

Technologist News

The Sixth Winter Meeting Highlights: National Council Delegates and Business Meeting Actions

- Delegates were requested to remind Section members about the dues increase and the \$5.00 alternative. Members may pay the sum listed on their invoice and continue to receive both the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine* and the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology*, or they may elect to deduct \$5.00 from their dues and forego receiving the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine*.
- Margaret Glos, Executive Director of the Society and the Technologist Section, was unanimously elected a Distinguished Honoree of the Section. Mrs. Glos was cited for her service to the Section since its inception in 1970 and applauded for her numerous contributions to its development and success. In addition, the NMTCB honored her with a plaque in appreciation of her notable efforts in the establishment of the Board. Both Mrs. Glos and James J. Conway, MD, who had already been designated a Distinguished Honoree for 1979, received their awards and were given standing ovations during the Section Business Meeting, held February 10.
- Atlantic City, NJ, has been selected as the site for the 1981 Section Winter Meeting.
- Delegates have been asked to provide the Continuing Education Committee with the name of their chapter PAR reviewers as soon as possible. Effective July 1, all PAR programs will be reviewed on a local level by appointed chapter members.
- Organization of an Academic Council for Section educators is still in the formative stages. A proposal will be presented to the delegates at the SNM Annual Meeting in June for their approval.
- Delegates will soon have at their disposal a Directory of National Officers and Committee Chairpersons. Members are requested to contact their delegates whenever necessary for the name of appropriate persons.
- The Section is considering alternative mechanisms for participating in the RSNA Annual Meeting Continuing Education program in return for a reduced meeting registration fee for Section members. Details are to be completed between members of the RSNA and the Section Executive Committees.
- New membership applications to the SNM, Technologist Section, and Councils will be available soon with revised instruction and dues information.
- The Section is applying for membership in the National Commission on Health Certifying Agencies, which works to standardize certification processes among allied health professions.
- Section financial management reflects an overall maturity based on the efforts of Lori S. Vingers, according to the Finance Committee. A former \$25,000 deficit now stands at less than \$3,000.

Mrs. Glos, Mrs. Tulloch Resign; New Position Is Created in National Office

Some 12 years of service come to an end on July 1, 1979, when the resignation of SNM Executive Director Margaret B. Glos becomes effective.

Mrs. Glos, who is also the Section's Executive Director, is leaving the Society to form her own management company, G&T Management, Inc., in conjunction with Catherine Tulloch, who has been with the Society for 8 years and is the National Office's second-ranking staff person, Director of Conferences. Mrs. Tulloch's resignation becomes effective April 1.

Both resignations were announced at the January 20 SNM Board of Trustees meeting. The action prompted the immediate formation of a Search Committee to seek a new Executive Director and the decision to create a new position within the National Office: Deputy Executive Director, SNM/Technologist Section Administrator.

The Technologist Section's Executive Committee, Mrs. Glos, and SNM President C. Douglas Maynard, MD, have formed a search committee to fill the Deputy SNM Director/Technologist Section Administrator position. This person will devote approximately half of his or her time to Technologist Section affairs. The Search Committee is expected to announce an appointment as early as mid-March.

What Do I Get for My Dues?

George W. Alexander, Jr.
President-Elect
Technologist Section, SNM

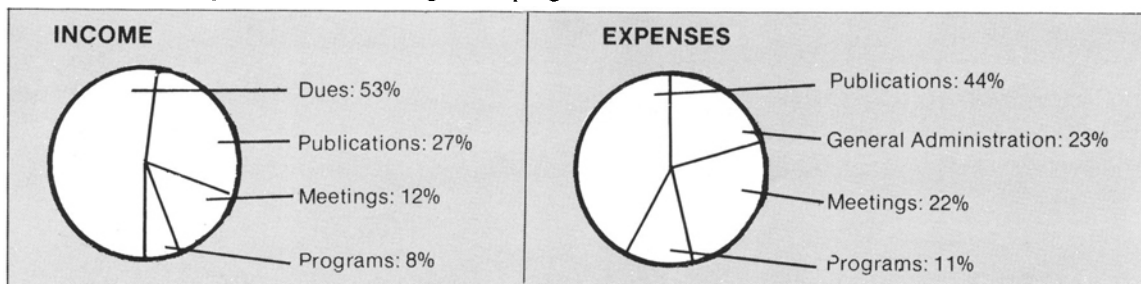
For the first time, the Section has been able to identify *all* the costs it incurs and thus the question "What do I get for my dues?" can be answered. In the past, all costs incurred by the Section have been *direct* costs and did not include indirect costs such as personnel and "overhead," which were previously assigned to the Society budget as separate line items paid by the Society. The sources and allocations of revenues for the Section are outlined.

