

HEALTH INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES ASSOCIATED

hira

Dear Member,

As 1977 begins, H.I.R.A. is evolving. A number of factors have led your Executive Committee to believe that a reorganization is vital to the health and well-being of our group. First, the two years of grant funds which provided us with the CHIRP program are now at an end. Second, the tremendous success of the CHIRP workshops can be seen in the documented results from each program. At the same time, the lack of a quorum at nearly every business meeting shows that the business meetings are less successful in creating interest for members. Finally, HIRA has grown to include members from Wyandotte to Petoskey, a large geographical area to try to cover. For these reasons, the Executive Committee unanimously agreed to recommend that the format of HIRA meetings be changed.

We want to plan four major program meetings for you, similar to the CHIRP workshops. At these meetings, notices of the organization's business transactions will be distributed or posted. The business meeting, if any, will be limited to 15 minutes. Throughout the year, the Executive Committee will hold regular meetings and transact the organization's business. We would plan one annual general membership business meeting as well. This recommendation will be brought to you at our next regular meeting. Please keep it in mind as you read the remainder of this letter.

Unusual circumstances have prompted a number of Executive Committee resignations. In October, George Jenkins of Wayne County General Hospital assumed new duties as Hemodialysis Administrator for that institution, and resigned as H.I.R.A. Program Chairman. In November, Michael Kroll resigned as Treasurer when he left Harper Hospital to accept a new position in Chicago. In December, Bob Smitka resigned as Chairperson-Elect due to increased responsibilities in his position at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. To date, I have appointed Hildegard Joseph of the Oakland County Health Department as Treasurer. I have also asked Sharon Buczkowski (Wyandotte General Hospital), Mitzi Pawlowski (Mt. Clemens General Hospital), and Doo Yee (Bon Secours Hospital) to serve as a nominating committee for the other newly vacant positions and the previously vacant position of Co-Secretary. Our present Constitution does not have a mechanism for officer replacement.

In light of the recommendation for re-organization and the need for officer replacement, the Executive Committee has charged the Constitution Committee with revising the current Constitution and By-laws. Specifically, the committee was asked to:

- 1) revise the format for meetings
- 2) create a dues structure
- 3) create a mechanism for officer replacement
- 4) revise the documents to reflect changed member needs due to organization growth

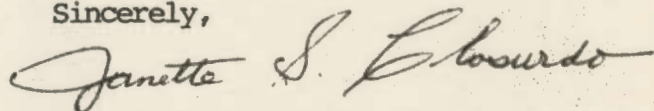
The Constitution Committee met several times and brought its recommendations to the Executive Committee on December 15th. After discussion, the Executive Committee unanimously accepted the enclosed proposed changes and will bring them to you for a vote at the next general meeting. Please review them carefully.

The H.I.R.A. Catalog will soon be processed through the Wayne State University Data Processing Center. In addition, the Finance Committee is preparing a budget and reviewing possible grant applications.

As you can see, H.I.R.A. is not static but is a fluid, changing and still developing organization. Our next general membership meeting, which will be open to members and non-members, is being planned for March. The program will be a "Program of Programs" with speakers presenting programs they created in, or because of, the CHIRP workshops. Of necessity, there will also be a short business meeting. In order to make this meeting most convenient for you, please mark your preferences on the enclosed form and return them to me.

In closing, I would like to ask each of you to read this letter carefully, re-reading it if necessary. Please plan to attend the next meeting, and don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janette S. Closurdo". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Janette S. Closurdo, Ph.D.
Chairperson, H.I.R.A.