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# HCFACMS

# ALUMNI NEWS

WINTER 2015 (Vol. 21 No. 1)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, the holidays are behind us and WINTER is upon us. The New Year is underway and the days are getting longer and we all are looking forward to SPRING and the end of this never ending WINTER. It seems like the ground has been white forever.

I am happy to begin yet another one-year term as your President. I am also very pleased to report that 122 of our members and friends had a terrific time at the Holiday Luncheon (see article inside) and I encourage everyone to join in future activities of this nature.

I am also pleased that the association continues to attract new members and membership renewals are coming in. On page 2 you will see a list of 11 new members, bringing the membership up to an all time high of 739. In this issue we are initiating the 2015 membership renewal process for those who need to do so. Dues remain at \$5.00 per year and we hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to renew at this time, while it is fresh in your mind. And you can renew for any number of years. **Members with expiration dates of 12/31/14 or earlier need to renew, members with expiration dates later than 12/31/14 do not.**

In this issue you will also find items about the COLA Count, the Board of Directors, the Social Security Alumni Blog, the Alumni St. Patrick's Day Celebration on March 19 (Flyer also enclosed), Medicare Rates, Social Security Tax Rates, the Social Security Earnings Test, Honors for Alumni member Frances Kane, and the latest in CMS senior staff and organizational news. As usual, the Comedy Korner makes another heralded appearance. There are lots of items that hopefully will be of interest to you.

I want to wish you all a Wonderful New Year and continued happiness, good health and prosperity in retirement.



William L Engelhardt

**HCFA/CMS ALUMNI NEWS**

Published four times a year for the members of the Health Care Financing Administration /Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (HCFA/CMS) Alumni Association

**PRESIDENT**

William L. Engelhardt

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Lynn T. Strange

**SECRETARY**

Lillian H. Lehnert

**TREASURER**

Herbert B. Shankroff

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William A. Grant  
William H. Hogsten, Jr.

**OFFICE ASSISTANTS**

Darlene Summerfield

**DUE DATES FOR FUTURE ISSUES**

Spring Issue – March 31, 2015  
Summer Issue – June 30, 2015

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**NEW MEMBERS**

The Association extends a hearty "Welcome Aboard" to the following new members:

Jeff Clark  
Theresa Forrest  
Jerry Hankin  
Jethro Hooper  
Paul L Horneman  
Veronica C Johnson  
Sharon Little  
Susan W McLaughlin  
Larry Reed  
Carol Reitz  
Gerald F Riley

We now have 739 active members.

**2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors re-appointed incumbent board members Bill Engelhardt, Richard Faulstich, and Bill Grant to another two-year term, ending December 31, 2016. The Board also appointed LuAnne Distefano to a new two-year term. The 4 members officially began their two-year term at the Board Meeting on January 9, 2015.

The Board also unanimously elected the following officers, to serve for the calendar year 2015:

President – William L. Engelhardt  
Vice President – Lynn T. Strange  
Treasurer – Herbert B. Shankroff  
Secretary – Lillian H. Lehnert

### **THANK YOU WILLIAM H. HOGSTEN**

William H. "Bill" Hogsten, Jr. has served on the HCFA/CMS Alumni Board of Directors almost since its inception. He has finally reached the point where he felt the need to step aside. Over the years he has made innumerable valuable contributions to the board and projects undertaken by it. Words cannot begin to express the debt of gratitude we all owe Mr. Hogsten for these many years of service. Thank you so much, Bill. We wish you all the best in the future.

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND PAYMENT OF YEAR 2015 DUES**

We are now beginning the collection of the annual dues, this time for the year 2015, covering the period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. Members receiving this issue via e-mail will have already received a separate e-mail dealing with membership renewals.