Concurrently, some confusion also exists concerning the dues structure itself. To help clarify this situation, here are the two most common types of dues paid by technologists:

Technologist Section—	\$13.00		Technologist Section—	\$13.00	
Associate Member, SNM—	\$40.00*		Technologist member, SNM—	\$25.00*	
Chapter member—	\$ 5.00†	Total:	Chapter member—	\$ 2.50†	Total:
Technologist chapter—	\$ 2.00	\$67.00	Technologist chapter—	\$ 2.00	\$49.50
VOICE—	\$ 7.00		VOICE—	\$ 7.00	

*A \$5.00 increase will be incurred if the member elects to receive the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine*. † Chapter dues vary.

The total operations budget for fiscal year 1977-1978 amounts to approximately \$235,000. On the income side, note that dues collections comprise only 53% of our total income (approximately \$124,000); the rest of income is derived from: publications (27%); meetings (12%); and programs such as continuing education (8%). The breakdown of the income section of the Society of Nuclear Medicine's budget is very similar to that of the Technologist Section, i.e., the greatest portion of income comes from dues, publications, meetings, and programs.



Analysis of the Section's expenses shows that 44% of its costs are incurred by the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology*; 23% by general administration—which includes expenses for the National Council delegates, President, Executive Committee, other committees, elections, and administrative costs of the National Office for such services as telephones, mailings, etc.; 22% by meetings; and 11% by continuing education.

What do these figures mean? **In no way do dues cover the total cost of operations for the Technologist Section and for every dollar that a technologist currently pays to the Society of Nuclear Medicine, he or she derives approximately two dollars in services.**

Further, at its recent meeting in Phoenix, the Society's Board of Trustees agreed to provide a Technologist Section Administrator *at no cost to the Section* this year. This new addition to the National Office staff will increase the timeliness and quality of services provided to the Section; he or she will devote about 50% of each working day to the functions of the Section.

Another significant decision reached at the Board meeting was that the Board agreed to a Section proposal that a portion of dues from Technologist Section members paid to the Society will now be indicated as income from technologists—allowing the Section to identify all its possible income and expenses. Details will be worked out by the Finance Committees of both the Society and the Section. With these important changes in our financial system, we can for the first time say that the Section is financially responsible and sound, and we can readily identify all costs so that we may now attempt to be self-sufficient within the Society.

And let us not forget the real purpose of the Technologist Section—education. As you can see, the majority of our money is directed towards that aim. Additionally, the Section is constantly looking for methods to improve or add services relevant to education, without incurring added costs to members.

I trust that this information answers questions concerning what you receive for your dues and that, in turn, you will totally support our efforts to attract new members and strengthen our Section by your participation in it.

Message from the President

SUSAN WEISS
The Children's Memorial Hospital
Chicago, Illinois



The 1979 Annual Meeting of the Technologist Section was a resounding success of which we can all be extremely proud. Success was reflected in several aspects of the meeting and all represented progress for the Technologist Section.

The scientific program, offering attendees a wide variety of topics to choose from, was ambitious and well-received. Changes in the VOICE program allowed registrants to receive a maximum amount of credits and flexibility in selecting tracks.

Of special interest to those of you who were not able to attend the San Diego meeting were the Committee meetings, which were well attended and produced significant progress in several areas. Topics of discussion included the VOICE program, bylaws, and government relations. The feedback mechanism of VOICE has been revamped to expedite the turnaround time for credits earned by individual

participants. The Government Relations Committee's legislative network has been expanded to provide better support on the local government level and is currently focusing its attention towards creating greater visibility of the Section among federal agencies. Several bylaws changes have been proposed by the National Council and will appear on the Section's election ballot.

Most gratifying to me was the fact that many of the needs of the membership were expressed and mechanisms were formulated to satisfy them. The participation and interest in the National Council deliberations by concerned individuals (other than elected and appointed officials) have increased.

Seeking Section Administrator

The Executive Committee, aided by the National Council delegates, has begun the process of selecting an

administrator. Based on the Board of Trustees' recognition of the Section's growing needs and their decision to provide the Section with a person to answer those needs, a Search Committee was formed—composed of the Executive Committee, Margaret Glos, and C. Douglas Maynard, MD, the Society's President—to interview candidates for this new National Office position. The Committee is expected to make a final decision within one month. As soon as this position is filled, it will be announced in the *SNM Newslines* and the *JNMT*; this will let you know who to contact in the National Office with your primary questions and concerns.

