

BUSINESS MEETING
Report of Committee A

Frank Hepburn, Chairman

Four charges were made for 1978-79. In summarized form these were:

- a) Select an appropriate name.
- b) Determine feasibility of establishing an interest group within an existing organization.
- c) Present the feasibility of establishing an independent organization to exist, gain members, develop funds, and maintain communication.
- d) Source of funding might be sought.

It was the concensus of the Committee that participation within existing organizations such as the American Public Health Association or the American Institute of Nutrition, although possible, would not benefit the broader interests of those who have attended the National Conferences.

Alternatively, it was deemed more feasible to organize as an independent organization. However, the Committee could not reach unanimity as to the structure and degree of organization most desirable and could not give unanimous endorsement to the plan prepared by Dr. Arden W. Forrey, the proposed By Laws of which have been distributed at this meeting. The Committee had no serious objection to the name, "Institute for the Advancement of Computer Use in Nutrition and Dietetics," proposed by Dr. Forrey, but it was observed that the absence of the words "Nutrient Data" in the name might cause ambiguity.

Report of Committee B

Stan Weinstein, Chairman

The discussions of Committee B dealt with the question of what kind of results or objectives should this group achieve? Basically, we reached a conclusion that the most important thing for this kind of an organization is information exchange. Getting together once a year, or sometimes more than once a year, would give the opportunity to the people to tell others what they are doing and to learn from other people. We all agreed that the Case Western Reserve group did a magnificent job in hosting this group here and prepared an excellent program. But the question of where we are going from now appears. One of the goals is to make the next annual conference the best one yet. And how can we achieve it? Maybe one of the things is to decide how we can get better communication between people during the year in order to prepare for the next meeting. We all agree that we'd like to have an annual conference meeting.

One of the ways to communicate is by using newsletters. Assign the responsibility to a task force or a group or an individual to come out with a newsletter that will tell the members of the organization what's going on. This will keep people up to date with information which is vital to the survival of this organization. In addition to a newsletter, there are a number of publications and references for educational material that will keep members up to date. Another means of communication is teleconferencing. Here we thought that we might have a little bit of a problem because this means of communication might cost a lot of money and right now the organization doesn't have it; I guess the budget is very little, almost zero. Also, we recognize the problem of lack of time. All of us, I assume, do have regular jobs and the priority of each one of us, is, first of all, to do their day-to-day job. To get involved too much with this organization can interfere with day-to-day routine and many times people will leave things to be done tomorrow or to next week, next month and before you know it, it's the end of the year. So we cannot achieve a lot. One of the problems that we discussed was the task forces. We heard the task forces' reports here and a lot of the topics dealt with identification of things to do. Who's going to do it? All of us, like I mentioned before have other responsibilities and this will take a lot of time and a lot of devotion and not everybody can afford it. Basically, all of us are volunteers and I have to thank everybody in the room for all of the effort that they did so far. But, somehow, we get

stuck. We do something and then the next year we start many things from the beginning, like the task forces. The first conference meeting three years ago had task forces and the year after that there were task forces which addressed the same topics as the first year's. I heard from some people here that yesterday's task forces also repeated a lot of topics that were addressed previously. Basically, we raise problems, but we don't comewith the solutions, or we might come up with solutions, but don't implement them. We don't have the means to pursue and to solve and overcome the problems and come up with some projects or standards or prototypes. This raises the question--should we be organized? At the last conference we were discussing it and Committee A was supposed to come up with some recommendation about organization. Committee B didn't feel that this topic ought to be discussed within the Committee once it was the topic of Committee A.

The remainder of the business meeting consisted of a presentation of the purpose and structure of the organization, "Institute for the Advancement of Computer Use in Nutrition and Dietetics", referred to in the report of Committee A. This presentation by Tony Fisher was followed by lengthy discussion relative to whether or not the proposed organization was representative of the wishes of the conference attendees to have some organizational structure. No consensus was reached.