

New Officers Prepare to Lead WPS in 2006-07

Moving into the presidency of the Washington Psychiatric Society, Richard A. Ratner, MD will begin his term on May 25. As President-Elect, Dr. Ratner organized the Society's Strategic Planning Committee. The Committee will make its preliminary report to the Board of Directors in June based on member responses to our survey and ideas for future growth, services and development generated in that survey. Newly elected Officers are:

President-Elect

Michael Houston, MD: Dr. Houston is a past APA Assembly Representative for WPS. He is a child and adolescent psychiatrist practicing in Washington, DC, and active in the local chapter of AACAP.

Treasurer

Louis Kopolow, MD: Dr. Kopolow is currently Secretary to the Society, Chair of the Suburban Maryland Chapter and Assistant Newsletter Editor. He is in private practice in Gaithersburg, MD.

At-Large Representatives to the Board

Gustavo Goldstein, MD has been active in Suburban Maryland legislative affairs and will continue to

serve as a member of the WPS CME Committee. He is in private practice in the Bethesda area and is also a staff psychiatrist at the Montgomery County Dept. of Health.

James Lettenberger, MD is a member of the WPS Ethics Committee. He is in private practice in Washington, DC.

Early Career Representative to Board

Catherine McCarthy, MD. This is Dr. McCarthy's first office in WPS. She is in private practice in McLean, VA.

APA Assembly Representatives

Catherine May, MD was appointed as Assembly Rep to replace the late Larry Sack, MD in 2003 and begins her first elected term in this office. Past WPS President and member of the Ethics Committee, she is an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner in her ward of Washington, DC. She is in private practice.

Roger Peele, MD, Dr. Peele is a past APA Trustee for Area 3, has held numerous APA and WPS offices and is the chief psychiatrist in the Montgomery County Dept. of Health. ■

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**2006 APA Annual Meeting
Toronto, Canada
May 20 - 25, 2006**



WPS: Vital and Active in Serving Our Members and their Patients

by David H. Fram, MD

As my term as president of the Washington Psychiatric Society draws to a close I want to first thank the entire membership for having placed your trust in me to lead you this year. I have attempted to make our Society a healthier, better functioning organization able to put forward the goals in the Society mission statement in an effective way. I wish also to thank the members and officers of the Board for their devoted efforts for the Society.

There has been continuing active functioning of vital committees and subgroups of the Society. Our Continuing Medical Education Committee has further developed its ability to organize and successfully market educational conferences. Our Ethics Committee has actively investigated difficult and controversial cases. Our Confidentiality Committee has continued its efforts to work with the DC Insurance Commissioner and managed care companies to limit the confidential information that can be demanded in insurance reviews. We have been active in attempts to protect patient confidentiality in other ways and to promote better patient care by our lobbying efforts in the legislatures in our jurisdictions; by our active involvement in the Eist/Maryland Board of Physicians case which

accused Dr. Eist of not releasing confidential medical records to the Maryland Board when ordered by them to do so; and by our efforts to improve patient care in the public sector in the District of Columbia by developing a working relationship with the DC Department of Mental Health to help deal with the apparent deterioration of services being provided. We have been active in developing a capacity to respond effectively when disasters occur—both natural and man-made. Members were involved both locally and on site in the aftermath of the Katrina disaster. We also have been developing a project to assist embassies in Washington to deal with the psychiatric aspects of local disasters when and if they should occur. To enhance our ability to respond to developing trends in our field and plan for our future activities, we have had this year an active Strategic Planning Committee.

As this partial list of the activities that WPS has pursued this year shows, we clearly have an involved and committed membership. Our discussions are sometimes lengthy and contentious, but our purpose is manifest—to enhance the quality and availability of psychiatric treatment to the community, and promote the development of our profession to engage in this endeavor. ■

OFFICERS 2006-2007

President

Richard A. Ratner, M.D.

President-Elect

Michael Houston, M.D.

Secretary

Louis E. Kopolow, M.D.

Treasurer

Louis E. Kopolow, M.D.

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David H. Fram, M.D.

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Husseini Manji, M.D.

Gustavo A. Goldstein, M.D.

James J. Lettenberger, M.D.

CME Committee Chair

Elizabeth A. Morrison, M.D.

Ethics Committee Chair

Thomas C. Goldman, M.D.

Allied Organization

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William B. Lawson, M.D.

Martin A. Funk, M.D.

George F. Kolodner, M.D.

