
HCFA/CMS

ALUMNI NEWS

SPRING 2016 (Vol. 22 No. 2)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is hard to believe that winter has finally released its tentacles and now spring has actually sprung, so we thought we'd celebrate with another issue of the HCFA/CMS Alumni News. I'd like to thank those of you who have renewed your membership for 2016 (and in many cases beyond that as well). Dues remain at \$5.00 per year and those of you who did not avail yourselves of the opportunity to renew your membership based upon the renewal information released with the WINTER 2016 issue of the HCFA/CMS Alumni News can still do so now. **Anyone whose membership expiration date on the mailing label, if they received the newsletter in the mail, or in the Member Directory if they received the newsletter electronically, is 12/31/15 or earlier needs to renew. Some 178 of you have yet to do that. Those with a date of 12/31/16 or later are paid up and do not need to renew now.**

I am also pleased that the association continues to attract new members. On page 2 you will see a list of 10 new members, bringing the membership up to an all time high of 749. By providing a Member Directory, a quarterly newsletter, and e-mail messages about happenings at CMS, we promote a continuing connection between CMS (formerly HCFA) and its retirees, both at the central office and regional office levels. We try to provide information of interest to all retirees.

In this issue you will also find items about the dates of the remaining Alumni event during 2016, COLA Count, the Alumni Spring/Summer Cookout, the CMS Holocaust Memorial Program, and the latest in CMS senior staff and organizational news. The ever-popular KomedY Korner appears as usual. There are lots of items that hopefully will be of interest to you.

I want to wish you all a Wonderful Spring 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

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DUE DATES FOR FUTURE ISSUES

Summer Issue – June 30, 2016
Fall Issue – September 30, 2016

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NEW MEMBERS

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

Tricia Beckmann
Jann M Caldwell
William Dowdy
John Robert Dyer
Ed Hutton
Deborah Larwood
Sam Meagher
Wilhelmine Miller
Carl R Swanson
Edward Zeller

We now have 749 active members.

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND
PAYMENT OF YEAR 2016 DUES**

We are now continuing the collection of the annual dues for the year 2016, covering the period of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. Members receiving this issue via e-mail will have already received multiple e-mails dealing with membership renewals. 76 Internet connected Alumni members have only paid dues through December 31, 2015 and owe dues for 2016. 102 Internet connected members owe dues for more than just 2016 and have also been sent multiple e-mails about this. The membership renewal form has been attached to those e-mails.

Continued failure to respond to these e-mail renewal requests will soon force us to reluctantly terminate memberships.

We certainly do not wish to terminate anyone who truly wants to continue their membership and has just been procrastinating about renewing, so if that's what you have been doing now is the time to

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND
PAYMENT OF YEAR 2016 DUES
(Continued):**

respond in the affirmative to those e-mails, the latest one having been sent out on April 14.

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. There are only five such members.** Renewal forms as needed were included with the snail mail copies of the FALL 2015 and the WINTER 2016 issues of the HCFA/CMS Alumni News so this is a third and final solicitation. 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., 12/31/15. **Those with a date later than 12/31/15 do NOT need to renew at this time. If you have already paid your 2016 dues you should NOT find an enrollment form included with this issue, unless we include one by mistake, ha.** We have reluctantly dropped from the membership rolls snail mail recipients with expiration dates prior to 12/31/15.

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.

**REMAINING ALUMNI EVENTS
DURING 2016**

Mark your calendars so you don't miss any of the following exciting events:

June 29, 2016 – Wednesday
Summer Picnic*

October 5, 2016 – Wednesday
Oktoberfest Party*

**REMAINING ALUMNI EVENTS
DURING 2016 (Continued):**

December 7, 2016 – Wednesday
Holiday Luncheon - Turf Valley Country
Club, Ellicott City MD

* Held at the home of Alumni Member
Lillian Lehnert in Fulton MD.

Fliers announcing each event will be
released with appropriate issues of the
HCFA/CMS Alumni News, but now you
know to set aside the dates if you'll be
interested in attending any of these popular
events

**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 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**

Bonnie Ciborowski, President of the Social
Security Alumni Association (SSAA) and
member of the HCFA/CMS Alumni
Association, has reminded us 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 has
developed 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.

