



# N · E · W · S

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lee Booth

Before going into specific Academy activities over the past months I would like to provide a "State of the Academy" message. We are now in our fifteenth year of existence and have evolved into a mature organization. The Academy Preamble and Bylaws remain essentially as prepared and accepted in 1986. We have in place a Policy Manual, Operating Procedures and a long term Strategic Plan, all of which guide our continuing operations. We have attained financial stability, with sufficient funds in reserve to meet two years' operating expenses, which is the financial goal of an organization such as ours. Over 85 % of Certified Health Physicists are active members of the Academy and participation in Academy activities is at an all time high, with many more volunteers than positions available. The primary purpose of the Academy, which is to "...provide CHPs a voice in the selection of board members and in the ongoing programs of the ABHP" (from the Academy Preamble) has been met through Academy functions such as board appointments and the assumption of responsibilities for continuing education, appeals, professional ethics and finances. Feedback from the membership generally shows satisfaction with Academy activities and goals.

The question now is: where do we go from here? Do we continue to stay the course and concentrate on the well-defined, but limited, goals of the Academy, or do we expand our interests into other areas, such as entering into cooperative agreements with allied boards and organizations? I think I will defer to these questions to future leaders of the Academy. I believe we face two significant issues today. The first is the reengineering of Part II of the exam. This is not simply a Board exercise, but will require assistance from many Academy members before the goal is met. The second relates to my concern regarding the financial status of the Academy. I anticipate that we will soon start to run actual deficits, due to the decreasing number of HPs taking the exam and the increasing costs of doing our business. It is possible that the reengineering will ultimately reduce our exam costs. In the meantime, it may require some creative financing to keep our heads above water. Again, these are issues to be faced by

future Executive Committees.

Last year Chuck Roessler reported that a number of things were in progress and would be continuing into my term as President. I would like to update some of those and report on a few new items. While the Executive Committee and the Academy standing committees are continuously working to complete tasks and assignments, many are difficult to bring to closure and seem to have a life of their own. However, I think we have made progress with some of the continuing issues and have actually resolved one or two (subject to future Executive Committee decisions).

It was reported last year that the NRC had published revisions to 10CFR35 that listed training and experience requirements for Radiation Safety Officer, and indicated specific boards whose diplomates automatically met those requirements. It appeared to us that while the ABHP certification met the intent of the regulation, we could not state that we met the letter of the regulation. In May of this year, we submitted a letter to the NRC requesting that the Commission recognize ABHP certification as meeting the training requirements for Radiation Safety Officer. The letter, prepared by Ed Maher, carefully compared the ABHP certification requirements to the Part 35 requirements and made a strong argument for recognition of ABHP certification. We have not yet received a reply...another continuing issue.

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As reported in June, items from the membership survey of 1999 have been, or are being addressed. The licensure/registration/title protection topic has been put to rest, at least for the time being. Relationships with other organizations are being investigated. Continuing education

questions have been forwarded to the Continuing Education Committee. With the establishment of the Joyce P. Davis Memorial Award we have instituted a mechanism to recognize worthy members of the Academy. A Standard for Qualifications and Practice for University RSOs has been prepared and will soon be published, with a second Standard in preparation. The Strategic Plan has been reviewed and items requiring attention identified (not all of these have yet been addressed).

While we have made progress in a number of areas, many

issues, as noted above, tend to carry over from year to year, and the incoming president, Jim Tarpinian, will be busy dealing with some of these.

Good luck, Jim and all the members of the Executive Committee and Standing Committees. I'm certain you will do a terrific job.

Lee Booth, CHP  
President, AAHP

## REMINDER

**Applications for the Certification Exam must be postmarked by January 15th.  
Application materials may be obtained from the Academy web page:**

**[www.aahp-abhp.org](http://www.aahp-abhp.org)**

**or from the Secretariat, 703-790-1745.**

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**Articles, Letters to the Editor, etc. are welcome. Contributions may be in the form of electronic files (MS Word or WordPerfect), text files, or hard copy.**