Evidently there are broad philosophical questions as to what psychiatry is all about lurking behind the scene. Perhaps we can learn more about that at the Dallas meeting in May.

By far the most disappointing aspect of LPA activity in the past year has been the generally poor performance of committee work. There were a number of exceptions, but much is yet to be done if the membership is truly interested in making a contribution to the organization. At any rate, the committees are going to be reworked shortly. If any member has any particular interest in serving on a particular committee and is willing to work, please let me know. Do let me hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Thanks again to the Acadian chapter, and especially to Dave Regan, Jim Blackburn, Bill McCray, Sid Dupuy, and their wives.

J. Paul Pratt, M.D.
CONGRATULATIONS TO...  

Kenneth Don Ragan, M.D., for successful completion of the examination given by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

IMPORTANT TEST OF CONFIDENTIALITY BEFORE COURT  

Dr. James Robertson of San Leandro in the San Francisco Bay Area some time ago began treating a girl for the emotional consequences of an auto accident in which her mother and brother were killed and she was injured. The driver of the other car was responsible for the accident. Upon undertaking the case, Dr. Robertson knew that he might at some later date be expected to testify in the patient's suit to recover damages for personal injury. Both the patient and he very strongly wished that he not testify, and with that in mind the patient secured the services of another psychiatrist to perform a separate, independent psychiatric examination for the purposes of a possible trial. The personal injury suit was entered, and Dr. Robertson was duly subpoenaed to produce his records and to testify. He refused to do so on the basis of the patient's wish that he shouldn't testify, as well as the fact of the independent diagnostic psychiatric examination. His refusal was argued at length in the trial court, and finally, based on the precedent of the California Supreme Court opinion in the Lifschutz case, the trial judge in the Alameda County Superior Court excused Dr. Robertson from testifying, on the ground that relevant data might be obtained from another source without breaking psychotherapeutic confidentiality.

If the judgment stands, it is an unprecedented landmark decision upholding the privacy of the treatment of traumatic neurosis itself. It was appealed to the Appellate Court of the State of California, and on October 19, 1971, the lower court judgment was reversed. Before the appeal was entered, however, it was clear that in a case such importance the losing side would take it to the California Supreme Court, and that appeal is now being made.

The importance of this case cannot be overestimated. Whereas the Lifschutz opinion of the Supreme Court established broad principles for patient protection, the Robertson case deals with a practical application at the heart of psychiatric practice. If it becomes possible in some way for the therapist treating a patient with traumatic neurosis to be protected from testifying, then a major precedent will be set. It will make it much easier for therapists subpoenaed in other kinds of legal situations to exercise discretion about testifying as well. It will be a momentous decision if the Superior Court judge's decision is upheld by the California Supreme Court. It would be equally damaging if the Appellate Court reversal is allowed to stand. It would undermine almost all of the gains made in the Lifschutz case. This decision would also apply to all doctors and their patients.

Although the primary legal appeals in this case are those of the patient, because of the complexity of the case Dr. Robertson has had to hire his own counsel, to consult with the patient's attorney as well as to write amicus curiae briefs from the point of view of the psychotherapist. These legal encounters cost great sums of money, and we must not allow Dr. Robertson to carry the financial burden of his own legal defense, as it directly affects us all. To that end, a Northern California Psychiatric Society Legal Aid Fund has been set up at NCPS, 219 Tenth Avenue, San Francisco, California 94118. The above statement has been published in our Newsletter and circulated to our nine hundred members. We ask you to do the same in your District Branches, and direct your contributions to our Legal Aid Fund.

[Editor's Note: The above is an excerpt from a Nov. 15, 1971, letter from Dr. Melvin Lipsit, President of the Northern California Psychiatric Society. When presented at the January meeting of the Executive Council, that body approved a $100.00 contribution from the LPA to the California Legal Fund, provided same was approved at the general membership meeting in February.]

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING LIVELY  

Dave Regan, President of the Acadiana Psychiatric Society, welcomed the general membership to Lafayette.

In his President's Report, Dr. Pratt commented on the ever-increasing activity of the Executive Council and of the organization as a whole, lauded the Newsletter, lamented the inactivity of committees, pointed out the need for strict control of the financial structure, and discussed the national scene, elaborating on the erosion of confidentiality and the impending national health insurance.