**Members who receive this issue in hard copy via the mail**, because we do not have an e-mail address for you or because you advised us that you are not computer savvy enough to handle an electronic newsletter, **will receive a renewal form only if they need one.** To facilitate keeping track of individual enrollment periods, the mailing labels used to send the HCFA/CMS Alumni News contain the member's I.D. Number and the date of expiration of enrollment, i.e., 12/31/14. **Those with a date later than 12/31/14 do NOT need to renew at this time. If you have already paid your 2015 dues you should NOT find an enrollment form included with this issue, unless we include one by mistake, ha.**

When using the form to mail in your dues, please note any changes in information so we may update our records (i.e. address, e-mail, phone number, etc.). We no longer provide return envelopes for submitting renewal forms. Since we cannot provide them to members receiving this electronically, it wouldn't be fair to do so for the snail mail recipients.

Also responding to popular request, we continue to accept membership enrollment (or re-enrollment) for multiple years. Dues are \$5.00 per year and members can sign up for any number of years. Because the dues are nominal, there are no discounts for multiple year enrollments and there is no "lifetime" membership. Multiple year enrollments are available as a convenience to members.

### **MEMBERSHIP SEARCH**

As always, we acknowledge that there are many HCFA/CMS retirees that we have not been able to reach to tell them about the Alumni Association and invite them to join. We continue to ask for your assistance in spreading the message about us to them. If you know of any retiree that is not a member, please let them know about us and tell them how to contact us by telephone, snail mail or e-mail (all of that information can be found on page 2 of this issue). We will be very happy to send, either electronically or via snail mail, anyone the enrollment form and further information about membership. Since we no longer have an office at CMS, the telephone and e-mail contact information on page 2 refers to William L Engelhardt, President.

### **SOCIAL SECURITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

We'd like to again remind members that we also have a link to our sister alumni, the Social Security Alumni Association, web site on our web site. The web site has been completely revamped and vastly improved. The actual URL for it is "<http://www.ssaanational.org>" but you can just click on the link on our page. Many HCFA and/or CMS retirees also worked for the Social Security Administration somewhere along the line, and are eligible for membership in both alumni associations.

### **SOCIAL SECURITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BLOG**

Joe Vaughan, President of the Social Security Alumni Association (SSAA) has reminded us again that HCFA/CMS folks are certainly welcome to participate in any Social Security Alumni activity. Many of us are eligible to, and some of us actually do, belong to both alumni associations. The SSAA also has a blog. Go to <http://ssaanews.blogspot.com/> to check it out. If you are a former SSA worker you just might be interested enough to join the SSAA.

### **FEAA**

We'd like to remind members that we do have a link to the Federal Employee Activities Association (FEAA) on our web site. The actual URL for it is "<http://www.federaleaa.org/News1.html>" but you can just click on the link on our page.

The people listed as "Our Team," EAA Directory of Employees, are all at CMS. The web site also says, "The EAA was formed in 1942 for the welfare and recreation of our employee-members. The EAA supports and donates to many Federal sponsored charities and programs. The EAA strives to provide our members with many different benefits. We currently have an EAA service center within the CMS building."

That office is located near the Copy Center in the Lower Lobby area of the Central Building.

HCFA/CMS retirees are eligible to participate in discount purchases and to take advantage of everything the EAA has to offer.

### **HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**

122 Alumni members and friends came to the Holiday Luncheon in the Cameo Room at the beautiful Turf Valley Country Club on December 10 and everyone had a wonderful time. Everyone enjoyed the event and the place was abuzz with happy people renewing old acquaintances. The setting in a banquet room was great and the ambiance was fantastic. We hope to have a similarly great experience and see even more of you at next year's Holiday Luncheon.

### **COLA COUNT**

Through three months of the counting period toward the January 2015 federal retiree cost of living adjustment, the inflation index used to set that adjustment stands at minus 1.85 percentage points below the 2014 third

**COLA COUNT (Continued):**

quarter average base index of 234.242, following decreases of 0.4% in October, 0.72% in November, and 0.71% in December. The current index stands at 229.909. The annual COLA count measures the change in the index's average from base period third calendar quarter to the latest. There are nine months left in the counting period. Should the count finish in negative territory for the full 12 months, benefits would be frozen but not reduced. That happened twice in recent years.

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION**

For the third year in a row, the HCFA/CMS Alumni Association is sponsoring a St. Patrick's Day celebration and Alumni Member Lillian Lehnert has again donated her home for the merriment. This year's celebration will be on Thursday, March 19, 2015. See the enclosed Flyer for all of the details.