Erminia Scarcella, M.D.

Brent R. Anderson, M.D.

Chapter Chairs:

Constance E. Dunlap, M.D. [DC]

Eric A. Steckler, M.D. [VA]

Louis E. Kopolow, M.D. [MD]

Legislative Representatives:

Brian Crowley, M.D. [Fed]

Robert W. Keisling, M.D. [DC]

F. J. Pepper, M.D. [VA]

Harvey Fernbach, M.D. [MD]

Public Affairs Representative

Michael D. Barnett, M.D.

Early Career Representatives:

Kavitha G. Rao, M.D.

Catherine L. McCarthy, M.D.

Member-In-Training

Representatives

Neeraj Gandotra, M.D. (HU)

M. Aly Rifai, M.D. (NIMH)

Suena Huang, M.D. (GWU)

Samantha Shlakman, M.D. (GU)

Mozhdeh Roozagar, M.D. (St.E)

APA Board of Trustees

Carolyn B. Robinowitz, M.D.

Harold I. Eist, M.D.

APA Area 3 Council

Carol Lynn Trippitelli, M.D.

M. Aly Rifai, M.D.

APA Assembly

Eliot Sorel, M.D.

Catherine S. May, M.D.

Roger Peele, MD

Circuit Court Finds for Dr. Eist: Board of Physicians May Appeal

Montgomery County Circuit Court Judge Dirke Thompson ordered on March 7, 2006 that the sanctions levied against Harold Eist, MD by the Maryland Board of Physicians be dismissed. For the fourth time in a Maryland Court, Dr Eist has prevailed in this now five year long battle with the Board over the confidentiality of patient records subpoenaed by the Board following a complaint against Dr. Eist filed by a third party, non-patient.

Likewise, for the fourth time the Board of Physicians has decided to fight the Court's ruling, this time by filing a notice of intent to appeal with the Maryland Court of Special Appeals.

In finding for Dr. Eist, Judge Thompson said in part, "The Court feels compelled, however, to say that the Board, as a matter of law, has exceeded its authority in rendering its decision based on factual findings to the contrary... I find that the Board's decision is one that is not adequately supported by the facts and the law as it's been set down by our appellate courts on similar issues.

"...It (the basis for the Court's decision) is that the findings of fact and conclusions of law are against the weight of the evidence by the Board, and accordingly, they (the Board of Physicians fine and reprimand of Dr. Eist) will be reversed. The matter will be remanded to the Board with instruction to dismiss the proceedings against Dr. Eist."

The Washington Psychiatric Society and 16 other organizations submitted an Amicus Curia (Friend of the Court) brief in support of patient confidentiality as the cornerstone of the psychiatrist/patient relationship. To read the WPS Brief and previous newsletter articles about this case visit www.dcpsych.org ■

Dr. Kopolow Will Present Poster Session at APA

WPS member Louis E. Kopolow, MD will present a new research poster session "The Effects of Bupropione-XL versus Sertralina and Escitalopram on Pleasure, Concentration, Interest and Energy in Patients with Major Depression" on Monday, May 22, 3-5 p.m. at the APA Annual Meeting in Toronto. ■

You have just been subpoenaed. *Do you know how to respond?*



If you have your malpractice insurance through The Psychiatrists' Program you can rest assured. With a simple toll-free call, a risk manager can assist you with the immediate steps you need to take to protect your practice.

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WPS Welcomes New Members

New members to the Society are:

General Members

Rochelle Jackson, MD
Rhoshel Lenroot, MD
Hallie Lightdale, MD
Patricia Mourilhe, MD
Minh-Chau Nguyen, MD
Daniel O'Connell, MD
Meera Sethi, MD
Christian Linton, MD
Ramia Gupta, MD
Maguy Destin-Jea, MD
Hadassah Aaronson, MD
Swarna Reddy, MD
Frank Boruch, MD
Sinan Duzyurek, MD
Hemanjani Gonchigar, MD
Anil Hinnaria, MD
Mattie White, MD

Life Member

William Sherman, MD

Distinguished Fellows

Carlos Pato, MD
Michele Pato, MD
Mark Willenbring, MD

Members-in-Training

Boshra Almoayed, MD
Sangeeta Chitlu, MD
Feng Dong, MD
Alla Fine, MD
Jacqueline Henschke, MD
Anjuli Jindal, MD
Uma Kumarappan, MD
Christopher Raczynski, MD
Wendell Wu, MD
Andres Barrera, MD
Navid Rashid, MD
Susan Kinkead-Acree, MD
Hind Benjelloun, MD