In the absence of Duncan Burford, Millard Jensen presented the budget for 1972-73 which Duncan had prepared. All expenditures over the budgeted amount will require Executive Board approval.

Duncan's outstanding service as Treasurer will be recognized in a letter of commendation from the Executive Council.

COMMITTEES REPORT  

Wayne Hill, Co-ordinating Chairman, reported the following from his committees:

The Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse recognizes that treatment of drug abusers has been incorporated into the state mental health program.

Chet Serignar's Forensic Committee is concentrating on the inclusion of a mental health unit in the proposed new prison hospital.

(Continued on Page 6)
Annual Business Meeting
(Continued from Page 5)

Irv Marcus' Committee on Social Issues recommends that discussion groups be held at future meetings to discuss such social issues as violence and confidentiality.

Hank Olivier emphasized the importance of personal contact with legislators to facilitate liaison in legislative matters of concern to psychiatry.

CONSTITUTION CHANGED

The membership approved a constitutional change which would allow the President to succeed himself and then proceeded to re-elect Paul Pratt as President and Jack Weisler as President-Elect for the coming year. Other officers elected were: Al Olindo, Secretary; Millard Jensen, Treasurer; Bill Sorum, Delegate; Remi Gonzales, Alternate Delegate; Bill McBride, Nominating Committee Member.

UPSTATE BID FOR MORE INVOLVEMENT HEARD

The membership passed a resolution presented by Karr Shannon, stipulating that every third president of LPA be chosen from outside the New Orleans area. Discussion of this motion reflected general approval, although there was considerable disagreement about the advisability of adopting a fixed formula.

Bill Sorum, in his Delegate's Report, urged approval of the proposed APA Constitutional revisions and discussed the various candidates for APA National office.

The LPA voted to support Resolution No. 406 of the Louisiana State Medical Society, which gives guidelines concerning the release of medical information from medical records departments of hospitals to insurance companies, service contract corporations, government "carriers," and government agencies.

MEDICAL STAFFS THROUGHOUT STATE SEAT OFFICERS

Andrew Mullen and Bill McBride have been re-elected co-chiefs of staff at Brentwood Neuropsychiatric Hospital in Shreveport.

Meanwhile, in New Orleans at the January 31 banquet meeting of the Medical Staff of River Oaks Hospital, new officers for the coming year were also installed. Serving as President will be Bob Davis. President-elect is Lincoln Paine. John Bick will be Secretary-Treasurer, with John Albea as Member-at-Large.

DePaul Hospital in New Orleans seated Charlie Stock as 1972 President, with Doug Kloor as Vice-President and Charlie Smith as Secretary-Treasurer.

GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY SOCIETY MEETS

"Exposure of the Therapist" was the theme of the 14th Annual Institute of the Louisiana Group Psychotherapy Society in New Orleans, April 7-9. John Warkentin, Ph.D., M.D., and Elizabeth Warkentin, Ph.D., were the Institute leaders, while Art Samuels and Del Levinson served as encounter group leaders.

In addition to encounter experience, registrants participated in experiential groups at the 3-day meet held at Touro Infirmary.

LPA members acting as group leaders included: Mike Connell, Charles Feigley, Doug Greve, Kyle Hamm, John Kuehn, Dick Johnson, Art Samuels, and Curt Steele. Former LPA member Bill Shelton also was a group leader.

Officers chosen by the LGPS for the coming year are Del Levinson, Ph.D., President; Doug Greve, M.D., President-Elect; Curt Steele, M.D., Corresponding Secretary; Suzanne Jensen, Ph.D., Recording Secretary; Delores Parham, MSW, Membership Chairman.

BEHAVIOR THERAPY SOCIETY FORMED

The Behavior Therapy Society of Louisiana was formed in August of 1971. The purpose of the Society is to explore all the newer and experimental psychotherapeutic techniques that are currently being developed. Although Behavior Therapy and Behavior Modification techniques form the core of the program, other psycho-therapeutic modalities are explored. The programs usually center around articles from the four journals devoted to Behavior Therapy as well as informal clinical presentations.

