

UPDATE

Allentown and Sacred Heart Hospital Center

No. 35 August 22, 1975

ANNUAL HOSPITAL CORPORATION MEETING

THE ADOPTION OF AN \$18.2 MILLION BUDGET for fiscal year 75-76 highlighted the annual meeting of the Allentown and Sacred Heart Hospital Center Corporation. President, Leonard P. Pool, who was reelected to a four-year term on the Board by the Allentown Class, conducted the meeting which also announced the increased average daily patient census above projected levels.

The fiscal '76 budget was based on a projected average daily census of 255. Since then, Pool reported, the census has improved: in June the average daily census was 285, in July, 266 and for the first fourteen days of August, 262.

Morton Schneider was reelected to the Board for a three-year term by the Sacred Heart Class. Also reelected were its incumbent officers for another one-year term. They are Leonard P. Pool, President; Morton Schneider, Vice President; William S. Hudders, Secretary; Ellwyn D. Spiker, Assistant Secretary; and Roger W. Mullin, Jr., Treasurer.

The Board heard reports of all major departments of the Hospital Center and in the president's report, Mr. Pool indicated that all signs seem to point to the hospital assuming its role as a regional trauma center for the community.

Pool, in his president's report and Spiker, in the administrator's report, both noted and lamented the recent death of Kenneth Hardie. Mr. Hardie gave much to the Center in the early days as financial counselor.

Introduced to the Board was Msgr. James J. McHale, a new appointee to the Board by Bishop Joseph McShea to succeed Msgr. David B. Thompson.

Goals for the future were outlined by Pool and include the establishment of a joint conference committee consisting of directors, physicians, and administrators who will deal with the achievement of accreditation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals.

Pool indicated it is hoped that representatives of the Joint Commission can visit the Hospital Center early next year.

Additional goals include establishment of a dynamic program in physical medicine, creation of an ombudsman position, preparation of a three-year capital expense budget and consideration of the role of the Center in education.

Pool also indicated goals which can hopefully be considered by all three hospitals on a long range basis including the establishment of a single medical record, the institution of an aggressive development and public relations program, a renal transplant program for the Lehigh Valley and the development of a framework in which the hospitals can work toward greater cooperation and coordination.

Spiker in his report profiled the Hospital Center by comparison to other institutions of similar size. He indicated that ASHHC has 185% more acute care beds, 11% more operative procedures, 225% more laboratory tests, 361% more pharmaceutical use and a length of stay 19% shorter than other hospitals.

He added that these things combine to contribute to their higher daily cost and can be likened to other medical center type hospitals around the country.

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