Stronger Outreach to Residents, New Members Key to WPS Success Say Strategic Planning Committee

By Richard A. Ratner, Chair Strategic Planning Committee

Increasing the involvement of WPS Members-in-Training and preparing Early Career Psychiatrists for leadership in tomorrow's WPS are among the key elements of the Strategic Planning Committee's preliminary recommendations from its April 20 meeting. One means of doing so involves encouraging MIT Representatives and Chief Residents to develop annual projects relevant to their stages of training, both to benefit their colleagues and to add value for their dues dollars. Projects suggested include seminars on transitioning from residency to practice, which might

include a workshop on "How to Take the Boards. Another recommendation is for a more fully developed mentoring program that will match practicing psychiatrists with residents or psychiatrists new to practice one-on-one. Some of these programs might also be popular among Early Career Psychiatrists and International Medical Graduates who are in the early stages of their careers.

The Strategic Planning Committee will meet again in May to continue its work and will present its report to the Board of Directors in early summer. ■

Dr. Bever Succumbs to Alzheimer's

Christopher Theodore Bever

Christopher Theodore Bever, 86, a presence in Washington psychiatry for 50 years, in private practice, education and developing low-cost mental health clinics, died Dec. 28, 2005 at Doctors Community Hospital in Lanham. He had Alzheimer's disease.

Dr. Bever helped form several clinics providing local residents with low-cost mental health services, including the D.C. Institute of Mental Hygiene, of which he was president from 1966 to 1968. He was a founder of the Washington Psychoanalytic Society's clinic, which he directed from 1983 to 1987. He was also president of the Community Psychiatric Clinic in Bethesda from 1973 to 1975 and served on its board of directors from 1958 through the 1990s.

Dr. Bever was born in Munich. Because he was half Jewish, he fled to Switzerland in 1935 to avoid Nazi persecution.

He came to the United States in 1936 to study at Harvard University, from which he graduated cum laude in 1940. He graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1943 and then spent a few years as an Army psychiatrist.

From 1947 to 1950, he was a psychiatrist at St. Elizabeths Hospital, followed by three years as director of the Montgomery County mental health clinic in Rockville. He began a 40-year teaching career at the Washington Psychoanalytic Institute in 1954.

After teaching at the University of North Carolina, Dr. Bever entered private practice in Washington in 1956. The same year, he joined the faculty of the Washington School of Psychiatry, where he taught for 40 years. He also became a professor of psychiatry at George Washington University in 1957. He retired from private practice in 1996 and concluded his other professional activities in the late 1990s.

In his seventies, Dr. Bever returned to graduate school at the University of Maryland and received a master's degree in history in 1993. His field of interest was medical and psychiatric history, and he published several papers on the topic. He also wrote articles and reviews on psychoanalysis.

He was a trustee or board member of several psychiatric organizations, including the Washington School of Psychiatry and the Washington Psychoanalytic Foundation. He received awards for distinguished service from various psychiatric organizations.

Dr. Bever lived in Chevy Chase from 1956 until 1993, when he moved to the Collington Episcopal Life Care Community in Mitchellville. He enjoyed photography and sailing, particularly off the coast of Maine, where he vacationed for 50 years.

His wife of 60 years, Josephine Morton Bever, died in 2004.

Survivors include four children, Christopher T. Bever Jr. of Glen Arm, Md., Caroline Paoli of Sedona, Ariz., Edward Bever of Northport, N.Y., and Sarah Bever of Falls Church; and six grandchildren. ■

DC Dept of Mental Health Calls on WPS Members to Care for Medicaid Patients

By Steven Steury, MD, Chief Clinical Officer

The Washington Psychiatric Society's interest in the public mental health system and offer to assist in improving the system is acknowledged and appreciated. I ask for assistance from my WPS colleagues by completing the following brief survey. The survey will tell DMH which psychiatric physicians are willing to provide care to Medicaid recipients in the District.

Resources are limited in all public mental health systems. In response to the limited financial resources, the Department of Mental Health is defining the priority populations of patients who require mental health rehabilitation services (MHRS). For example, some persons with severe and persistent mental illness may require MHRS services, such as case management or assertive community treatment. DMH funding will provide these services to persons identified in the priority population.

Other patients do not need MHRS services but may use services funded by other non-DMH resources. For example, DC Medicaid will pay for medication management provided by a psychiatrist.