I am pleased and I hope you are too with the progress we have made. Come to the meetings in Atlanta and help us to continue the progress.

Scientific Program for 26th Annual Meeting Takes Shape

A restructured scientific program—designed to provide maximum benefits to nuclear medicine technologists who either attend the entire meeting or who plan to attend for one day—highlights the Technologist Section's program for the 26th Annual SNM Meeting, June 26–29 in Atlanta, GA.

All sessions will be self-contained units; each will take one day to complete. Following its successful reception at the San Diego Winter Meeting, VOICE program changes will be continued. Technologists can receive either CEU or VUE credits, depending on their extent of participation, says John J. Reilley, scientific program chairman.

Days, titles, and brief descriptions of the sessions are:

Tuesday: (June 26) all the scientific papers will be presented this afternoon.

Wednesday:

Cardiac—geared to clinical nuclear

medicine technologists, with topics to include anatomy, physiology, stress testing, and the significance of the tests. Educators—nuclear medicine technology education today is the focus. New Imaging Modalities—topics to include emission tomography, ultrasound as correlated to nuclear medicine, positron imaging, and new tomographic modalities.

Thursday:

Basic Clinical Science—to cover routine clinical procedures in nuclear medicine technology in a refresher/review format.

Quality Control Workshop on Radiopharmaceuticals—cosponsored by the Bureau of Radiological Health. Computer Software—the aim is to teach technologists the fundamentals of programming.

Friday:

Quality Control Workshop on Gamma Cameras—also cosponsored

by the Bureau of Radiological Health. Advanced Clinical—geared to academic technologists and covering the latest developments in radiopharmaceuticals, gastrointestinal imaging, and trauma in nuclear medicine. Management—the latest management techniques will be covered.

The 26th Annual SNM Meeting—including full details on the scientific program, Section meetings, as well as social highlights—will be covered in the June *JNMT*.

The Fifth Annual Meeting of the Clinical Radioassay Society will be held in the Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, DC, May 23-25. For information, contact John Praither, American Medical Laboratory, 11091 Main St., Fairfax, VA, 22030.

The VOICE Box

VOICE Self-Assessment: On February 6, the Continuing Education Committee met in San Diego and organized an "administrative audit" of the VOICE program to determine present and future program needs, as well as alternative mechanisms for implementing necessary changes. To do this, two special subcommittees were established. The first subcommittee will evaluate the VOICE computer documentation program as it now exists—and look into such questions as would record-keeping be easier if all Section members were automatically VOICE members, or if plastic "credit cards" were issued? Would these or other improvements in the system be cost-effective? Subcommittee members

Robert Bontemps and Richard Pollack (both from the greater New York area, thus having convenient access to the VOICE administrative facilities in the SNM National Office) will examine the documentation and financial aspects of the VOICE computer program and present a preliminary budget for Section approval in April.

The second subcommittee, specifically referred to as the VOICE Subcommittee, is based on a fundamental change in the program approval structure of the VOICE/PAR program. The overall goal of this subcommittee is, through direct contact with local VOICE members, serving as a "watchdog" of VOICE as a whole, determining necessary operating changes, and reporting them to the CE Committee. The subcommittee, chaired by a VOICE coordinator, will be made up of the VUE reviewer, the audiovisual reviewer, members of CERB, and each chapter's own PAR program reviewer. Joan McKeown, who to date has been the sole PAR/VUE/Audiovisual program reviewer, suggested and the committee approved, the following: effective July 1, PAR program approval will be relegated to chapter VOICE representatives. All chapter PAR activities will be sent to a designated PAR reviewer for approval, not a single national reviewer. Ideally, current VOICE chapter representatives would volunteer to incorporate the position of reviewer into his or her present VOICE responsibilities. If a chapter is unable to provide its members with a reviewer of its own, the CE Committee will aid in the search. All reviewers will be invited to attend a special PAR reviewers orientation meeting during the SNM Annual Meeting in Atlanta this June; then they will be presented with a formal job description and program approval instructions. As members of the VOICE Subcommittee, chapter PAR reviewers will work with the national VUE reviewer and a new Audiovisual reviewer, and CERB members to oversee administration of VOICE and to make themselves available to program members in their own areas.