**SOCIAL SECURITY
ADMINISTRATION RETIRED
PERSONS**

There is also a web site created by and for
Social Security Administration Retired
Persons. It is a website for SSA retirees and
employees who worked for SSA, but retired
from other agencies (like CMS). Current
employees are also invited to visit often and
to join the mail list. The ssarp.org
administrator is Stanley LeBlanc, Dallas
Region, who retired June 3, 2003. Retirees,
with the support of SSA employees, began
the site, but it is not an official SSA site.
There is an email communication list for
those who subscribe. The ssarp.org
administrator is Stanley LeBlanc, Dallas
Region, who retired June 3, 2003. A
username and password is needed to access
some of the sections and you can obtain it
by sending an e-mail to request to
retired@ssarp.org. Check it out at:

<http://www.ssarp.org>

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.

FEAA (Continued):

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.”

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

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL PROGRAM

The annual CMS Holocaust Memorial Program will be held in the auditorium at CMS Headquarters (7500 Security Blvd, Baltimore MD) on Tuesday, May 10, 2016, at 10:30 A.M. Ms. Ida Schmidt-Chait will be the main speaker, with the title “A Survivor’s Story.” A rabbi will speak and lead the Mourners’ prayer commemorating the dead.

Any alumni interested in attending should contact Herb Hane via e-mail at herbgitta@verizon.net or via telephone at (410) 544-3244 by May 3, 2016, so he can arrange for your admittance to the CMS complex. A government issued photo ID (such as a driver’s license) will be required.

ST. PATRICK’S DAY PARTY

Some 29 Alumni members and friends

attended the St. Patrick’s Day Party hosted by Lillian Lehnert at her home in Fulton MD on Tuesday, March 22, 2016. Everyone had a terrific time, the corn beef was out of this world and all of the food was delicious. Several people remarked that all of the parties at Lillian’s house have been terrific but this one was the best ever. This has become a yearly event and we encourage even more of you to come and enjoy the festivities next year.

COLA COUNT

Through six months of the counting period toward the January 2017 federal retiree cost of living adjustment, the inflation index used to set that adjustment stands at minus 0.87 percentage points below the 2014 third quarter average base index of 234.242, following decreases of 0.12% in October, 0.28% in November, and 0.4% in December, an increase of 0.12 in January, a decrease of 0.04% in February, and a 0.54% increase in March. The current index stands at 232.209. The annual COLA count measures the change in the index’s average from base period third calendar quarter to the latest. Since there was no COLA in 2015, 2014 is still the base period. There are six 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.

SPRING/SUMMER COOKOUT

As indicated on the flyer enclosed with this newsletter, Lillian Lehnert is graciously hosting a Spring/Summer Cook-out at her home in Fulton MD on Wednesday, June 29, 2016. Some 35 Alumni members and

SPRING/SUMMER COOKOUT
(Continued):

friends attended this event last year and everyone had a wonderful time. See the enclosed flyer, sign up and come for an “afternoon delight” from noon to 4PM.

CENTER FOR MEDICARE AND
MEDICATION INNOVATION

**Medicare’s ‘Innovation Center’
rebalances quality, cost**
RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dual goal: Improve care and save money

WASHINGTON - They work for the government and even their closest relatives have no idea what they do. It’s not because they’re spies or nuclear scientists, but because their jobs are so arcane: trying to reinvent Medicare to improve it, and maybe save taxpayers money.

In a sprawling, nondescript office park near Baltimore, some 360 people at the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation are trying to change the health care system, using the government’s premier insurance program as leverage. If they prevail, the U.S. may no longer have the worst of both worlds: unsustainable spending and unenviable results.

“I want Medicare to exist not just for my mother, but for me and my kids,” said the director, Patrick Conway, 41, a pediatrician who also serves as Medicare’s chief medical officer.

At the center are doctors, lawyers, health

policy experts, and career Medicare employees. Many came from outside government. They’re somewhat younger than Medicare’s core staff. Some have seen how parents and grandparents can be harmed in the nation’s disjointed health care system.

