

LOS ANGELES PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY AND INSTITUTE
Business Meeting

Time: Thursday, November 16, 1967, 7:15 p.m.

Place: 344 North Bedford Drive, Beverly Hills

Minutes of the Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:19 p.m. by Dr. Leavitt, President. There were 52 members present.

1. The minutes of the meeting of October 19, 1967, were accepted with the following statement by Dr. Sperling: Dr. Sperling felt that the minutes should have said that his report, which is on file, included some corrections to the report of the Executive Councilor.

2. Membership Committee - Dr. Abrams:

Dr. Abrams announced that Dr. Jerome Karasic has been elected a member of the Society/Institute. Drs. David Gottlieb, Edwin Kleinman, and Thomas Mintz have been graduated and have been recommended for membership. A mail ballot will be circularized.

Dr. Abrams announced that our esteemed Dr. Hanna Fenichel has become a Life Member. The membership acknowledged this with applause and appreciation for her service.

The membership Committee is interested in ideas and thoughts concerning the problem of mutually acquainting unfamiliar but eligible new applicants for membership and our own membership. Please communicate directly with Dr. Abrams.

3. Proposed Amendment to the By-Laws of The American Psychoanalytic Association:

Since much of the essential background material has been distributed to members and since the entire file is available at the Society/Institute office, the very active and stimulating discussion will be summarized.

Dr. Sperling, a member of the ad-hoc committee which drafted the By-Laws change, repeatedly and in a variety of ways, explained the background for the compromise solution. He pointed out that the previous (Bond) committee had recommended full membership for the relatively few non-medical training analysts concerned, but the Executive Council did not place this before the entire membership because sufficient information had been accumulated to indicate there was no chance of an affirmative vote. He and the Executive Council felt strongly, for a variety of reasons, that this was and is a political reality. The present Committee was therefore charged with aiming at a compromise somewhere between no membership and full membership, and this they did.

Dr. Rollman-Branch pointed out that the issue concerns retroactive situations rather than future prospects since it involves people whose qualifications have been repeatedly scrutinized. She pointed out, however, that there is no choice given to the membership between full -, special -, and no membership. She felt that despite the need of a yes or no vote on a By-Laws change, some plan could be worked out to ascertain the true desires of the membership, perhaps a pre-by-Laws-preference vote.

Dr. Malin raised, and Dr. Sperling discussed, the crucial questions of whether the Committee or the Executive Council truly represent the feeling of the individual societies

and their members.

After further discussion, Dr. Abrams moved, s/Dr. Walsh, m/c, that we poll our own Society/Institute members as to their preference for full -, special -, or no membership so that our Executive Councilor shall have guidance at the Council meeting. Since the Executive Councilor represents the Society/Institute, all members, not only members of The American, will be polled.

4. New Business:

Dr. Lyman Harrison read a very important report, which is on file, concerning the activities of the Committee on Social Problems of The American. He pointed out that the Committee has become interested in and supports a number of projects on the community level and would like the societies to explore their own areas of interest. Analysts can be divided into conservatives, who feel their major contributions can only be in the areas of study and research, and the activists, who participate, often not as representatives of an analytic society, in a wide variety of community activities. He explained that some of the causes for this lie in the one-to-one approach of analysts as opposed to experience in groups and community interactions. He also stressed the analyst's desire for anonymity but indicated that this may be defensive in nature. He continued that psychoanalytic theory is a basic part of many of the behavioral sciences and is a common denominator of many. This places the analyst in a difficult but important role in relation to his colleagues in these related fields who may experience him as meddling.

He summarized several areas in which the Committee on Social Problems has been active: abortion, race, leadership, political science, recruitment of analysts, and religion. The American has two significant projects now active: 1) the Prevention Project in which The American is directly participating with the Federal Joint Commission on Mental Illness of Children and 2) the place of analysts in the Community Mental Health Program.

Dr. Harrison raised questions as to areas of interest within our own Society as well as the possibility of combining with the other local institute in a joint venture: a hospital based, psychoanalytically oriented community mental health clinic, similar to Mt. Zion Hospital in San Francisco.

He urged the Society/Institute as a whole to actively debate these issues in the near future.

At the present time the Committees on Community Education and Community Activities, Chaired by Drs. Mandel and Abrahams, are meeting and are discussing more actively these areas of interest. All interested members are encouraged to attend and take part in these joint meetings.

5. Announcements:

- a. Dr. Leavitt announced that the Auxiliary is planning the annual Christmas party for Thursday, December 21, 7 p.m., at the Mulholland Club. There will be buffet, cocktails, and dancing. Please save the date.
- b. Dr. Maurice Walsh has been invited by Mrs. Jones to write a biography of Dr. Ernest Jones.

- c. Dr. Walsh raised the question of continuing to print the scientific papers prior to presentation. There was overwhelming desire for this.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Arthur Ourieff, M. D.
Secretary

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