

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO THE MEMBERSHIP

It may come as somewhat of a surprise to the membership to know that effective January 1st, 1997, the AAHS has had a President and a new Secretary, Warren D. Shipp is President, and James J. Sloan is Secretary/ We, along with Editor William Larkins and the other nine members of the Board of Directors, comprise the administrative body of the AAHS until such time as we can set up the usual Officials, and place an operating Constitution in effect* In order to bring the membership up to date on these developments it is felt that the Editor, who originated the AAHS, should outline the early history and concept of the AAHS. Please read the Secretary's Final Report for this.

Around the middle of last year, some of us felt that with the way the AAHS membership was growing, some sort of governing body, and rules and regulations should be placed in effect; that policies should be established; that a charter should be obtained incorporating the AAHS as a non-profit organization; and that the administrative load should be placed on other responsible individuals permitting Mr. Larkins to devote his entire efforts to publishing the best possible Journal. An eleven man Board of Directors was established to settle questions of policy, and this Board is still functioning* However, no one was assigned specific duties on this Board, and the work load remained on Larkins' shoulders, with Douglas Olson assisting as membership chairman. This arrangement could not long continue with the membership roll growing as it is* We had written Mr. Larkins at great length on the importance of having the AAHS set up in a business-like manner, with a constitution, elected officials, charter etc* Some of the other Board members felt the same, so after much discussion we both volunteered for the jobs. Our primary objectives are to secure a charter, establish a constitution and by-laws, have officials take office each to have specific duties, establish policies, and to provide for the future operation of the administrative end of the organization.

In the proposed constitution we have provided for the election of officials by a mail vote. This, of course, is the democratic way. We volunteers wish to retain our positions only until such time as the AAHS becomes self-sustaining and others are elected to the positions by a regular election. It is hoped that everything can be done this year.

Relative to the Charter, the wording of this paper must be very precise in order to provide for the future expansion of the AAHS while retaining certain restraining clauses to prevent the nature and original aims of the AAHS from becoming obscured and lost as the organization grows. Thus we are spending a great deal of time and thought on this, as well as the many other problems that need to be solved for the benefit of the AAHS.

It is hoped that the membership will fully understand our reasons for presuming to these offices at this time, and that we can look forward to the necessary cooperation in securing a firm foundation for our organization at the earliest possible time* Each issue of the Journal will carry a progress report from the President.

Warren D. Shipp, 6 February 1997