

ARCHIVAL REPORT OF NHCA ACTIVITY: February 21, 1998 - February 27, 1999

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This document summarizes key activities for the time period commencing just subsequent to the 1998 Annual Conference (held in Albuquerque, NM) and concluding just subsequent to the activities of the 1999 Annual Conference (held in Atlanta, GA). However, since the report was finalized in July/August 1999, following the conclusion of the fiscal year on June 30, 1999, financial data through the end of the fiscal year are included. The report contains the following sections:

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A. Executive Council, Committee Chairs, and Liaisons

At the 1998 Annual Conference in Albuquerque, NM, the following individuals were installed or continued as officers and members of the NHCA Executive Council, Committee Chairs, and Liaisons:

Executive Council

President	Merlyn Lubiens
President Elect	Lee Hager
Vice President	Julia Royster
Secretary	Jim Kvikstad
Treasurer	Myrna Stephens
Member Delegate	Doug Ohlin
PSO Delegate	Michael Nilsson (replaced by William Wolfe, see note below)
Commercial Delegate	Tim Bailey
Associate Delegate	Carol Merry
Past President	Mary McDaniel
Historian	Elliott Berger

Committee Chairs

Bylaws	Kirsten McCall
Ethical Practice	Buddy Young
Legislation	Steve Hacker
Membership	Kathy Kerst
Nominations	Lee Hager
Program	Julia Royster
Public Relations	Mike Dyer (replaced by John Elmore, see note below)
Steering	Mary McDaniel
Publications	Lee Hager (replaced by Rena Glaser, see note below)
Scholarship Committee	Larry Royster

Ad Hoc Committee Chairs

Audiometric Baseline Revision	Julia Royster
Employment Criteria for Hearing-Critical Jobs	Sandra MacLean
Employee Education & Motivational Techniques	Myrna Stephens
HCP Referral Criteria	Theresa Schulz

Liaisons / Task Forces

AAO/HNS Subcommittee on Noise	Bill Clark
ANSI S12	John Franks
ANSI S12/WG 34 (Methodology of HCPs)	Christine Dixon-Ernst
ASA Noise Coalition	Dan Johnson
Task Force on HPD Effectiveness	Larry Royster
Task Force on Hearing Cons./Educ. in Schools	Dorie Watkins

Subsequent to the Conference Michael Nilsson intended to relocate abroad and William Wolfe was appointed to replace him as PSO Delegate. Lee Hager had to step down as Publications chair due to his responsibilities as President Elect. He was replaced by Rena Glaser. Mike Dyer changed jobs and resigned as Chair of Public Relations to be replaced by John Elmore.

B. Management Firm Activities

Transition from Executive Director, Inc. (EDI) to Great Western Association Management, Inc. (GWAMI) began immediately following the 1998 Conference. The transition was plagued with difficulties created by EDI failing to meet deadlines and deliver on promises. Among other surprises, GWAMI discovered that NHCA's incorporation had lapsed (EDI never reincorporated NHCA in Wisconsin), so GWAMI had to take care of this for Colorado. Much time was spent clearing up problems arising from the transition. And a major problem that was uncovered was in the commitments for the hotel for the Atlanta conference. Not only was the hotel under major renovation, and not only had the wrong rooms been booked, but it had been reserved for the wrong dates. So at the last minute, Julie Royster and the ED had to scramble to find a new site in Atlanta.

C. Summer Executive Council Meeting (July, 1998, Denver, CO)

- Evelyn Brust of GWAMI organized brainstorming sessions for an updated long-range plan. (Note: an interim report was issued, but has been tabled, and no final report was re-issued within the time covered by this archive report.)
- Jim Banach reported that he received very poor response from the council for his Ways and Means Committee efforts to think BIG on fund raising.
- The NHCA webmaster, Brad Whitlock of the Software Factory, provided a short presentation on the web page.
- A new schedule for mailing dues notices was approved, consisting of first notice (11/1/98), second notice (1/15/99), final notice (2/15/99), and cut off for the directory of 3/15/99, although changes were actually accepted up thru the end of May.
- Jim Jackson of project C.U.R.E. (Commission on Urgent Relief and Equipment) briefed the Council about the charitable actions of his organization that provides donated medical supplies and equipment to developing nations around the world.

