

AAP History, Chapter One— Beginnings and California's Role

Norman Lewak, M.D.

This is the first of a series on the history of the AAP.

The American Academy of Pediatrics was formed to assure "success...of the Infant Welfare movement."* In 1929, having been severely reprimanded by the AMA for supporting federal aid to state infant welfare agencies, the Pediatric Section of the AMA met

informally for dinner in Portland. Stimulated by William Lucas of San Francisco, the group asked Dr. Lucas and Drs. Abt and Aldrich of Chicago to proceed with plans to start a new pediatric organization. A new organization was necessary because the then current groups could not speak for the nation's pediatricians: the AMA section was being stifled, the American Pediatric Society was limited to an "elite" membership, the Child Health Association had become a lay organization.

The committee quickly agreed on the course of action and Drs. Abt and Aldrich returned to Chicago to engage the one man all agreed could do the organizational work, Clifford Grulee. The AAP was then organized in 1930 with Dr. Abt as the first president and Drs. Lucas and Aldrich as Area (District) Chairs of the Western and Central regions respectively. Dr. Grulee's office became the AAP office and Dr. Grulee became the Secretary-Treasurer, a staff position he held for the next 25 years.

California has continued its leadership role in the AAP supplying 10 of the 76 presidents (see chart). California's involvement, however, is more than a listing of its officers. In furtherance of its mission, the AAP lists *Professional Education* and *Advocacy for Children and for Pediatricians*. Before they became AAP presidents, Ed Shaw (1949-50) helped found the Board of Pediatrics, Glenn Austin (1981-82) was a leader of the movement that induced the AAP to include activity on economic issues of the pediatricians, and Birt Harvey (1989-90) was a very successful advocate on children's issues with the California legislature.

Next: Origin of American Pediatrics

Questions to ponder: (1) What caused the massive infant and childhood mortality in the era before 1900? (2) How was this problem solved and what pediatric procedure was instrumental in this solution?

District IX Chairs & AAP Presidents from California According to the official AAP history (1952), the driving force behind the organization of the AAP in 1929 was William P. Lucas of SF who became our first Regional (District) chairman (1930)

Area IV Chairs			Area IV Alt Chairs		California AAP Presidents		
1930-31	William Lucas	SF	Jay Durand	Seattle			
1932-34	Jay Durand	Seattle	????				
1934-42	Edward Shaw	SF	Hugh Berkley	LA	1935-36	Henry Dietrich	LA
1942-46	Hugh Berkley	LA	Vernon Spickard	Seattle			
District VIII Chairs			District VIII Alt Chairs				
1947-48	Vernon Spickard	Seattle	Crawford Bost	SF			
1948-53	Crawford Bost	SF	Frank Douglas	??	1949-50	Edward Shaw	SF
1953-56	William Belford	SD	Frederick Joy	??	1954-55	Crawford Bost	SF
Area IV (1930-46) included 10 western states + Alberta & BC; District VIII (1947-57) included 12 western states; California became its own District (District X) in 1957--District X became District IX in 1966; California was one state entity from 1930 to 1954 with two "state chairs" (north & south); California Chapters 1 & 2 were created in 1954 & 1955 but were led by "state section chairs" until 1968 when the "chapter chair" term appeared; Chapter 2 spun off Chapter 3 in 1963 and Chapter 4 in 1986.							
District X became District IX, 1966							
District X/IX Chair			District X/IX Alt Chair		District X/IX AAP Presidents		
1957	William Belford	Chap 2	George Schade	Chap 1			
1958-60	George Schade	Chap 1	Donald Shelby		1959-60	William Belford	Chap 2
			Charles Cutler	Chap 1			
1961-63	Charles Cutler	Chap 1	Sydney Rosin	Chap 2			
1964-67	Russell Mapes	Chap 2	Sydney Rosin	Chap 2			
1967			Wendell Coffelt	Chap 2			
1968-69	Wendell Coffelt	Chap 2	vacant		1969-70	Russell Mapes	Chap 2
1970-75	Saul Robinson	Chap 1	Leo Bell	Chap 1			
1972-74			William Misbach	Chap 2	1977-78	Saul Robinson	Chap 1
1976-81	Paul Wehrle	Chap 2	Birt Harvey	Chap 1	1981-82	Glenn Austin	Chap 1
1982-87	Birt Harvey	Chap 1	Martin Gershman	Chap 1	1983-84	Paul Wehrle	Chap 2
1988-90	Martin Gershman	Chap 1	Robert Black	Chap 1	1989-90	Birt Harvey	Chap 1
1989			Leonard Kutnik	Chap 3			
1991-96	Leonard Kutnik	Chap 3	Joan Hodgeman	Chap 2			
1997-99	Lucy Crain	Chap 1	Burt Willis	Chap 4			
2000-05	Burt Willis	Chap 4	Robert Adler	Chap 2	2004-5	Carol Berkowitz	Chap 2
2006	Myles Abbott	Chap 1	Richard Pan	Chap 1			

Note: Chapter 1 has started a history section on its Web site which can be found at <http://www.aapca1.org/aapca1/history.html>

In process: history of chapter activities and oral histories & notes about members/officers.

*from Dr. Grulee's letter recruiting Pediatricians for the new organization.