

DATE: Saturday 31 October, 1981, at 1430 hrs.

VENUE: 57 Queens Drive, Lyall Bay, Wellington.

APOLOGIES: Bronwyn Pelvin, Thelma Fell.

PRESENT: Jennifer Sage, Lyn McLean, Ursula Helem, Lynley MCFarland, Ronda Evans, Chris. Voaden, Fiona Barnett.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

A cheque account has been opened. As the Society is a non-profit organization, 3% interest is paid to the account and no cheque fees are payable.

	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Debit</u>	
Opening Bal.	100.00	1.50	Govt. Cheque Duty
Deposits	50.00		
Interest	.87		
Total	149.37		

Balance: \$147.87.

The Treasurer was reimbursed \$14.88 for expenses incurred for postage, xerox, Stationary, and one toll call.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Outward:

- a letter was sent to Allison and John Brebner requesting letter head paper, and a generous bundle has been received.
- a letter was written to Jane Biddell in Whangarei as it was thought that she had commenced practice, but she has not.
- a reply was sent to a letter received from Roslyn Livingstone inviting her to join the Society if she has commenced practice. No response has been received.
- a letter was sent to the producer of the TV programme 'Science Express', a Mr Denis Harvey, to bring his attention to the error made on the programme regarding the blood tests and babies born at home. An apology was received and a request for a retraction was granted and went to air on Tues, 22 September.
- a letter was sent to the Editor of the Listener on the same subject, and was published.
- a letter to PSA requesting information on membership.
- two letters to NZNA requesting information on action on remit no. 39 passed at the 1981 NZNA Conference regarding domiciliary midwives fees.
- a letter to Dr. Philips, Dir. Clinical Services, Health Dept. Head Office, applying for a review of domiciliary midwives fees.

Inward:

- a letter from PSA outlining conditions of membership.
- a letter from Dr. Philips stating that the fees will be reviewed later this year (i.e. after the elections), but gave no guarantee that there would be any increase.
- two replies from NZNA. The first to say that the matter of fees has been referred to the Economic Welfare Committee and that they have written to the Min. of Health requesting a review of fees. The second was to say that the Min. of Health had replied and that the fees are reviewed annually (?) but would give no assurance that an increase would occur.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

Fees paid to domiciliary midwives: Much discussion ensued on this topic and the following points were made:

- it is felt that NZNA have not honoured their obligation to the remit, though they are happy to receive a \$50.00 membership sub. from each of us each year. It was felt, however, that membership should not be withdrawn at this stage. Indemnity Insurance cover is \$100,000.00 per member.
- that a submission from David Wills regarding fees would not be really helpful.
- That because of the difficulty in identifying the person or persons with whom we should negotiate, and in view of the lack of progress to date, it was decided to take the following actions:-
 - a) that the Wellington midwives would attempt to meet with the Minister of Health as soon as possible after the elections to present our case. It was agreed that we should put to the Minister the possibility of aligning midwives fees to the GP's maternity benefits as they are the nearest comparison in terms of work type and payment structure.
 - b) that in time for the next meeting, Joan Donley would collect as much info. on the FOL as possible, and Lyn McLean would do the same regarding the PSA.
 - c) that a letter be sent to the National President of the midwives section of NZNA to inform her of the apparently inadequate actions of the Economic Welfare Committee.

Minutes cont.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- 1) Incorporation: A decision to incorporate was unanimous. The Secretary will now take steps to carry this out.
There were 3 alterations to the proposed rules:-
 - a) Name changed to Domiciliary Midwives Society of New Zealand.
 - b) Full membership will be restricted to midwives registered in domiciliary practice, and carrying out home births.
 - c) Affiliated membership will be available to midwives registered in domiciliary practice but not currently practicing.
Both levels of membership will pay the same fee, but voting will be restricted to full members only.

- 2) Conference: It was decided that because the NZHBA Conference is in Dunedin on 7-9 May, 1982, that we would hold our AGM on the weekend 27/28 March, and that we would send a delegate to Dunedin.
Our Annual General Meeting will be held in Palmerston North.

- 3) It was felt that regular communications from the Secretary are necessary. It was decided that a copy of the minutes will be sent out to all members after the AGM and 6 monthly meeting, and a newsletter at any other time deemed necessary.

- 4) NZNA, Midwives Section. National Seminar, Auckland, 28/29 May, 1982.
It appears that domiciliary midwifery is on the proposed agenda, so it is hoped that at least one midwife from the Auckland area can find out more details and attend the Seminar.

- 5) Policy: As a result of inquiries from a newspaper reporter, it was revealed that NZNA have 3 main areas of concern regarding domiciliary midwifery:-
 - a) No controls over who can practice as a domiciliary midwife.
 - b) No set criteria for accepting mothers for home birth.
 - c) Midwives are able to charge any fee they so desire.
 These points were made by the Executive Director, Miss Shona Carey, though she conceded that there were in fact no specific problems.
After much discussion, it was decided that we should formulate our own policies to try and avoid having it done for us, though attempts at this have already taken place.
Much difficulty was encountered in drawing up the first two points, but finally a broad draught was produced by Chris Voaden:-
 - a) Any midwives practicing in any setting, with full responsibility, must have recent experience with labour and birth, and the midwife must refresh her practice in a specified area (s) of her own choice, for as long as she considers necessary.
Midwives intending to practice domiciliary midwifery, and those already practicing, must be in contact with a member of the DMSNZ to discuss practice, and have ongoing contact for support and evaluation.
 - b) Criteria: It is recommended that candidates for home birth are:-
 - self-selected, assessed by a general practitioner for suitability, rejected if there is any obvious obstetric or medical anomaly.
 - non-smokers,
 - intending to breast feed.
 - supported by a stable network of support people.
 - availing themselves of adequate ante-natal care and preparation.
 - c) Domiciliary midwives should continue to make no charge to the couple for her services.
 Further discussion may be needed at our next meeting in order to formulate a final policy to distribute to NZNA, Maternity Services Committee etc.

The meeting closed at approx. 1900hrs.