

DATE: Sunday 17 October, 1982, at 0930 hrs.

VENUE: 14 Rodrigo Road, Lyall Bay, Wellington.

APOLOGIES: Gillian McNicoll, Pat Fuller, Joan Donley, Adele Birkbeck, Chris Voaden.

PRESENT: Lynne McLean, Sian White, Thelma Fell, Gill Williams, Pam Skelton, Kate Collyns, Lynley McFarland, Ursula Helem, Ngaire Witte, Bronwyn Pelvin.

MINUTES: from the Society's meeting on March 28 1982 were read and moved as correct by Ursula, seconded by Lynley.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Incorporation: This has now been completed. Copies of the Society's Rules were given out to members who had not received copies.

National Conference: Ursula attended the Conference in Dunedin on May 7-9 as the Society's representative and a report of this was presented.

Principal Public Health Nurses:

- 1) Ursula reported that she has now come to an agreement with her PPHN and she will now only accompany her about 4 times a year.
- 2) Gill has sorted out most of her problems with her PPHN, who has since retired.

Remit: The Remit that was sent to the National Home Birth Conference read as follows:

"THAT the New Zealand Home Birth Association express to the Minister of Health, the concern felt at the diminishing numbers of registered nurses undertaking their midwifery training in New Zealand, since the introduction of the Technical Institute based course".

NOTE: Many registered nurses are leaving New Zealand to undertake a more clinically orientated midwifery course which other countries, such as England, Scotland and Australia are offering.

Statistics Forms: There is a change of address to send the statistic forms to:
Mr Stan. Gillanders,
P.O. Box 11 412,
WELLINGTON.

There are new forms in the planning stage but until these are ready, the current ones will be used.

Concern was expressed at the numbers of midwives who are not submitting these forms.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Opening balance:	\$286.90	
Debit:	25.50	(correspondence & toll calls)
	15.05	(xeroxing)
	20.00	(Dept. of Justice)
	9.48	(postage)
	<u>70.03</u>	

The sum of \$50.03 was reimbursed to Lynne. Moved by Sian, seconded by Thelma.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Inward:
- letter from Bank of N.S.W advising on a change of dates for interest payments.
 - letter from Kate Collyns of Hastings requesting information re setting up in practice.
 - letter from Shona Carey (in reply) expressing doubt that NZNA could be of any assistance to Pat Fuller in Christchurch in her efforts to obtain refresher experience. A copy of this letter has been sent to Pat.
 - letter from Ken Douglas, Secretary, FOL, (in reply) expressing support for unionisation of workers, pointing out that affiliation to the FOL would not automatically solve our problems, and referring us back to the CSU.
 - letter from Mrs J R Burns, Private Secretary to Minister of Health, advising of Minister's agreement to meet with us.

- letter from Estelle Myers for Isobel Smith (in reply).
- letter from Mrs Burns requesting suitable time for meeting
- letter from Mr Malcolm, and enclosed a copy of final draft for perusal, comparison with earlier draft, and request for confidentiality and comments on any variations.
- letter from Mr Malcolm acknowledging receipt of comments on recommendations made in the report of the Maternity Services Committee, "Mother & Baby at Home : the Early Days".
- Outward:** -letter to Kate giving desired information.
- letter to Shona Carey asking her to investigate the plight of Pat Fuller re a refresher period.
- letter to Dunedin Branch informing them of Ursula's proposed attendance at Conference as our representative.
- letter to Ken Douglas with enclosed outline of analysis and options from Joan Donley, investigating the possibility of affiliation to the FOL.
- letter to Mr Malcolm requesting meeting again.
- letter to Mr Malcolm thanking him for the final draft copy of MSC report, and enclosing comments from the Society on some of the Recommendations. (These comments have been forwarded to the MSC for consideration at their next meeting).
- letter to all domiciliary midwives outlining the meeting with Mr Malcolm and Dr Philips and asking for comments on proposed increases.
- letter to Dr Philips confirming that the 17% increase be applied to the delivery part of the payment, and suggested improvements in fees for his consideration for new policies for 1983.
- letter to 'water birth' midwife, Isobel Smith, expressing concern over adverse publicity, and lack of preparation and planning.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE:

Under-water Births: The letter to Isobel and the reply from Estelle were read out, and were followed by much discussion. Estelle outlined her experience in various fields such as Holistic Health & Healing, Cancer, Death & Dying, Therapeutic Healing by Touch, Catastrophically Ill Children, and now Waterbirthing. She also attempted to justify the actions surrounding the Auckland waterbirth. A submission was received and also read out from a Dargaville potter named Mrs Lise Domingue. The submission was to the Minister of Health and copies sent to 8 other interested parties, including the DMS. The submission was a testimonial to the personal and professional qualities of Isobel Smith, but as the submission was very emotively written, and only 4 supporting signatures obtained it is doubtful that it will hold much water with the Minister. The DMS is now on the mailing list of the Rainbow Dolphin Centre. No person present at the meeting had any knowledge of any midwives, domiciliary or hospital, who were planning to attend the Seminar in Auckland in November, or who had attended the Conference in September.

Trade-Union Affiliation: The letters to and from Ken Douglas were read out and the matter discussed at great length. It was indicated in the letter that national executive felt that the CSU is the appropriate organisation and that representation through the PSA, or possibly resolving our difficulties with the NZNA might be a consequence of suggested discussion with Mr Tucker, Secretary, CSU. Considering these possibilities, or the possibility of the DMS joining the CSU as a separate entity, it was realised that in view of the small number of members involved, the DMS would probably end up carrying out their own negotiations anyway and so we would be no better off. So, in the light of the above, the wage and price freeze, the recent 17% increase, and the possibility of another increase in 1983, it was unanimously decided to defer any further action on this matter for the time being.

NEW BUSINESS:

MSC Report: The recommendations made in the MSC Report "Mother & Baby at Home : the Early Days" were read out the the comments on these recommendations read out and discussed. (Copy enclosed). At the time of typing these minutes, the report had still not been released to the public.

Telephone Meetings: Joan Donley of Auckland has suggested that the next meeting be by telephone. Members present were unhappy about this suggestion as for many members, particularly those practicing on their own, the 6 monthly meetings are an opportunity to get together, discuss problems and air grievances, and get to know other midwives. It was decided instead, that the next meeting be held in Auckland, on the evening of Friday 6 May 1983, the day before the start of the NZHBA National Conference. It was suggested that the meeting take place at Joan's house. This will be confirmed at a later date.

The Position of Secretary: Members present at the meeting felt strongly that the role of secretary is to carry out the wishes of the Society as a whole, and that it was preferable that the person acting as secretary have no strong political leanings in any one direction. Ursula moved that Lynne McLean continue as secretary. Seconded by Lynley McFarland.

Membership: There was a query from Joan Donley regarding eligibility for membership of midwives registered with the Dept. to carry out A/N and P/N visits on early discharges. There is provision for affiliated membership as is clearly outlined in the rules of the society.

The meeting closed at 1700 hrs.
