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AMERICAN RHEUMATISM ASSOCIATION  
A SECTION OF THE ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION

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PRESIDENT  
JOHN L. DECKER, M.D.  
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BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20014  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
LYNN BONFIGLIO

November 27, 1972

TO: ALL ARA MEMBERS  
FROM: JOHN L. DECKER, M.D., PRESIDENT  
SUBJECT: REGIONAL MEETINGS

In Dallas it was decided to discontinue Interim Sessions for a two year trial. We are looking forward to the Pittsburgh meeting on December 8-9, 1972 - at the Pittsburgh Hilton but there will be no national ARA meetings in December of 1973 or 1974.

The organization of substitute regional meetings was to be encouraged. The ARA as a national body cannot and will not organize, conduct, approve, publish or otherwise intercede in any regional meetings. The intent is that those interested within a region get together and organize what they would like. Some may prefer teaching sessions; some may want hospital visitation days; others may want research symposia, and so forth. Indeed experimenting with new formats is to be encouraged; some may work so well as to be useful for subsequent national meetings.

Neither the ARA nor the AF national program are in a position to underwrite regional meetings. It is to be hoped that the regional meetings may serve as a focal point for some of the local voluntary activities of our AF Chapters and that those chapters will be in a position to assist with expenses, secretarial help and the like. It would be well also to elicit the desires and needs of regional members of the AF's Allied Health Professions Section in planning meeting structure.

Regional designations are necessary and I have done this on the basis of Arthritis Foundation regions and with an eye to ARA membership. Each of the four regions here listed contain a few more than 500 ARA members.

Northeast: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Hampshire,  
(I & II) New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Brunswick, Newfoundland,  
Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec.

Southeast: Alabama, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia,  
(III & IV) Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico,  
South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia

Central: Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana,  
(V, VI & VII) Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North  
Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Texas, Manitoba,  
Saskatchewan, Mexico.

West: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana,  
(VIII & IX) Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Alberta, British  
Columbia.

I have asked the following four men to act as convener for their region:

Northeast

John I. Sandson, M.D.  
Phone 516/542-2501

Dept. of Medicine  
Nassau County Medical Center  
2201 Hempstead Turnpike  
East Meadow, N.Y. 11554

Southeast

John S. Davis, IV, M.D.  
Phone 703/924-5212

Dept. of Internal Medicine  
University of Virginia School of Medicine  
Charlottesville, Va. 22901

Central

Frederic C. McDuffie, M.D.  
Phone 507/282-2511

Mayo Clinic  
Rochester, Minn. 55901

West

Ephraim P. Engleman, M.D.  
Phone 415/342-9068

c/o Rheumatic Disease Group  
University of California Medical Center  
San Francisco, Calif. 94122

They are responsible for organizing whatever committee or group seems best to get the show on the road. Every interested member is urged to send on his thoughts or hopes about his regional meeting to the convener. Each region is at liberty to develop as tight or as loose an organizational structure as they wish.

It is clear that no regional pattern can suit every individual. My thought is that, if a member or a group of members strongly prefer to align themselves with a region other than that specified, they are at liberty to do so simply by establishing contact with the convener of the region they prefer.

It should also be clear that there is no intent of breaking up existing groups simply because their traditional membership comes from several newly designated regions. For example, the Interurban Club has often met with men from three regions; I hope they will continue to do so.

Forgive the length of this letter - one ARA is enough work - four is beyond my powers and I am glad to hand the ball to our multitalented membership.