

LOS ANGELES PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY

To: All Members

From: Arthur Ourieff, M. D.
Chairman, By-Laws Committee

Proposed By-Laws Changes

At the next meeting of the Society you will be asked to vote on various changes in the By-Laws. These changes have been thoroughly discussed at two Business Meetings of the Society.

To remind you once again, there are three changes being offered. Judging from the discussions at the meetings, two of them are non-controversial and were generally acceptable to the membership.

The first concerns the addition of a new Category of Membership; namely, Life Member, to which Active and Accredited Members will be eligible upon attaining the age of seventy, or special circumstances, at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

The second proposal clarifies and spells out for the first time the procedures for Guest Membership, about which there has been some misunderstanding in the past.

The third proposal concerns a change in the office of Vice-President to that of President-Elect. This proposal brought heated discussion and three main viewpoints:

1. The office of President-Elect would provide an opportunity for becoming familiar with the functions and duties of the Presidency. The ongoing work and problems of the Society and its various committees would be known, and the President-Elect would be able to begin to develop his own plans. As a member of the Board of Directors for the year following his term of office as President, his experience and advice would be at the disposal of the Society. In other words, three years would be involved; a year as President-Elect, a year as President, and a year as a member of the Board of Directors. The major disadvantage is that a successful President would not be able to be continued in office for a second term. There was also some question as to whether the experience as President-Elect would provide sufficient training for the Presidency.
2. Some members were interested in electing officers for a period of two years so that there would be sufficient tenure in office to become familiar with the duties and therefore function more advantageously for the Society. They pointed out that, although it is voluntary, the Society has re-elected the officers for a second term for many years. Since this is the practice, they felt that it should be written into the By-Laws.
3. Keep the offices as at present.

It was felt that the membership should be given an opportunity to express their desires in these matters. Therefore, you will be asked to vote for a change to a President-Elect, to elect officers for two years, or to keep the offices as at present.

In reviewing the By-Laws, an error was discovered between the current copies and the previous set of By-Laws. At present, there is a Category of Members called Honorary Member, which does not include the right to vote or hold office. All previous By-Laws have included this right, and in practice these members have indeed voted and held office. I checked into this with the members of the Committee that wrote the present By-Laws and

they were surprised at this omission. We feel sure that this was a clerical error of some sort, and you will be asked to vote on returning the vote and right to hold office to this important group of our members.

Enclosed you will find copies of the various changes as they will appear in the By-Laws, if so voted by you.

AO:jk