The meetings are held once a month, usually on Monday evenings. Officers of the new society are: Dr. C. B. Scrignar, President, and Dr. Larry Van Egeren of the L.S.U. Medical School, Secretary-Treasurer. LPA members who wish additional information concerning the Behavior Therapy Society should send their inquiries to the Behavior Therapy Center, 111 Iberville, Suite 508, New Orleans, La., 70115, with both Spanish and English texts.

Bilingual colleagues willing to facilitate translations should make their availability for same known to Dr. Sugar.

GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY SOCIETY MEETS

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INTERNATIONAL MEETING ANNOUNCED FOR NEW ORLEANS

PAPERS SOLICITED


The English-Spanish meeting, with consecutive translation, will consist of half-day workshops and panels. There will also be walk-in supervisory seminars with some of the outstanding authorities in the field to whom registrants may present cases for discussion of diagnosis, theory, or technique.

Panel topics include: Inpatient Treatment, Family Therapy, Group Approaches, Depressive and Suicide, Group Therapy, and Behavior Therapy. Identity Problems, Parricide, Delinquency and Violence will also be topics, as will Homosexuality, Drug Abuse, Character Problems and Adolescent Pregnancy and Abortion.

Those wishing to submit papers on these topics may send them to Max Sugar, M.D., 3625 Chestnut St., New Orleans, La., 70115, with both Spanish and English texts.

Bilingual colleagues willing to facilitate translations should make their availability for same known to Dr. Sugar.

Ignorance is a blank sheet, on which we may write; but error is a scribbled one, from which we must first erase.

Caleb Colton
pot in a completely different way than was done in the past with other drugs.

"Let's take this drug and prove it to be dangerous first," he said is the approach being taken with marijuana, whereas, in other cases the approach is to prove the drug safe first.

Throughout his talk to the psychiatrists Bloomquist played the role of "devil's advocate" although he is anti-marijuana in philosophy. In assuming this role, he emphasized that he was in no way supporting the use or legalization of marijuana.

Close Rapport

He took this approach in order to explain the personalities and points of view of the youthful pot smokers of today's society. In his work with drug abuse he has developed close rapport with youth involved with marijuana.

Bloomquist explained that this took some special effort because nowadays you are either for or against pot. "Youth don't understand that scientists can be interested in a subject and maintain a middle of the road stand to search for truth," he added.

There are more than eight million people in this country who use marijuana, the speaker said. Fifteen per cent of all youth over 18 use it and fourteen per cent of all youth between 12 and 18 have tried cannabis (scientific name for marijuana).

"The cannabis camel is in our tent up to his hump and threatening to come in the rest of the way," Bloomquist remarked. "If he does get in all the way, we will never get him out of our society."

Social Problem

He attributed the high use of marijuana among youth as part of a social problem. They use it as a relief mechanism against the social pressures of today, achieving instant release, instant sensation and instant stimulation, he noted.

Bloomquist contends that children of today are growing up much faster than children of 20 years ago, saying today's child is a premature intellect with highly sophisticated senses. However, the adult realities are missing and have caused a gap. Pot fills this gap, he said.

"If we remove pot, what then?" he questioned. "Maybe more potent drugs or maybe a complete turnoff to realities, he continued. "We don't know."

New Revolution

Bloomquist commented that we are moving into a new cultural revolution with the use of pot, but he had an optimistic outlook. "I think we will make it out of this drug thing because I still have faith in your youth," he said.

Shreveport Psychiatrists

(Continued from Page 1)

donations . . . provides crises intervention, rehabilitation and preventive education programs. While every discipline has contributed to CODAC's early success, much of the credit for the actual program operation can be given to three psychiatrists: Paul Ware, M.D., CODAC's president; Jim Phillips, M.D., Medical Director of CODAC's crises intervention center, Shire House; Norman Mauroner, M.D., Director of the Mental Health Center and chairman of CODAC's Rehabilitation Committee.