B. Membership and Directory

A directory was published in the summer of 1997, dated 1997-98, but none was published in 1998.

Total paid members through June 1999 were 479 (as compared to 459 in June 1998 and 652 in 1997). (All approved member applications after September 30 are placed in the 2000 membership year.)

E. Excellence Seminar/Regional Meeting

The 9th Annual Excellence in Hearing Conservation Seminar was held on September 24, 1998 at the Radisson Hotel Seattle Airport, in Seattle, WA. There were six affiliates [3M, Dalloz, E•A•R, James Anderson & Associates, National Assoc. Of Special Equipment Distributors (NASED), Quest Technologies, and Software Resources & Marketing, Inc.], 37 paid attendees, and 7 presenters on the following topics:

Dennis Driscoll	Noise Measurement and Control
Elliott Berger	New Developments in Hearing Protection Devices
Dorie Watkins	Hearing Conservation Education in the Schools
David Lipscomb	Noise-Induced Hearing Impairment – Personal and Social Consequences
Donald Gasaway	Employee Education and Motivation
Sandra MacLean	Hearing Critical Jobs and Accommodating the Hearing Impaired Worker
Mary McDaniel	Hot Topics in Hearing Conservation

Registration fees were \$140 for members, \$180 for non-members, \$50 for students (10 attended), and \$550 for affiliates. The meeting produced a profit of \$4,027. Unlike prior years, free Associate membership was no longer offered for non-members who attended the seminar.

F. Fall Executive Council Meeting (November, 1998, Denver, CO)

- Money was approved to file for incorporation in the state of Colorado.
- The bylaws ballot on whether to eliminate Associate members was defeated and the Council decided not to pursue the issue further at this time.
- The council decided that the archive report (this document) should continue to be prepared each year and that it should be included as one of the items in the new Council member orientation packet.
- Dorie Watkins reported on her incredible success with hearing education in the schools. Nearly 6,000 students participated in the Task Force’s program in 1997/98. The Council approved \$600 to underwrite the cost of producing additional materials for the Task Force to distribute.
- Randy Tubbs updated the Council on the new NIH/NIOSH program to heighten public awareness about NIHL and about their concept to establish conferences on Best Practice. The Council decided it was vital to participate in this process.
- The Council approved the writing of a second letter, to be drafted by Elliott Berger, to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) about the auditory risks of airbags.

G. Member Dues, and Affiliate and Exhibition Fees

Dues invoices for the 1999 membership year were mailed in November 1998. Dues amounts were as follows:

Member	\$95	Commercial Member	\$635
Associate	\$65	PSO	\$225
Student	\$25		

Affiliate fees for the 1999 Conference were \$1800 for commercial affiliates (2 free attendees, double exhibit space, 25% discount for 3rd and 4th registrants, 50% for additional registrants beyond 4) and \$1000 for non-profits (2 free attendees). Exhibition fees were:

Commercial Members	\$685
Non-NHCA Commercial Members	\$900
PSO Members	\$685

H. Annual Conference

The 24th Annual Hearing Conservation Conference was held February 25 - 27, 1999 at the Hyatt

Regency in Atlanta, GA. There were 192 paid registrants (158 prior year), and 250 total participants (227 prior year). There were 13 affiliates of which six were not for profit (designated by an asterisk) [AIHA*, ASA*, ASHA*, CAOHC*, Dalloz Safety, E•A•R, House Ear Institute*, JAA, Moldex Metric, Peltor, Quest Technologies, WCB of British Columbia*, and 3M], and a total of 25 organizations and companies were represented in the exhibit hall (27 prior year). Sponsors were solicited for various events and elements of the conference in addition to the normal solicitation for luncheon and break support. Five companies participated as sponsors with a total of \$1850 in support. The Silent Auction was hugely successful, with over 30 donations generating \$3076 of income. The meeting resulted in a profit of \$17,041, which was \$31,458 under budget. Failure to meet budget was due to higher than anticipated expenses for food, a/v, and a rental fee for the conference hall.

