

nm/ LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is the last Letter from the President of the Society that will appear in the *Journal* because we have begun to publish a separate newsletter that will contain information of a nonscientific nature. It will be sent to all members of the Society and to other interested persons. This step will not only make more pages of the *Journal* available for scientific papers, but will also facilitate communication between the Society and its members.

In this letter I would like to describe briefly how the Society of Nuclear Medicine functions with the hope that this knowledge will be helpful to members who feel that they would like to participate more in Society affairs but do not know how.

First, each member should feel free to communicate directly with our executive director, Mrs. Margaret Glos, in our New York office. Material for the newsletter, news of chapter activities, requests for information and suggestions are welcome.

The next important link between a member and the Society is the president of his local chapter who is an *ex officio* member of the Board of Trustees. In addition to his important responsibilities for local affairs, each chapter president is expected to report to his constituents what takes place at the semi-annual Board of Trustees meeting. One of the most important functions of the chapter president is his role in the nominating committee which annually proposes national officers and trustees. Because the president in most chapters serves for only a single year, it would be helpful if the president-elect as well as the president of each chapter would attend the meetings of the Board of Trustees and the nominating committee so that the new president can have a year in which to become acquainted with the Society's operations. At present, there are 16 chapters of the Society of Nuclear Medicine. The 16 presidents plus the two immediate past presidents of the Society plus an additional member appointed by the immediate past president make up the nominating committee. Thus the chapter presidents control the recommendations of the nominating committee.

This year I am suggesting that the nominating committee report its recommendations to the members of the Society at the time of registration at the annual meeting. Ballots will be distributed at that time. Space will be provided on the ballot for members to either vote for the recommendations of the nominating committee or to write in other choices if they wish. The ballots will be collected and tabulated at the annual business meeting.

Society members should also be aware of the contribution that they can make to the various committees of the Society. There are eight standing committees chaired at the present time by the following persons:

- Committee on Finance and Budgets—Monte Blau, Ph.D.
- Publications Committee—William H. Blahd, M.D.
- Nominating Committee—George V. Taplin, M.D.
- Committee on Scientific Affairs and Research—Paul V. Harper, M.D.
- Committee on Education and Training in Nuclear Medicine—
David E. Kuhl, M.D.
- Committee on Awards—Jack K. Goodrich, M.D.
- Committee on Competence and Certification—Merrill A. Bender, M.D.

The chairmen and members of these committees are proposed by the president of the Society subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

Special committees, which are annually appointed by the president of the Society, need not be approved by the trustees. In the August issue of the *Journal*, the names of the present chairmen of these special committees were announced.

Members are encouraged to communicate with any or all officers or committee chairmen of the Society. I hope that some of these details will help our members to play an active role in the Society if they wish.

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