**MEDICARE RATES**

Most federal retirees elect to have Medicare, which primarily covers non-hospital costs, even though they typically also have FEHB coverage in retirement because there are certain gaps in each that the other covers; for those with both, FEHB acts effectively as a "Medigap" plan, stepping in as the second payer for costs not covered by Original Medicare. For 2015, the monthly Part B premium—which is the basic cost regardless of whether they are in the traditional fee for service design or one of the many alternatives--will remain \$104.90 for most enrollees. Those with annual taxable

incomes above \$85,000 for single filers and \$170,000 for joint filers pay higher premiums on a phased basis, starting at an additional \$42 a month. The Part B annual deductible will remain \$147. Medicare Part A, which primarily covers hospitalization-related costs, requires a premium only for enrollees who did not have at least 40 calendar quarters of covered employment. For most, the main cost of interest is the hospitalization deductible, which remains at \$1,260 for the first 60 days and proportionately at lower levels for longer periods.

**SOCIAL SECURITY TAX RATES**

FEDweek

The Social Security withholding "FICA" tax of 6.2 percent still applies to salary up to \$118,500. For FERS employees, the tax cuts off at that figure but CSRS Offset employees continue paying it, with the money going into the federal retirement fund instead. Regular CSRS employees don't pay Social Security taxes. There is no limit on the 1.45 percent Medicare tax paid by all employees, a tax that sometimes is presented together with the FICA tax and labeled as the Social Security tax, even though only the FICA portion goes to Social Security.

**SOCIAL SECURITY EARNINGS TEST**

FEDweek

For those drawing Social Security benefits, the earnings test applying to beneficiaries aged 62 through "full retirement age," currently 66, is 15,720. Those beneficiaries lose \$1 in Social Security benefits for every \$2 in earnings through employment or self-employment above the limit. A separate earnings test applies only to earnings for months in the year an individual reaches full retirement age but prior to the individual

**SOCIAL SECURITY EARNINGS TEST**  
**(Continued):**

attaining that age. One dollar in benefits will be withheld for every \$3 in earnings above \$41,880. There is no limit on earnings beginning the month an individual attains full retirement age.

**SENIOR MANAGEMENT**  
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CMS ADMINISTRATOR LEAVING**

**Marilyn Tavenner**, CMS Administrator, has resigned from her position, effective at the end of February 2015. Her January 16 Thank You and Farewell statement to CMS employees read in part:

It is with sadness and mixed emotions that I write to tell you that February will be my last month serving as the Administrator for CMS. I have great pride and joy knowing all that we have accomplished together since I came on board five years ago in February of 2010. The role of this agency has evolved over the years through both the leadership of many great previous Administrators, and also the legislative changes put forth by Congress. CMS has always been “the biggest payer of healthcare services in the United States” and that in and of itself is a huge and complex responsibility for any Administrator and his or her team to manage. And with the passage of the Affordable Care Act in March of 2010, we had many additional challenges put before us to look at ways to improve quality, reduce costs, eliminate fraud, increase transparency, and provide access to millions more of our fellow Americans.

With those changes came a whole new set of responsibilities and a spotlight that brightly shown on all of us as we managed the largest federal agency budget, strong opinions across the nation, and our ultimate mission of improving our country’s healthcare system and saving lives. But with your hard work, dedication, commitment and resolve, you cleared the path and laid out a plan for all that we needed to accomplish. As a result, you are truly transforming healthcare in this country.

Words will never be able to fully express the appreciation and gratitude I feel towards all of you. When I came here five years ago I never imagined what an amazing team I was going to be a part of and connected to so personally. All of you are the most committed, hardworking, inspirational individuals and civil servants that I have ever had the honor of working alongside, and it is my privilege to call you colleagues and teammates.

I feel fortunate to leave here with a great sense of accomplishment, a wealth of knowledge, many new friends and the comfort of knowing that the citizens of this country and I are in great hands with all of you and your incredible drive and commitment to continue transforming our healthcare system.