Dr. Ware, as a member of the mayor's Drug Abuse Commission, visited Phoenix, Arizona in December of 1970 to study that community's highly publicized CODAC program. He and Dr. Mauroner returned to Phoenix in April to attend a seminar on how to establish a community based program for drug abuse control. On returning to Shreveport, they reported their findings to the Commission and it was decided to establish a CODAC program for this area. The Commission decided on the 3-prong attack and then hired Bill Jamieson, formerly administrative assistant to Phoenix CODAC, as the executive director. The fund drive was launched and Dr. Ollie Williams, a dermatologist, donated a 13 room house for the crises intervention center. Dr. Phillips volunteered to serve as Medical Director, a staff of six young people and two nurses were hired and the house opened on June 15. The house operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and the lay workers, mostly young people with some drug experience, are trained in both elementary medical evaluation and psychological techniques connected with drug usage. The formal training is followed by in-service training with subsequent periodic training sessions under the supervision of Dr. Phillips.

Functions Outlined

With a minimum of two staff workers and one nurse on duty, the center performs the following functions: (1) providing emergency care; (2) notifying affiliated hospitals of patients in need of treatment on an emergency basis (overdoses, bad trips, reversions, drug related suicide attempts, etc.); (3) providing a vehicle for emergency transportation to the hospitals; (4) counseling frightened drug experimenters; (5) talking abusers out of depression reactions; (6) counseling parents of drug abusers; (7) preventing potential suicides via person-to-person confrontations; (8) speaking to educational and community organizations about drug abuse in the Shreveport-Boaisier area.

The fact that Shire House has become the community's primary contact on matters related to drug and narcotic abuse is evidenced by the steady rise in both telephone and personal contacts made with staff members. In its first month of operation, the center received

(Continued on Page 8)
LOUISIANA PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

BUDGET
1972 - 1973

Dues from members (190 x $40) ................................... $7,600.00

Expenditures:

- Secretarial — $200 per month .................................. 2,400.00
- Installation Dinner-Dance ....................................... 500.00
- Annual Meeting .................................................. 500.00
- Pel Hughes Mailing Service (other than newsletter) ........... 400.00
- Newsletter — 4 issues at $500 (including secretarial, printing, and mailing) ........................................... 2,000.00
- Postage, Telephone, & Petty Cash .............................. 300.00
- Office Supplies .................................................. 200.00
- Delegate’s Travel .................................................. 300.00
- Bick Awards ....................................................... 100.00

TOTAL .......................................................... $6,700.00

For miscellaneous and reserves .................................... $ 900.00

The above budget was approved at the annual meeting in Lafayette. A resolution was also passed which requires Executive Council approval for any expenditures exceeding these amounts.

NEWS ITEMS

At the AMA Clinical Meeting in New Orleans last December, Max Sugar presented papers entitled “Counseling Parents with Problem Adolescents” and “Behavior Problems of Adolescents and Counseling for the Families”.

Max stayed home in New Orleans long enough to present a workshop on “Psychodynamic Principles of Group Psychotherapy” at the Louisiana Group Psychotherapy Society a few weeks later. However, it was Christmas in Miami where the City University’s Psychiatric Institute heard his papers on “Group Psychotherapy with Adolescents” and “The Adolescent in Self-Selected Peer Group Psychotherapy.”

California and the Southwestern Regional Meeting of Adolescent Psychiatry Societies beckoned in January. There he presented “Defusing a High School Critical Mass” and was panelist on “Homosexuality in Adolescence.”

Chet Scrgignor was elected Chairman of the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court Advisory Committee. He was also appointed Adjunct Associate Professor in Law & Psychiatry at Tulane University School of Law. The State Department of Education designated him to represent it on the “Joint Legislative Committee to Study Drug Abuse.”

Colonel Karr Shannon, Jr., U.S.A. Reserve Liaison Officer for Admissions, U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y., has recently been appointed as Consultant in Psychiatry to the Office of The Surgeon General, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C. In his role as consultant he will assist and advise in the initiation and improvement of programs of prevention and treatment in the Army’s division of psychiatry.

In June Col. Shannon will spend two weeks in the Office of the Surgeon General, following which he will spend one week in West Point.

Al Cohen and Gene Usdin attended the Fifth Annual Teaching Seminar of the American College of Psychiatrists in Coronado, Calif. in January. Gene also spoke on “Neurosis and Trauma” at the Mount Airy Symposium in Denver in February.

Jay Seastrunk was elected President of the Southwest College Health Association.

Ernie Svenson has been appointed the LPA’s liaison officer to the APA Government Relations Section. He will join Paul Pratt and Jack Weisler at the APA workshop on legislative procedures in Washington in March.