



NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

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INCORPORATED 1924

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DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

October 11, 1965

Dr. Leonidas H. Berry, President
National Medical Association
412 East 47th Street, No. 26
Chicago, Illinois 60653

Dear Leonidas:

Confirming our recent telephone conversation, I am acknowledging receipt of copy of your letter of September 13 to Doctor Ice setting forth preliminary plans for NMA membership recruitment and orientation luncheon on Sunday, October 17 in Chicago.

Having heard nothing further as to the finalizing of your plans following an apparent controversy over providing NMA funds for your program, I regret that I was more or less obligated to honor a previous commitment to participate in the annual session of the Supreme Council (33rd Degree Masons) at Louisville, Kentucky, October 16-19. However, it now appears that for health reasons I may also be forced to cancel the trip to Louisville. I do appreciate your understanding acceptance of my sincere regret that I am unable to be with you in Chicago on this occasion. Kind regards to NMA Fellows in attendance there.

In regards to direct memberships in the NMA, as stated in my letter to you of July 18 you are assured that the Judicial Council will cooperate with your efforts to further integrate the Association in conformity with article III of our constitution and chapter I of our bylaws.

Of course you understand that a qualified applicant residing in a geographical area where there is a component society or a constituent association may become an active member of the NMA solely through the component society or constituent association, and approval of the Judicial Council is not required.

Qualified physicians residing outside of the jurisdiction of a constituent association or component society may apply for membership in NMA through the Secretary who will provide the prescribed application form. Approval of the Judicial Council is required.

I understand your intense interest and desire to get the job done, but it is not clear to me how "election of applicants on the grounds" could be accomplished. Although the bylaws do not specifically say so, it is my thinking that the completed application form with annual dues should be returned to the Secretary for processing and assisting the Judicial Council in evaluating qualifications of applicants, as he has directories for cross checking. Further, you will recall that our membership year closes December 31, and it may be preferable to accept the new members for our fiscal year beginning January 1.



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While the above procedure is certainly not intended to make it sound complicated, difficult, or witch hunting, it is my opinion that some reasonable effort should be made to ascertain that unknown applicants are in fact qualified graduates of recognized medical schools, licensed to practice medicine, free from subversion, and without a history of expulsion from other medical associations with standards equivalent or similar to ours, for criminal acts and/or unethical practice.

Lastly, I would like to call attention to our bylaws, chapter I section 2B, page 9, which appears to classify Teachers in U.S. medical schools as Associate Members.

Congratulations on your installation as NMA President, and with sincere best wishes for a successful, fruitful and harmonious administration so richly deserved, I am

Sincerely,

A. M.

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