Sincerely and gratefully yours,

Marilyn Tavenner

**ACTING CMS ADMINISTRATOR**

**Andy Slavitt**, CMS Principal Deputy Administrator, has been selected to be the Acting CMS Administrator, succeeding

**ACTING CMS ADMINISTRATOR**  
**(Continued):**

Marilyn Tavenner. Andy joined HHS with over 20 years of private sector experience. Prior to joining CMS, Andy was the Group Executive Vice President for Optum, where he oversaw the delivery of clinical, technology and operational solutions to health care clients and consumers. He was a key member of the team that helped turn around the healthcare website last year.

**CMS CHIEF OF STAFF LEAVING**

**Aryana Khalid**, CMS Chief of Staff, is leaving CMS at the end of March. She joined CMS nearly 5 years ago as Chief of Staff to the Administrator.

**OFFICE OF LEGISLATION**

**Megan O'Reilly** has joined CMS as the Director of the Office of Legislation (OL). Megan came to CMS from the Committee on Education and the Workforce where she was the minority staff director for former Ranking Member George Miller. Before serving as staff director, Megan served as the healthcare analyst for the Committee for 8 years. Megan also worked in the office of Anna Eshoo for 5 years.

Megan has a BA from American University and received her JD from the DePaul University College of Law. In addition, Megan worked as a law clerk at the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and the law firms of McCarthy Duffy and Baker & McKenzie.

**FEDERAL COORDINATED HEALTH CARE OFFICE (FCHCO)**

**Tim Engelhardt**, Director of the Models, Demonstrations and Analysis Group within the Federal Coordinated Health Care Office (FCHCO), has accepted the position of Acting Director of FCHCO. Tim replaces Melanie Bella who decided to leave CMS at the end of January.

During her time with the Agency, Melanie established the first office within CMS solely focused on making the Medicare and Medicaid programs work better together. Melanie worked to more effectively integrate benefits for individuals eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid and improve the coordination and financing between the federal government and states for such individuals.

**CENTER FOR MEDICAID AND CHIP SERVICES (CMCS)**

**Victoria Wachino**, Deputy Director of the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS), has accepted the position of Acting Director of CMCS. Victoria replaces Cindy Mann who decided to leave CMS at the end of January.

Cindy has served as the Director of CMCS since 2009, during which time she has overseen the implementation of the biggest improvements to the Medicaid program since its inception. She led the development and implementation of landmark policies simplifying the eligibility and enrollment process for the majority of people applying for Medicaid coverage. Since those policies took effect in 2013, states have taken giant leaps in improving their eligibility and enrollment systems to give beneficiaries an

**CENTER FOR MEDICAID AND CHIP SERVICES [CMCS] (Continued):**

easier, more streamlined experience, and enrollment in Medicaid and CHIP has increased by 9.7 million people.

**OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE INFORMATION (OEI)**

CMS has created an Office of Enterprise Information (OEI) that will unite key enterprise and CIO activities within one organization. The work currently performed by the Offices of Enterprise Management, along with the Security and CIO functions currently in OIS, will now be positioned within the Office of Enterprise Information.

**Dave Nelson**, CMS' Deputy Chief Operations Officer and Chief Information Officer for CMS, has assumed the added responsibility of OEI Director. **Cora Tracy** has agreed to serve as the Acting Deputy Director of OEI. Cora joined CMS approximately 10 years ago. Most recently, she has worked collaboratively across the enterprise in senior advisory roles in OEM, Office of Information Systems (OIS) and the office of the Chief Operating Officer (COO).

**CHIEF INFORMATION SECURITY OFFICER**

**Emery Csulak** has been chosen as the Agency's Chief Information Security Officer and Senior Privacy Official. He will lead enterprise security and privacy functions at CMS and ensure the Agency complies with secure IT requirements. Emery hails from the Department of

Homeland Security as their Deputy Chief Information Security Officer and has worked in cyber security and IT for over 22 years both in the private and public sectors.

**OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS (OTS)**

The Office of Information Services (OIS) has become the Office of Technology Solutions (OTS). CMS believes the OTS name better reflects the commitment to working collaboratively with business partners and stakeholders to solve business problems through technology solutions. This new name signifies a shift in the purpose and focus of the organization, and creates a more agile management approach in support of Agency business demands. OTS will continue under the leadership of Janet Vogel and her team.

