

Dr. William Granzig, AASECT president 1978-80

Dr. William Granzig was the 6th president of AASECT. He served from 1978-1980. Dr. Granzig was the youngest president at the time and the first gay president. He was both a sex educator and sex therapist.

During his presidency the certification program was started. Dorothy Strauss became the first chair of the newly formed certification committee. A great deal of effort and energy was put into creating the requirements for certification. The SAR requirement was born out of the premise that at that time, people didn't talk about sex nor aware of their attitudes of sex and how it affected their sexuality.

Patricia Schiller was the executive director at the time and introduced adding therapists into the association and changing the name to include therapists. The board added the "T" onto "AASECT", including the *therapists* into the association. Before that, most of the membership comprised of sex educators.

At that time the membership was approximately 5,000 members.

He was the first editor of the journal that was included as a benefit of membership.

The AASECT office, at his time of presidency, was located in Washington, DC. Bostrom was the management company that managed the association.

Shirley Sussman succeeded Dr. Granzig's presidency and he recalls her being a peacemaker.

One of the AASECT members that stood out at the time was Dr. Ruth Westheimer, the infamous "Dr. Ruth". Dr. Granzig quipped she helped keep the organization "respectable"!