

MAYO CLINIC
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA

SECTION OF ANESTHESIOLOGY

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February 23, 1953

Dr. Arthur E. Guedel
1633 Wellington Road
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Dear Art:

The members of the Anesthetists' Travel Club, who attended the meeting here December 15, 16 and 17 were most sorry you were unable to attend this final meeting. John and Lenore and Elma and I were particularly sorry you couldn't make it. Everyone seemed to have a good time and we, as hosts, derived much pleasure from having our old friends around us once again.

I, a comparative infant in the group, could not help but notice the genuine regret that the members present seemed to feel at the disbanding of this group of men who were bound together by the strong bonds of (1) interest in the progress of our specialty and (2) as friends. From the letters and phone calls of those of you who were absent, we knew the feelings of the absentee members were the same.

Despite this, I am sure it had been apparent that with the rapid growth of anesthesiology in all its phases, the Travel Club had outlived the period of its most useful function.

It also was apparent from many of the letters John received, since he sent out the invitations to this final meeting, that if the old organization had to go, some other organization, broader in scope, might replace it.

As a result, the idea of an 'Academy of Anesthesiology' was born, and after the group had gathered, the proposal was discussed in detail among all members present.

As to the outcome I will try to condense what happened into the fewest words necessary to give you a clear picture.

In the first place the new Academy would not necessarily be limited to members from this continent but would be world-wide. Above all things it would have dignity and as such, would be completely divorced from any political elements having to do with any phases of anesthesiology. Rather, its aims would be directed more to a contemplative appraisal of the needs and welfare of our specialty--leaving the implementation of such needs to the various organizations within our specialty who function in these capacities. It would be an organization whose members, regardless of differences in their viewpoints, could speak their minds freely according



to their convictions, in the knowledge that in so doing, no one had an ax to grind, a candidate to promote or a faction to appease. This, in a very sketchy way, will give you a little idea of what it was thought the Academy would mean to anesthesiology.

Obviously, an organization having such aims in mind would present problems if it were the outgrowth of any of our present organized societies. Therefore, it seemed fitting to introduce the idea among an unorganized group of anesthesiologists who never had a slate of officers or a constitution and by-laws. These ideas were introduced and discussed by the members of the Anesthetists' Travel Club present in Rochester on the first day of the gathering December 15, 1952. While everyone was in favor of the idea as presented, it was thought better to delay a vote of approval or disapproval until the next day, so that members could reconsider the pros and cons and re-discuss the matter among themselves.

On Tuesday afternoon, December 16, the matter was re-discussed and a vote to form "The Academy of Anesthesiology" was passed unanimously. Furthermore, a slate of officers was presented and accepted by a unanimous vote. These officers are as follows: Rolland J. Whitacre, President; Harold R. Griffith, Vice-President; Charles F. McCuskey, Second Vice-President; R. Charles Adams, Secretary; H. Boyd Stewart, Treasurer; John S. Lundy, Honorary President; Harry J. Shields, Honorary Vice President; Paul M. Wood, Honorary Second Vice-President; Charles C. Stewart, Honorary Secretary; and Charles H. Robson, Honorary Treasurer. No doubt you have seen the brief account of this in the News Letter.

The reason I am writing you this letter is therefore obvious and I am highly complimented to have been chosen the first secretary of the Academy of Anesthesiology. Subsequently the active president will write you in detail regarding the things I have outlined and others. All that I need to say at this time is that the proposed charter members of the new Academy (in addition to those who acquiesced in Rochester) would consist of the official members of the Travel Club by invitation. To delineate this clearly, this refers to Travel Club members who received an official invitation from any of the hosts in cities where Anesthetists' Travel Club meetings were held throughout the years--but with the understanding that the person invited had actually attended at least one meeting. Where a person had been officially invited to attend an Anesthetists' Travel Club meeting as a newcomer but failed to attend for any reason, he would not be eligible for invitation as a charter member of the Academy of Anesthesiology. Those who fall into this category may be considered for admission after organization of the Academy is complete. The following is a list of the Anesthetists' Travel Club members present in Rochester in December who meet these qualifications and, therefore, may be considered as charter members: R. Charles Adams, D.C. Aikenhead, J.A. Blezard, W.E. Brown, Ansel M. Caine, Harold R. Griffith, Ralph T. Knight, B.C. Leech, John S. Lundy, C.H. Tobson, Henry S. Ruth, Harry J. Shields, C.C. Stewart, Brian C. Sword, and R.J. Whitacre.

I am empowered by the President of the Academy of Anesthesiology and the newly elected officers to extend to you, as a recognized member of the Anesthetists' Travel Club (now defunct) a most cordial invitation to become a charter member and a member of the Founders' Group of the Academy of Anesthesiology. Even though you were unable to attend the meeting and express your opinion at that time, the officers and members of the Academy wish you to feel that you have the same prerogatives and an equal standing in the new organization as have those who were here and could express themselves in person.

On behalf of all the officers and present charter members of the Academy of Anesthesiology it is our sincere hope that you will accept this invitation and also that you will feel as enthusiastic about doing so as did those who were present. An early reply will be much appreciated as the Academy is anxious to establish the list of charter members as soon as possible---in fact, no long range plans for the future can be laid down until this list is complete. The officers will welcome your suggestions and advice during this formative period.

It was frequently expressed by the members here in December that membership in the Academy of Anesthesiology is a privilege and an honor and one to which all the members will contribute. The question of possible fees and dues will be taken up by Doctor Whitacre in his official letter to follow but I might point out at this time for the benefit of those who were not present in Rochester that one of the stipulations is that in order to maintain active membership in the Academy, dues of \$25.00 a year must be paid. What proportion of the overall dues to be decided upon this figure represents, I am not prepared to say at this time as no overall decisions regarding this have been made.

In order to permit sufficient time to organize the Academy thoughtfully and to give all members of the Founders' Group ample opportunity to express their ideas the Executive Committee has decided to delay consideration of the time of the first meeting until sometime in 1954. In the meantime the members will be acquainted periodically with all phases of the organizational program.

In conclusion may I express once again the seriousness of the officers of this first Academy of Anesthesiology toward making it the finest organization of its kind in any medical specialty.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Charlie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

R. Charles Adams, M.D.
Secretary