The results of the survey will be helpful in developing a roster of DC psychiatrists who are available to treat patients with Medicaid. The roster will include:

- ◆ Psychiatrist's name, address and telephone number;
- ◆ If the services are provided in a clinic, hospital outpatients program or private office;
- ◆ Hours the psychiatrist is available, and
- ◆ If the psychiatrists will treat children and adolescents, adults or elderly adults.

An additional question that would be very helpful in long term planning is: Would accept Medicaid patients if the rates were higher comparable to Managed Care Organization rates?

If there are any questions, please give me a call at 202 673-1939. Thank you in advance for your help.



Medicaid Provider Survey

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Tel _____ Fax _____ email _____

1. Are you willing to provide care to Medicaid recipients in the District of Columbia? yes no
2. If yes, in what setting could you provide services? (Check all that apply)
 clinic hospital outpatient program private office other (_____)
3. What hours would you be available? _____ Hours Day of Week (circle days avail) Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat Sun
4. Patients you will treat (circle all that apply) children adolescents adults elderly
5. Would you accept Medicaid patients if reimbursement rates were higher and/or comparable to managed care rates?
 yes no

Please return to:
WPS Medicaid Survey • 3615 Wisconsin Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20016 • Fax: 202-244-6110

ERRATA SHEET FOR 2006 DIRECTORY

The following errors have been reported to WPS regarding listings in our 2006 Directory. Thank you for your calls – we try to keep up-to-date as much as possible. You may wish to add these corrections to your own Directory:

OMISSION OF MEMBER NAME

Please add to your Directory:

John F. Russell IM
44 Shenandoah River Dr
Brownsville TX 78520-9556
956-546-4376

GENERAL CORRECTIONS TO INFORMATION IN BOOK:

- Michael Fishman Correct phone number is 301-656-1971
- Ram Gopalan Correct office address is
1010 N. Glebe Rd, Ste 400, Arlington VA
- Lee Haller Correct APA status is FAPA
Additional certification is FRP
- Eugenia Priddy Office address is: 1133 Connecticut Ave NE Ste 750,
WDC 20036
Correct office phone is 202-607-0757
Dr. Priddy also should be listed as FTP
- Carolyn Robinowitz Under zip code listing, page 106, delete from 20007
Add her name to 20015 zip code on page 107
- Mozhdeh Roozegar Delete the second phone number listed
(443-526-1251)
- Barbara Rosenbaum Add certification under her listing: P
- Harold Searles New address is:
2003 Manet Pl, Davis CA 95616
- Carlos Sluzki DELETE phone number 703-993-4475
- Neill Williams The current information listed is incorrect.
His information should read:
1640 Rhode Island Ave NW Ste 810
Washington DC 20036
202-293-0204
FTP P
(Delete: does not accept private patients)

50 YEAR MEMBERS

To the list in the March/April issue of WPSNews, add:

Juliana D. Franz, M.D,
Antoine G. Hani, M.D.
Sydney L. Werkman, M.D. ■

Dr. Lawson Presents on Bipolar Disorder at APA Meeting

During the 2006 APA Annual Meeting in Toronto, Ont. William Lawson, MD will deliver a presentation on May 20 entitled “Bipolar Disorder - Targeting Treatment for Special Populations.” He will also participate in two round table discussions, the first on May 24 - “Women’s Life Cycle in Mental Health” and the other on May 25 - “Global Mental Health Disparities: A Culture Perspective and the Potential for Formal and Informal Exchanges.”

Dr. Lawson, Chairman of the Howard University Department of Psychiatry, also will serve as Vice Chair of APA’s Council on Addictions. ■

Dr. Van Susteren Withdraws as Senate Candidate

WPS member Lise Van Susteren, MD announced in April that she is ending her run for the U.S. Senate from Maryland. Dr. Van Susteren named healthcare issues including smoking cessation, childhood obesity, mental health care and insurance coverage as centerpieces to her campaign. She cited insufficient funding for a statewide campaign as the reason for her withdrawal. ■

WPS Has New Listserv Address

Beginning May 22, 2006 the WPS listserv, our electronic member-to-member message and discussion board, moves to a new home. Our new address is WPSNET@list.wdcpsych.org. WPS members on our current listserv will be automatically moved to the new listserv. New subscribers may contact the WPS office at whill@wdcpsych.org to join the conversation and get the latest news from WPS. Our new vendor provides a service that will eliminate the bothersome html codes that appear in our current listserv. We will also realize a reduction in cost for the service. ■

Office Space Available

RESTON, VIRGINIA Sublet: Psychiatric Office Reston Hospital Center. New Office Building Beautifully furn'd / decorated. Private Entrance Waiting Room Large airy consult room.