**CONSORTIUM FOR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND SURVEY AND CERTIFICATION OPERATIONS (CQISCO)**

**Renard Murray**, the Regional Administrator for Atlanta and Dallas, has stepped in as Acting Consortium Administrator for Quality Improvement and Survey and Certification Operations (CQISCO), replacing Dr. Randy Farris who has retired. As CQISCO Administrator, Renard has field oversight of CMS' clinical quality and survey and certification missions across the United States and its territories, overseeing facilities ranging from the U.S. Virgin Islands in the Caribbean to the Marianas Islands in the Western Pacific.

**ACTING DEPUTY REGIONAL  
ADMINISTRATOR FOR ATLANTA &  
DALLAS**

**David Wright** has stepped in as Acting Deputy Regional Administrator for Atlanta and Dallas, replacing Renard Murray who is now Acting Consortium Administrator for Quality Improvement and Survey and Certification Operations (CQISCO). David began his career with CMS in 1993 as a Presidential Management Intern. In his 21 years with the agency, he has worked in provider terminations, beneficiary services, media relations, Medicare policy, State Representative functions, hospital team lead, Special Assistant to the Regional Administrator, Manager of the Long Term Care Enforcement Branch, and Associate Regional Administrator for the Division of Survey and Certification. David has been serving as Deputy Regional Administrator for CMS Dallas for the past three years.

**MEDICAL OFFICER & SENIOR  
ADVISOR IN CQISCO**

**Dr. Lisa McAdams** had agreed to serve as Medical Officer and Senior Advisor to the Acting Consortium Administrator in CQISCO. Lisa is boarded in Preventive Medicine with a Masters in Public Health and practiced for twelve years as a primary care physician before joining CMS in 2000. She first served as a Medical Officer in the Division of Quality Improvement in the Dallas Regional Office before moving to CMS' Baltimore office as a Division Director in the Office of Clinical Standards and Quality, Quality Improvement Group. She returned to Dallas with the establishment of regional Consortia in 2007.

**FRANCES KANE HONORED**



Upper Left – Frances Kane, along with fellow inductees Hazel Rectanus, Ellen Constantine and Donald Champ

HCFA/CMS Alumni member Francis Kane was inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame during the hall of fame's banquet Oct. 23 at Michael's Eighth Avenue in Glen Burnie. The Hall acknowledges and honors the volunteer, civic and humanitarian work of individual Maryland senior citizens annually, according to its website.

Kane said she believes in being proactive. "Last year I got a petition of 345 signatures together for a bill to go before Congress," she said. The bill is related to how hospital stays are classified, for the purpose of Medicare coverage.

As a retired medical programmer for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and current chairman of the Residents Health Care Committee at Carroll Lutheran Village, Kane said she is concerned with the rise of Village residents whose hospital stays are being classified as observation rather than inpatient admission, and the impact that can have on patients' out-of-pocket expenses.

### **FRANCES KANE HONORED AGAIN**



HCFA/CMS Alumni member Francis Kane was recognized by Blue Cross and Blue Shield FEHB provider CareFirst as the "Annuitant of the Year" of the Carroll County Maryland Chapter of the National Active & Retired Employees Association (NARFE). Kane has been an active member of the chapter since it was formed, and provided leadership and advice to all the presidents, past and present, that has contributed to the growth of the organization. Bill Gray, Account Manager for CareFirst, presented a certificate to Frances.

Kane said when someone is admitted to the hospital and put on a floor for observation, the care is covered under Medicare Part B but the stay is not considered inpatient. Three consecutive days of inpatient hospitalization, covered under Part A, are required for the patient to be eligible for Medicare coverage if he or she is sent to a nursing home or rehabilitation center.

Kane said the bill would make those observation stays eligible under Part A and therefore save patients thousands of dollars of out-of-pocket expenses.

