

DEPARTMENTS

MRG STEERING COMMITTEE

Since the October General Meeting of the Medical Reform Group of Ontario, the Steering Committee has retained an association manager to handle the administrative aspects of the MRG.

Membership solicitation for 1982 has gone forward, and a follow-up mailing has also been sent. For those who have not renewed their membership, this will be the final mailing you will receive. We hope this will not have to be the case, and so we urge your response to our earlier mailings. In case you have forgotten the fee structure, this is shown elsewhere in this NEWSLETTER.

The Steering Committee thanks all those who have paid their membership fees, and expresses appreciation to those who made additional contributions to the MRG.

In respect to the OMA ROTATIONAL WITHDRAWAL OF SERVICE activity, MRG, through its Steering Committee, issued a statement expressing its opposition to this action. In part, the statement read:

The MRG is an organization ... of physicians and medical students committed to the principle that health care is a right that must be guaranteed without financial or other deterrents.

During its May, 1980 general meeting, the MRG membership passed several resolutions concerning negotiating procedures for physicians. MRG called for all parties involved in the process to bargain in good faith, and resolved that once an agreement has been reached, all parties be bound by that agreement; in particular, there be no separate O.M.A. schedule. The MRG holds that opting out of the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) is completely unacceptable and contrary to the principle of universal access to health care.

The MRG views the O.M.A.'s withdrawal of service and unabashed persistence in breaching negotiated fee schedules through opting out as bargaining in bad faith.

The press release statement urged the provincial government to publicly denounce the "heavy-handed" action of the O.M.A., and resist the move being taken by O.M.A.; negotiate a fair fee structure through generally accepted labour practices; prohibit any breach of a negotiated agreement, particularly opting-out, by legislation that would not allow public remuneration to any doctor practising outside OHIP, nor reimbursement to patients for services rendered by a physician not in OHIP.

Considerable media recognition was given the MRG statement. Steering Committee members Debby Copes, Bob James and Philip Berger were each interviewed for the print and broadcast media.

Membership fees in the Medical Reform * * * *

Group are:

Physicians \$100*
Affiliate members \$50*
Organizations \$50

Medical students \$20
Associate members \$20*

* Members joining for the first time pay only half of the annual fees for this category.

MRG BROCHURE

A revised and up-dated brochure on MRG has been produced through the generous expert assistance of Paul Rosenberg. It is available for prospective members. Just ask us; we'll send a copy of it out at your request.

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HALL COMMISSION BRIEF

We have reproduced a number of copies of our Brief, "The Crisis in Health Care", as presented to Mr. Justice Emmett Hall. This will be made available to new members, and, to current members, copies may be obtained at \$5.00 each. Every member of MRG should have a copy.

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MAY GENERAL MEETING

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0 MAY GENERAL MEETING 0
0 SATURDAY & SUNDAY 0
0 MAY 15 - 16, 1982 0
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0 SOUTH RIVERDALE 0
0 COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE 0
0 126 PAPE AVE. TORONTO 0
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It is anticipated that the tariff for this meeting will be \$10.00. There will be two morning meetings and afternoon meetings, with a proportion of time being set for the business of MRG, as well as for presentations of papers of significant interest to all members dealing with matters concerning medicare and human rights. The Steering Committee is lining up an excellent programme. You should make every effort to attend this meeting. Let us know NOW if you will be attending. Send to Box 366, Station "J", Toronto M4J 4Y8... we'll have more later.

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COMMITTEES

Several members of MRG have been working with CARAL - accessibility of abortion.

A presentation was made to the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) regarding opposition to a Right to Life proposed advertisement. The TTC voted to reject the ad.

The Economics Committee of MRG has been active fighting the battle against user fees especially with regard to the private/semi private hospital bed issue. Debby Copes represented the MRG position on CBC Radio on a phone-in programme.

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THAT'S ALL THIS ISSUE, but more will be forthcoming in future NEWSLETTERS ... more Chapter Reports, and more on Committee Reports... Third World... Job Vacancies... and Members (your) comments. Meanwhile, if you are not now a members, please send your membership fees in NOW...