Contact: Steve Rosenthal MD
steverosenthalmd@cox.net

WHITE FLINT, MD Spacious, sunny, large-windowed, furnished 2-office suite in luxurious, secure office building. Across from White Flint Mall & Metro. Share waiting room, work room with copier, fridge, microwave, and separate exit door.

Available immediately. Call
Joan Goodman LCSW-C (301)
881-0433

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- 4707 Connecticut Ave, NW. Prime Location. Newly Renovated. New maple floor and bookcases. Street entrance, reserved parking, near Van Ness Metro. Ideal for psychotherapist. 202-363-4333.

Positions Available

PSYCHIATRIST: Unity Health Care is a private non profit federally qualified health center that provides health care to 57,000 people in Washington, DC. We are interested in recruiting psychiatrists who are interested in working with individuals who are involved in the criminal justice system. Many of these individuals are homeless. The Robert Wood Johnson foundation will provide technical assistance to this project. Contact Robert Keisling M.D. at 202-518-2385, fax 202-745-5907, email - rkeisling@unityhealthcare.org.

CONSULTATION-LIAISON PSYCHIATRIST The Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the George Washington University Medical Faculty Associates, an independent non-profit clinical practice affiliated with The George Washington University, is seeking a consultation-liaison psychiatrist for a full-time academic appointment beginning July 2006. The applicant must be license eligible in the District of Columbia and be Board Certified or Board Eligible in General Psychiatry and will have completed a consultation-liaison fellowship and/or be Board Certified in Psychosomatics. Academic rank and salary will be commensurate with qualifications. Review of applications will begin on May 8,

2006 and continue until the position is filled. Please send letter of interest and CV to Jeffrey S. Akman, MD, Chair, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, 2150 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20037. Tel. 202-741-2880; fax 202-741-2891. The George Washington University Medical Faculty Associates is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

MEDICAL DIRECTOR POSITIONS Washington DC Metropolitan Area

Excellent medical directors and staff psychiatrist opportunities in not-for-profit hospital inpatient and outpatient hospital based behavioral programs with established and well recognized institutionally based programs. Positions involve a combination of clinical management, leadership and oversight, clinical care, and consultation. Established research affiliation with a major area research based organization. On-calls 5/month. Excellent salary, benefits & relocation package.

Applicants must possess a M.D., clinical training in psychiatry, be Board certified in Psychiatry and hold an appropriate medical license at time of appointment. Applicants should submit their CV, brief statement of clinical and research interests to: William Richards at wricha5041@aol.com

PSYCHIATRIST NEEDED to join existing group practicing in the Prince George's County area to provide inpatient psychiatric services and consultations, will also work with psychiatric liaison. Must have strong skills in pharmacotherapy and be licensed in MD. Full-time and Part-time, flexible hours and guaranteed generous compensation.

Fax CV to (703) 780-9359. Attn: Tina Miller

DOMINON PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATES, a large well-established and prosperous private practice located in the resort city of Virginia Beach is seeking a Child Psychiatrist and/or General Psychiatrist. The area offers excellent schools, cultural and recreational activities. Benefit package. Great Staff. Please call Robert E. Mitchell, Jr., MD 757-498-9391.

PGY2 position at St. Elizabeths Hospital Psychiatry Residency Training Program is available starting in July of 2006.

This year will be composed of 8 months on an admitting ward run by the residency training program and 4 months divided equally between the hospital emergency[admitting] room and a forensic inpatient service. The lat-

ter is a most unusual opportunity since there few forensic experiences available to a psychiatry resident. The admitting ward will have two PGY 2 residents, a chief resident and a full time attending who is a training faculty member. Each PGY 2 resident will be responsible for a maximum of 8 patients. There is a plethora of individual supervision available since the faculty has members who teach only. For further information contact any one of the following:

John Livingood, M.D., 202- 645-8775, PGY 2 coordinator

Srirangam Shreeram, M.D., chairman
202- 645-8778

Kimberly Bateman, program coordinator, 202-645-8772. ■

Maryland Legislative Session Marked by Major Victories for Psychiatry

By Franklin Goldstein, JD

Maryland psychiatrists in the Suburban Maryland and Maryland Psychiatric Societies closed out the 2006 General Assembly session with major wins on legislation in which we had an interest.