### **FEHB "UUDERSERVED" AREAS ELIMINATED**

The designation of "Medically Underserved" areas for FEHB program purposes is no longer deemed to be required. It was intended to provide special consideration for enrollees who obtain health services in states with critical shortages of primary care physicians. As such, FEHB fee-for-service plans were required to provide benefits for covered services (subject to their contract terms) provided by any licensed provider practicing within the scope of his/her license, such as physician assistants or nurse midwives, which otherwise may not be considered as covered providers by the fee-for-service plan.

Section 2706(a) of the Public Health Service Act (PHSA) effectively expanded the geographic area of coverage for all licensed providers offering covered services within the scope of their license to all areas of all States rather than only those areas designated as Medically Underserved under 5 U.S.C. 8902(m)(2). OPM has concluded that Section 2706(a) of the PHSA renders the annual determination of the MUAs for FEHB no longer required.

### **HELPFUL HINTS FOR WINTER**

Source Unknown

Keep your headlights clear with car wax! Just wipe ordinary car wax on your headlights. It contains special water repellents that will prevent that messy mixture from accumulating on your lights - lasts 6 weeks.

Squeak-proof your wipers with rubbing alcohol! Wipe the wipers with a cloth

**HELPFUL HINTS FOR WINTER**  
**(Continued):**

saturated with rubbing alcohol or ammonia. This one trick can make badly streaking & squeaking wipers change to near perfect silence & clarity.

Ice-proof your windows with vinegar! Frost on its way? Just fill a spray bottle with three parts vinegar to one part water & spritz it on all your windows at night. In the morning, they'll be clear of icy mess. Vinegar contains acetic acid, which raises the melting point of water---preventing water from freezing!

Prevent car doors from freezing shut with cooking spray! Spritz cooking oil on the rubber seals around car doors & rub it in with a paper towel. The cooking spray prevents water from melting into the rubber.

Fog-proof your windshield with shaving cream! Spray some shaving cream on the inside of your windshield & wipe it off with paper towels. Shaving cream has many of the same ingredients found in commercial defoggers.

De-ice your lock in seconds with hand sanitizer! Just put some hand sanitizer gel on the key & the lock & the problems solved!

**KOMEDY KORNER**

**HUMAN YEARS!**

God created the mule, and told him, "You are mule. You will work constantly from dusk to dawn, carrying heavy loads on your

back. You will eat grass and lack intelligence. You will live for 35 years."

The mule answered, "To live like this for 35 years is too much. Please, give me no more than 20."

And it was so.

Then God created the dog, and told him, "You are dog. You will hold vigilance over the dwellings of Man, to whom you will be his greatest companion. You will eat his table scraps and live for 30 years."

The dog responded, "Lord, to live 30 years as a dog like that is too much. Please, no more than 10 years."

And it was so.

God then created the monkey, and told him, "You are monkey. You shall swing from tree to tree, acting like an idiot. You will be funny, and you shall live for 20 years."

The monkey responded, "Lord, to live 20 years as the clown of the world is too much. Please, Lord, give me no more than 10 years."

And it was so.

Finally, God created Man and told him, "You are Man, the only rational Being that walks the earth. You will use your intelligence to have mastery over the creatures of the world. You will dominate the earth and live for 20 years."

The man responded, "Lord, to be Man for only 20 years is too little. Please, Lord; give me the 15 years the mule refused, the 20

**HUMAN YEARS! (Continued):**

years the dog refused, and the 10 years the monkey rejected."

And so God made Man to live 20 years as a man, then marry and live 15 years like a mule working and carrying heavy loads on his back. Then, he is to have children and live 20 years as a dog, guarding his house and eating the leftovers after they empty the pantry; then, in his old age, to live 10 years as a monkey, acting like an idiot to amuse his grandchildren.

And it is so.

**THE GOOD OLD DAYS**

Grandpa and Grandma were sitting in their porch rockers watching the beautiful sunset and reminiscing about "the good old days," when Grandma turned to Grandpa and said, "Honey, do you remember when we first started dating and you used to just casually reach over and take my hand?"

Grandpa looked over at her, smiled and obligingly took her aged hand in his.

With a wry little smile, Grandma pressed a little farther, "Honey, do you remember how after we were engaged, you'd sometimes lean over and suddenly kiss me on the cheek?"

