

MEDICAL REFORM GROUP NEWS

M.R.G. of Ontario - Newsletter

April 20, 1981

TORONTO CHAPTER MEETING: will be held Thursday, April 23, 1981, at 8 p.m. at South Riverdale Health Centre, 126 Pape Avenue. The Educational Feature will be first on the agenda: an informal presentation and discussion on "The politics of Medicare and the funding dispute" led by Raisa Deber, PhD, Community Health Division of University of Toronto. The dispute in question is the current negotiation between federal and provincial governments and the likely impact of these talks on extra-billing practices. Refreshments.

HAMILTON M.R.G. Local Steering Committee members are now:
Benjamin Loevinsohn (522-5051) - responsible for finances, mail, public information, liaison with Toronto re news bulletin
Rick Griscott (526-6854, 527-5433) - resp. for organization of Hamilton mtgs.
Evan Collins (528-1562) - membership - currently away for 2 months
Pat Smith (527-0043 - filling in for Evan during his absence) - phone tree
Fran Scott (523-4797) - steering group meetings; minutes
Brian Hutchinson (527-0043 h; 527-2019 w) - recruitment
Hamilton group will have an educational meeting at end of April on how to take an occupational history and associated issues.

McMASTER SYMPOSIUM entitled "Alternatives in Health Care: A symposium on Health Service Organizations" will be held at McMaster University Health Sciences Centre on May 1-2, 1981. Topics include methods of physician payment, innovations in primary care, and professional and clinic accountability. Speakers include Dennis Timbrell, Fraser Mustard, Greg Stoddart and Eugene Vayda. This should be of interest to members concerned about community health centres.

GENERAL MEETING of M.R.G. for all of Ontario will be held in Toronto on Saturday, May 30. Now being organized by Abe Hirsz (home no. 535-5285). Meeting starts at 9 a.m. - at South Riverdale Community Centre, 126 Pape Avenue, on Pape just north of Queen St.

NEWS BRIEFS:

****Election time** was busy for everyone. In Toronto several members picketed and asked questions at Dennis Timbrell's home-riding all-candidates meeting.

The M.R.G. position on extra billing and other issues was well stated by Debby Copes (CBC radio, Etobicoke Guardian), Phil Berger (who debated with Ed Moran, general secretary of OMA on Sunday Magazine of CBC-FM), Mike Rachlis ("Take Thirty" - CBC-TV), Bob James (Hamilton Spectator interview).

Our major press attention came in late March when we sent Monique Begin a telegram of support for her intention to pressure provinces to end extra billing. We said: "We applaud your sense of responsibility for Medicare to ensure the accessibility of quality health care to all Canadians and prevent the erosion to a two-tier system that extra billing by doctors creates. We also strongly urge you to consider Justice Hall's recommendations against the premium system of payment for Medicare."

In Hamilton the MRG co-sponsored an all-candidates meeting with CUPE, with very good attendance, with discussion of government handling of the CUPE strike, reprisals against CUPE members in hospitals, and a more general discussion of health care directions in the future. Mike Rachlis appeared at another CUPE hospital workers' rally to express support.

THIS NEWSLETTER still has more space to print your ads, announcements, media news. Try to be brief. We will try to publish towards the end of each month, and the firm deadline for submissions will be the 15th of each month. Call or send submissions to:

TORONTO: Jack Onrot, 416-536-2220, 9 Olive Ave, Toronto M6G 1T7

HAMILTON: Benjamin Loevinsohn, 416-522-5051, 151 Robinson St., Hamilton L8P 1Z6

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ARTICLES AND LINE DRAWINGS desperately needed for our NEW MAGAZINE, which we will try to put out twice yearly, about 20 pages long on 8½ x 11 inch paper. It will contain articles of general interest to MRG members, up to 4,000 words long, on e.g.: summaries of research or thought from MRG working groups or committees, analytical pieces, personal experiences, etc. It will also include news briefs from the media, and ads and announcements from the membership. Please send submissions to Benjamin Loewensohn (151 Robinson St., Hamilton L8P 1Z6). DEADLINE has been delayed because of a dearth of submissions -- aim for May 30. Ink drawings welcomed, photos cost too much to print.

ADVERTISEMENTS (printed free)

LOCUM available in downtown Toronto - General Internal Medicine. May 1 through September 1, 1981 or any part thereof, e.g. May-June, July-August. Contact Dr. David Etlin, 961-1326.

HALIFAX: The North End Community Clinic (the only one in the Maritimes) is looking for a doctor to start on June 1, 1981, to work 6 or 7 half-days per week. Payment through MSI (N.S. version of OHIP) with clinic getting 30% and doctor 70%. Deadline for applications is March 15 (newsletter apologizes for the delay -- applicants might try writing anyway). Information: Wayne Edgar, North End Community Clinic, 2165 Gottingen St., Halifax N.S. B3K 3B5.

LOCUM for month of June, 1981, at South Riverdale Community Health Centre -- 40 hours a week (one-half time). Contact Debby Copes or Mike Rachlis at 461-2493 (Toronto).

OTTAWA -- another late announcement for which newsletter apologizes (we didn't get enough material to publish earlier):

Family Physician wanted to join two male physicians, a nurse practitioner and two nurses in a busy downtown health and social service agency. Accent on teaching patients to take responsibility for their own health. Fluency in French and English an asset. Daytime and early evening office hours, Monday to Friday, with Overnight and weekend "on call" one week in three. Four weeks holidays and two weeks educational leave per year, plus fringe benefit package. Competition closes March 31, 1981. Position available about July 1. Send resume, letter indicating preferred starting date and minimum acceptable salary to: Executive Director, Centretown Community Resource Centre, 100 Argyle Ave., Ottawa, Ont. K2P 1B6.