The subcommittee chairman will not be a program reviewer or a chapter representative, but a VOICE member with a strong administrative background. He or she will be responsible for attending to specific problems arising within VOICE and working with appropriate persons, such as reviewers, course directors, or the SNM Education Coordinator to solve any problem.

Also in the course of the San Diego, Mary Maxwell reported on a proposal regarding a VOICE appeals board that would resolve questions about CERB decisions on CEU program applications. The guidelines were approved and the format is now established. Inquiries should be addressed to Ms. Maxwell at 1755 E. Sherwood, St. Paul, MN 55106.

Syllabus and Self-Assessment Projects: Sheila Rosenfeld reported that the format and method for preparing each section of the Technologist Syllabus have been determined and that some syllabus writers have already been selected. National Council delegates were asked to contact chapter members for additional writers. Volunteers are requested to contact their National Council delegate or the SNM Education Coordinator. It is anticipated that the first draft of the Syllabus will be ready in about nine months if writers begin immediately.

Work on the Section's Self-Assessment project is now pending evaluation of a similar program of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine.

Continuing Education Committee Chairperson Marleen Moore has announced her resignation; she will be moving to New Hampshire and a new career as a medical physicist. Sheila Rosenfeld, who has served on the CE Committee for six years, will succeed Ms. Moore. Ms. Rosenfeld's address is Division of Nuclear Medicine, St. Louis VA Hospital, John Cochran-115, St. Louis, MO 63125.

Report from the NMTCB

Mark I. Muilenburg
Chairman
NMTCB

The NMTCB has entered its second examination cycle and during the first four months development of new test items for this year's exam and new policies for evolving situations will receive high priority.

A great deal can be learned from the past testing experience and applied to better the certification process. Critical to this process is a thorough psychometric evaluation of the overall test performance and of the individual test items.

The scores used to provide information about the 1978 examination are raw scores based on 200 test items, not scaled scores. The low and high scores were 56 and 174, respectively; the mean was 119. The following shows performance by category:

Category	Number of Items	Low Score	High Score	Mean
Nuclear instrumentation	47	11	46	28
Radiation protection	21	4	21	13
Imaging procedures	48	10	44	30
Nonimaging procedures	46	9	41	25
Dose calibration	18	4	18	14
Radiopharmacy	20	1	19	11

Of crucial importance to any examination is its reliability—the dependability by which it measures what it is intended to measure. One universally accepted index of reliability is the Kuder–Richardson 20. The higher the reported KR₂₀ value, the better; a value above .90 is regarded as extremely desirable. The KR₂₀ value for the 1978 NMTCB exam was .94.

Individual test items were evaluated using two indices—the difficulty of the item and the item–test correlation. The difficulty of an item is determined by the proportion of examinees answering an item correctly. In item–test correlation the performance on the individual test items is compared with the overall test performance of an examinee. It is desirable that this correlation be as high as possible. Results of these evaluations will be important factors in selecting items for the next NMTCB test, which will have 225 items.

Validity of an examination is determined by the developmental methodology that is used. We have used an in-depth task analysis to identify the test content and to assure job relatedness; this is critical in achieving a valid competency-based assessment. This methodology will be continued by the Board. The task analysis has been revised and will be continually updated to assure that the NMTCB examination is relevant to the competent practice of nuclear medicine technology.

Because of laws restricting the release of private information, only the scores of candidates who have authorized their release on the test answer sheet can be made available upon request. Privacy must be protected, yet at the same time, NMT program directors need to know how their students performed in the different test subcategories and how they performed on a national basis to aid in their program evaluations. The NMTCB is currently investigating methods to satisfy both these needs. For the 1978 examination, the Board will release score information in this way: Upon receipt of a written request with a list of student names, the scores of those students who have authorized release will be given. In addition, combined mean scores of the students in the subcategories and the overall test will be furnished. May I remind you that the new NMTCB address is PO Box 1034, Stone Mountain, GA 30086.

New application forms and information pamphlets are available from this address as well. *The deadline for the 1979 examination applications is June 2, 1979.* This deadline must be observed.

Certificates for those certified by the NMTCB in 1978 were mailed first class in January. If you have not received your certificate, and you passed the examination or applied for recognition of previous certification, please contact the NMTCB. Recognition of previous certification is still open to all NMTs who were certified in nuclear medicine technology before the September 1978 exam.

The Board met in San Diego in February. Our main purpose was to review the 1978 test items' performance, review new items submitted to the Board, and assess the areas of concentration—before the final formulation of this year's examination. As the NMTCB progresses, input from all interested NMTs and your continued support are very important for a successful 1979.