

Officers learn to lead their chapters

By Janet Seratte

As I was searching for a cheap flight online to get to the meeting for APhA–ASP chapter leaders, I was thinking to myself, “What can I possibly learn in 3 days that I don’t already know?” The answer: Wow! What a compact, fun-filled, educational weekend. The APhA Summer Leadership Institute (SLI) in Washington, D.C., was more than I ever expected.

New name, new initiatives

APhA–ASP President Alex Varkey started the meeting by unveiling the Academy’s new name—the APhA Academy of Student Pharmacists. It was an effectively dramatic moment when he moved aside the balloons that had been hiding the banner bearing the new name.

Throughout the remainder of the first day, SLI attendees met APhA Executive Vice President John A. Gans, PharmD, the APhA–ASP National Executive Committee, and APhA Membership and Marketing staff members, who got attendees fired up about being part of the Association. They discussed the importance of setting realistic and obtainable goals for increasing membership and provided each chapter representative with a folder containing a graph that illustrated his or her chapter’s membership activity over a 5-year period. The presenters then asked us to set membership goals.

The last membership item discussed was the APhA–ASP National Dues Collection (NDC) program, through which student pharmacists are able to register and renew memberships online. If your school does not participate in the NDC, the membership vice president (MVP) should check it out on the new APhA–ASP Web site (www.aphanet.org/students/membership/join.htm).

Sheryl Benzon, a motivational speaker from Starfire Training, then started her 2-day leadership skills overview and self-assessment program. She provided us with information on how to be effective leaders and skillful speakers. We started by filling out SELF profile questionnaires. The questionnaires helped each of us determine our individual personality types. There are four different types: S, E, L, and F. The “S” personality is open, outgoing, and energetic. “The “E” personality is organized, goal-oriented, and ambitious. A fair, flexible, and team-oriented personality is reflected in the “L” type of communicator. Finally, there is the “F” personality, which is motivated by expertise and perfection. The results of the questionnaire showed all the various personalities were present in the room full of leaders. Benzon kept us on our toes and a few others on the edges of their seats. She also gave tips and ideas on skills to use during *Heartburn Awareness Challenge* presentations.

On the last day, we viewed a presentation by the National Executive Committee members pertaining to communication resources on the Web. The unveiling of the new APhA–ASP Web site (www.aphanet.org/students) followed. The day concluded with a slide show of the weekend’s events.



Prepared for 2004–2005

As president of Southwestern Oklahoma State University College of Pharmacy’s APhA–ASP chapter, I feel that the SLI provided me with the resources I need to strengthen, encourage, and lead my chapter. The weekend was a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and to obtain exciting ideas for the upcoming year. I believe APhA–ASP continues to grow because chapter leaders have the desire and energy to make positive changes in themselves, their communities, and the profession.

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