

Annual Report to MMA Members

- From the Executive Committee

- June 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009



Executive Committee: **President:** R. Todd Weaver D.M.D. **President-Elect:** Joanne Brenneman Speigle, **Secretary-Treasurer;** James Spicher, M.D., and **Members-at-large:** Alex Bartel, M.D. and Rochele Beachy, M.D. **Staff:** Sam Showalter M.D., Executive Secretary, and Jan Showalter R.N., Administrative Assistant.

Meetings were held: 3 face to face Committee meetings this year on: June 19 2008 at Snow Mountain Ranch, Granby, CO; September 20, 2008 in the home of Todd Weaver, Sellersville, PA and March 21, 2009 in Cleveland, OH. Other committee meetings consisted of near monthly conference call sessions, usually on the 3rd Monday of the month.

We began using WebEx on-line conferencing in October, which was not only less expensive than conference calls, but gave us the capability of viewing documents together, and even visiting by webcam as desired.

Primary Topics discussed and actions taken at these meetings, often by consensus, are summarized below.

1. Approval of new members.

37 new members were approved this year (compared with 13 last year.) Of these, 20 were "Gift" memberships, given mostly by current members, to their friends and peers, many of whom are in medical professions being newly welcomed to membership. (See separate membership report.) "Gift" memberships are considered as "associate" and are for a 1 year term, with the hopes that these members will then renew their membership for years to come.

2. Mobilization for Mission (MFM) Fund.

A. Student Elective Term (SET) program.

The trend downward in applications for SET grants continued this year, from a high of 13 in '06-07, to 5 last year and 4 this year. One of these grants was only offered for living expense and a report for publication, since the student could only go for a 4 week experience. One of our SET couples did share their blog site with us, and we could enjoy their "SET Report" in real time, with beautiful photography included.

B. Steven Roth Fund (SRF)

We have now been able to separate out this fund from the general MFM fund. In 2004, at administrative transition the balance was \$21,265, or 49.5% of the MFM. Since that time the total SRF income has been \$9,296 and expenses were \$10,893 giving a current SRF balance of \$19,668 (which is 40.5% of MFM.) Some support from the SRF was given for a short term mission service project by one of our members recently and others are encouraged to both contribute to, and request funds from SRF to assist in similar projects.

C. Anabaptist Center for Healthcare Ethics (ACHE).

As mentioned last year; ACHE essentially remains "on hold." An advisory board met once at Mennonite Health Assembly, to continue maintenance of the official structure, while additional possibilities are being discussed. MMA members designated only \$138 to ACHE this year. Impending changes in MMA and MNA may positively affect the future of ACHE as well.

3. Mennonite Health Journal.

We continue to work with MHJ Editor, Melanie Zuercher in the production of each quarterly issue of MHJ. in the 2nd or early part of the 3rd month of each quarter. -We believe the quality of the Journal continues to improve each year. Circulation numbers are slightly under 1000. We would welcome gift subscriptions for churches etc.

4. MMA-MNA Study Team.

This team of 7 persons, initiated by both Executive Committees at Convention '08, with Sam Showalter and Sondra Leatherman serving in facilitation roles, met with Consultant Walter Sawatzky for one full workday, and in on-line conference 7 times, in the preparation of their Proposal, for presentation at Convention 09.

5. Web Site. www.mennmed.org.

We have continued to fund the use of Mennonite.net as our internet service provider. We are currently without a web consultant, and with concentration on the Study Team process, significant updating has not happened. We look forward to an improved web presence in the near future.

6. Convention Planning for '09 at Laurelville and Williamsburg, VA in 2010.

We met with the MNA Executive Committee at Convention 08, and by on-line conferencing an additional 5 times, to consider Journal evaluation and Convention planning. Although registrations are somewhat lower this year, they are better than we expected because of the economy and lots of current church-wide competing events.