The faculty and program participants list in the Supplement consisted of 96 names; biographies were moved to the Proceedings to save cost. The five workshops were:

- Effective techniques of successful hearing conservation programs
- Marketing for those who want to challenge themselves to grow
- Hearing protector stuff (taught in the AM only)
- War of the worlds: Mock trial on hearing loss issues
- Audiometric case management in hearing conservation programs

The Conference provided 3 Forums, 17 platform lectures, 3 practical pop-ups, 21 posters, a Film Theater with 3 films and 1 audio demonstration CD, and a luncheon lecture by motivational speaker Bruce Wilkinson.

The President's Reception was hosted on Wednesday evening following the Council Meeting, from 8:30 - 10:00 PM in the Presidential Suite. A total of 55 members accepted the invitation with 3 declining.

The following awards were presented at the Conference:

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| Outstanding Lecture Award | Elliott Berger, Ron Kieper, Don Peyton |
| Outstanding Poster Award | Nancy Nadler, Melody James |
| Michael Beall Threadgill Award | Barbara Garrett |
| Outstanding Hearing Conservationist Award | Dan Johnson |
| Golden Lobe Award | Kirsten McCall, Kathy Kerst, John Hall |
| Media Award | ABC 20/20 News, accepted by John Bilotta |

Dorie Watkins coordinated the children's poster contest and the irrepressible Brian Myers (once again) won the NHCA luncheon Trivia Contest, which was organized by Mary McDaniel.

A lightly-attend Friday evening Gala event, with pleasant jazz, was held in one of the hotel ballrooms.

I. Annual Business Meeting

Due to last-minute changes in the program to include a NIH/NIOSH presentation by Max Lum and Marin Allen on the NIH/NIOSH public awareness campaign, an exceptionally brief business meeting was conducted.

J. Executive Council Meetings at Annual Conference

- Julie Royster resigned as Vice President. Mark Stephenson was appointed as her replacement.
- GWAMI agreed to extend their contract with NHCA thru June 30, to be consistent with NHCA's fiscal year.
- The Council agreed that the use of funds for timely broadcast faxes should be encouraged and continued.

K. Publications

NHCA published four regular issues of the Spectrum and one supplement (a Conference program) during this time period under editors Lee Hager and Rena Glaser.

L. Position Statements/Regulatory Involvement

NHCA participated in the NIDCD/NIH/NIOSH strategic planning for a heightened public awareness campaign and published a position statement in the April, 1999 *Spectrum*.

M. Changes to Bylaws

A bylaws ballot was mailed on September 3, with a close of voting of October 9, 1998. Seven items were up for vote, six of which passed (clarification of who can be an officer, officer can run for two consecutive terms, adding a second Member delegate, clarification of the voting procedures for the Executive Council, description of an impeachment process, and addition of a Committee on Scholarship). The seventh and most serious of the items, the elimination of the Associate Member category failed by a vote of 67 yes and 51 no (a two-thirds majority of 79 votes was required). This topic had been discussed at length and the Council decided that it did not require any further examination in the near future.

N. Slate of Candidates for January 1999 Ballot

President Elect	Myrna Stephens
Secretary	Laurie Kastner-Wells
PSO Delegate	George Cook
Commercial Delegate	Brian Myers (elected), Ted Madison
Member Delegate	Randy Tubbs, Jim Lankford (elected)

O. Year-End Financial Statement

The financial statements (see attached) for the 7/1/98 - 6/30/99 fiscal year reflect a net income over expense of \$4,993.71 under the accrual method of accounting, which GWAMI prefers for not-for-profit organizations, over the net profit method of accounting.