Here's a recap of the session that ended on April 15.

Senate Bill (SB) 142 – The bill which was designed to protect the confidentiality of patient records and give patients control of those records should records be subpoenaed by the Board of Physicians as a result of a third-party complaint was not reported out of the House Health and Government Operations Committee (HGO) favorably. The bill, with amendments originally agreed to by SMPS/MPS leaders passed the Senate. However, on review, SMPS leaders determined they were no longer able to support the Senate version of the bill. SMPS and other organizations, as well as the bill's sponsor, Sen. Paula Hollinger, testified in the House Committee in favor of the bill without the amendments added to it in the Senate. The House committee voted unfavorably on the bill, thereby defeating it in this session.

House Bill (HB) 121 – State Board of Physicians – Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation, contained certain language that was unaccept-

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

able to us. The bill provided for the elimination of the administrative law judges in matters before the Board of Physicians. We believed it was important to maintain the role of the ALJs and we so testified in the HGO. Shortly after the hearing, Committee Chairman, Del. Peter Hammen, assured me that if the bill passed his Committee at all, the language eliminating the participation by the ALJs would be removed. SB 398 was not a cross-file to HB 121 since it was not identical and, in particular, it did not contain the language removing the role of the ALJs. SB 398 passed the Senate and was sent to the House HGO Committee. Del. Hammen informed me that he did not believe it was necessary to pass either HB 121 with amendments or SB 398, since the Board of Physicians does not sunset until next year and he would rather work on that matter next legislative session. Therefore, the HGO Committee did not act on either HB 121 or SB 398 and both bills died.

Very early in the session, we testified in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee in opposition to SB 16 – Sexually Violent Predators – Registration and Commitment to a State Facility and SB 49 - Registration and Commitment to a State Facility. The two bills appear to be identical. The bills provided that, after a sexually violent predator had served his complete hard time under the Department of Corrections, if it was determined that he was still

deemed to be dangerous if released, that individual would be turned over to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). The bill did not provide for a separate facility to house the sexually violent predators and really did not provide sufficient funding for DHMH to deal with these individuals. The Committee felt that the bill, if passed, would take away funds that would be needed to deal with the mentally ill by DHMH. Neither bill was voted on by Judicial Proceedings and both failed.

Much later in the Session, two bills dealing with this subject were introduced in the House – HB 1199 – Task Force to Study the Feasibility of Establishing a Correctional Facility for the Incarceration and Treatment of Sex Offenders and HB 1572 – Sexual Offenders – Evaluation Before Sentencing. HB 1572, as originally introduced, was quite similar in concept to SB 16 and SB 49 and would have required holding sexually violent predators after they had completed their criminal sentences. Since that concept had no possibility of passing, the bill was amended to provide that sexual offenders be evaluated before sentencing and that the evaluation would be supplied to the trial judge for sentencing in the hope that in many cases this would lead to much longer sentences. Both bills, as amended, passed the House and were sent to the Senate. Neither bill received a vote in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

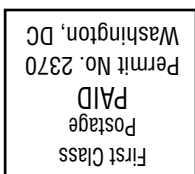
Therefore, both bills failed.

HB 713 – Workers’ Compensation – Evaluation of Permanent Impairments – Social Workers, which we strongly opposed, received an unfavorable report from the House Economic Matters Committee. The cross filed bill, SB 494, had passed the Senate so it was particularly important to defeat the House bill. The social workers fought very hard in support of HB 713 but the vote in the Committee was 23 to one in opposition to the bill. Since the House Committee rejected HB 713, it did not consider SB 494.

HB 1257 – Juvenile Law – Competency – Services and the cross-filed bill SB 808 were acceptable to us, provided that social workers were eliminated from the bill. HB 1257 passed the House with social workers included but, after our testimony against the bill in the Senate, the Senate amended social workers out of the bill. The bill, as amended passed both the Senate and the House. SB 808 was duplicative and, therefore, unnecessary and did not get Senate consent.

I appreciated all the help I received from so many of you during the Session. I particularly appreciated the help of all those who participated in the conference calls of the joint SMPS/MPS Legislative Committee. I received much valuable information on which to develop the positions taken on legislation.

(Walter Hill contributed to this article.) ■



THE WASHINGTON PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY

P.O. Box 55
Boyce, VA 22620-0055
www.dcpsh.org

