II. **DUES:** The annual dues ($5.00) are payable at the time of the annual meeting. Our year begins with the March meeting. Please send your checks with the enclosed form at the end of the newsletter. If you have not paid dues the previous years, you are encouraged to do so. Graduate students, retirees and those involunterily non-employed pay no dues, but they are asked to send in the enclosed form.

III. President John J. McDermott's letter follows:

Dear Colleagues:

At the annual March meeting, I was elected for a three year term as President of our Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy. I am very grateful to all of you for your confidence in me and I assure you that I regard this decision on your part as an honor and a privilege of very special meaning in my personal and professional life. I know of no group of people with whom I would rather be associated or to whom I would rather be of assistance.

All of us in the Society are thankful for the imaginative and loyal presidency of my predecessor, John Lachs of Vanderbilt University. And, we are continuously grateful for the thorough and perceptive service of our Secretary-Treasurer, Professor Joseph Grassi of Fairfield University.

Although it may appear immodest, I repeat here the judgment of many of the participants at our March meeting, who affirmed that it was a model of its kind and was characterized by an unusual spirit of cooperation and communal inquiry. In addition to the presence of some of our most distinguished members, the Program under the guidance of Professor Evelyn Shirk, of Hofstra University, continued our commitment to the inclusion of graduate students as full participants. A detailed report on the Program, provided by Joseph Grassi, accompanies this letter. Allow me to strongly support the request of our Secretary-Treasurer that dues be forthcoming. We have kept them at $5.00 and offered free memberships to graduate students, retirees and the unemployed. This decision rests on the assumption that the rest of us will fulfill our obligation. The fact that only 25% of the membership is up to date on their payments, is not cheering news. We would appreciate hearing from the remainder of you.

Now that our Society has effected a legitimate transition from one President to another, we can say that we have come of age. Be assured that I endorse the unwritten but long discussed multiple goals of our Society. We are pledged to sustain and generate interest in the following:

a) The formal history of American philosophy from the seventeenth century until the present. In addition to the classic concerns, attention will be given to lesser known figures and events.

b) The relationship between American philosophy and American culture, inclusive of its political, social, economic, scientific, aesthetic and historical strands.

c) A continuous evaluation of philosophical activity in America, independent of whether it is directly related to the history of American philosophy, as usually understood.

d) The relationship of American philosophy to philosophical currents elsewhere, both in the past and in contemporary developments.
Granted that such a mandate is wide, we offer it on behalf of our attempt to avoid parochialism. The interests and competence of our membership will determine our programs, but let it be known that we are open to a wide range of interests.

I look forward to meeting with you, either at the Eastern Division of the A.P.A. in December or at our fifth annual meeting in March, 1978 at Villanova University. In the meantime, should you have suggestions or complaints, please feel free to write to me or to Joseph Grassi. I send you personal good wishes and hope for the very best this coming year. Cordially, John J. McDermott

IV. Please send in your ballot to amend the constitution. To facilitate matters, please send in the completed form.

For the Constitutional Amendment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CITY, STATE, ZIP

FOR ( ) AGAINST ( )

For Dues

Society for Advancement of American Philosophy
Dues 1977-78

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CITY, STATE, ZIP

( ) Unemployed
( ) Graduate student
( ) Retired professor

Past Dues 1975 ( )
1976 ( )
1977 ( )

V. Please send the following completed questionnaire to Professor William Gavin, Department of Philosophy, University of Maine, Portland, Maine 04103