Grandpa leaned slowly toward Grandma and gave her a lingering kiss on her wrinkled cheek. Growing bolder still, Grandma said, "Honey, do you remember how, after we were first married, you'd kind of nibble on my ear?"

Grandpa slowly got up from his rocker and headed into the house. Alarmed, Grandma said, "Honey, where are you going?"

Grandpa replied, "To get my teeth!"

**WHEN HEAVEN GETS CROWDED**

Submitted by George Jacobs

It got crowded in heaven, so, for one day it was decided only to accept people who had really had a bad day on the day they died. St. Peter was standing at the pearly gates and said to the first man, "Tell me about the day you died."

The man said, "Oh, it was awful. I was sure my wife was having an affair, so I came home early to catch her with him. I searched all over the apartment but couldn't find him anywhere. So I went out onto the balcony, we live on the 25th floor, and found this man hanging over the edge by his fingertips. I went inside, got a hammer, and started hitting his hands. He fell, but landed in some bushes. So, I got the refrigerator and pushed it over the balcony and it crushed him. The strain of the act gave me a heart attack, and I died."

St. Peter couldn't deny that this was a pretty bad day, and since it was a crime of passion, he let the man in.

He then asked the next man in line about the day he died. "Well, sir, it was awful," said the second man. "I was doing aerobics on the balcony of my 26th floor apartment when I twisted my ankle and slipped over the edge. I managed to grab the balcony of the apartment below, but some maniac came out and started pounding on my fingers with a hammer. Luckily I landed in some bushes.

### **WHEN HEAVEN GETS CROWDED**

#### **(Continued):**

But, then the guy dropped a refrigerator on me!"

St. Peter chuckled, let him into heaven and decided he could really start to enjoy this job.

"Tell me about the day you died," he said to the third man in line.

"OK, picture this, I'm naked, hiding inside a refrigerator...."

### **GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GROWING OLD**

- 1) Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.
- 2) Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.
- 3) When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
- 4) You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
- 5) It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
- 6) Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.
- 7) Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.

### **THE FOUR STAGES OF LIFE:**

- 1) You believe in Santa Claus.
- 2) You don't believe in Santa Claus.
- 3) You are Santa Claus.
- 4) You look like Santa Claus.

### **NEW DOCTOR VISIT**

Here's something to think about.

I recently picked a new primary care doctor. After two visits and exhaustive lab tests, he said I was doing 'fairly well' for my age (I am in my mid-seventies).

Being a little concerned about that comment, I couldn't resist asking him, "Do you think I'll live to be 80?"

He asked, "Do you smoke tobacco, or drink beer, wine or hard liquor?"

"Oh no," I replied. "I'm not doing drugs, either."

"Do you eat rib-eye steaks and barbecued Ribs?"

I replied, "Not much. My former doctor said that all red meat is very unhealthy."

The doctor then asked, "Do you spend a lot of time in the sun, like playing golf, boating, sailing, hiking, or bicycling?"

I replied, "No, I don't."

He asked, 'Do you gamble, drive fast cars, or have a lots of sex?"

"No," I responded.

He looked at me and said, "Then, why do you even care?"

# **IN MEMORIAM**

**The Alumni Association respectfully acknowledges  
the passing of the following  
Alumni/Employees/Spouses and expresses its  
sympathy to family member**

**CARL WILLIAM BENZ (11/19/14)\*  
THOMAS "THOM" COUPAR (10/28/14)\*\*  
CHARLES "BILL" HAZLETT (12/4/14)\*  
J THOMAS HESSENAUER (12/3/14)\*\*  
THOMAS RANDOLPH "RANDY" GRAYDON (12/7/14)\*\*  
ROBERT DAMIEN MARSTON (11/30/14)\*\*\*  
WILLIAM WINFREE NICHOLS (2/11/14)\*\*  
ROBERT W WELLS (1/6/15)\*\***

\* CMS Retiree

\*\* HCFA/CMS Alumni Member

\*\*\* CMS Employee

**If you are aware of any other deaths of Alumni please notify the editorial staff  
February 2015**