The center’s physical layout is meant to encourage discussion and debate. Meeting rooms have walls you can write on to diagram ideas. Laptops are at every meeting, but for thinkers who like to have a toy in their hands to play with, there’s a cigar box with colorful dinosaurs in one conference room.

The innovation center can’t yet claim it’s saving Medicare from extinction. Its experiments have produced modest results that on balance are encouraging. The center is in its sixth year, and its influence is starting to be felt throughout Medicare in areas from joint replacement surgery to cancer treatment and front-line primary care, which remains a principal focus.

Among the center’s more than 60 experiments: A “Comprehensive Primary Care Plus” initiative that will involve 5,000 medical practices. They will get upfront payments to coordinate care.

A change in the way Medicare pays for drugs administered in a doctor’s office, including chemotherapy. Medicare says it wants to reduce incentives for doctors to prescribe the most expensive drugs. Cancer doctors are opposing the proposal, which is still open for public comment.

**SENIOR MANAGEMENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OFFICE OF ACQUISITION AND
GRANTS MANAGEMENT (OAGM)**

Due to the retirement of Dane Kane from the position, **Derrick Heard** has been appointed as Acting Director of the Office of Acquisition and Grants Management (OAGM). Derrick has served as OAGM's Deputy Director for the past 3 years. Derrick has over 25 years of experience in federal government procurement, and has worked at CMS for the past 14 years. He previously served as the Director of the Information Technology Contracts Group within OAGM and as a Division Director within OAGM that provided CMS with procurement support for IT services. Before joining CMS, Derrick served as a Contracting Officer for the Internal Revenue Service

Don Knode has been appointed as Acting Deputy Director of OAGM. Don has been serving as OAGM's Director of the Information Technology Contracts Group for the past 3 years. Don previously served as the Director for the Medicare and Medicaid IT Support Contracts division. He has over 30 years of experience in federal government procurement, and has worked at CMS for the past 10 years. Prior to joining CMS, Don served as the Operations Group Director for the Defense Contract Management Agency - Maryland.

**PROVIDER ENROLLMENT AND
OVERSIGHT GROUP (PEOG)**

Zabeen Chong has been appointed as the

Director of the Provider Enrollment and Oversight Group (PEOG) in the Center for Program Integrity (CPI). Zabeen previously served as the Director of the Website Project Management Group in the Office of Communications where she was responsible for maintaining CMS' public websites. Zabeen has a Master's degree in Information Technology from the Johns Hopkins University.

**OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY
SOLUTIONS (OTS)**

George C Hoffmann has joined CMS as the Deputy Director, Office of Technology Solutions. George most recently served as Vice President for Commercial Health Operations, General Dynamics Information Technology. He possesses over 20 years of IT experience in various executive positions in the health care arena.

**MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT AND
C&D DATA GROUP (MDBG)**

Amy Larrick has been named permanent Director of the Medicare Drug Benefit and C&D Data Group (MDBG) in the Center for Medicare and a member of the Senior Executive Service. Amy joined MDBG as Acting Director in May 2014. Amy has held a variety of roles in CMS, including Senior Advisor in the Office of the Administrator, Special Assistant to the Director of the Center for Medicare, Deputy Center Director, and Special Assistant to the Director of the Medicare Drug & Health Plan Contract Administration Group (MCAG). Prior to her Federal service, Amy

**MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT AND
C&D DATA GROUP (MDBG)**
(Continued):

worked for the State of Nebraska Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHHP). She holds a B.A. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**INVESTIGATIONS AND AUDITS
GROUP (IAG)**

Mark Majestic has been appointed as the Director of the Investigations and Audits Group, Center for Program Integrity (CPI). Mark, who joined CMS almost five years ago, has over twenty five years of management experience and over thirty years of experience specifically related to government regulatory compliance, investigations and audits. Mark retired from active duty military service after 20 years in the United States Army. Upon leaving the military, Mark was employed by Blue Cross/Blue Shield of South Carolina as their physical security manager and later worked as a manager for CMS contractor with the Supplier Audit and Compliance Unit of the National Supplier Clearinghouse. Upon joining CMS in 2011, Mark served as the Deputy Director of the Provider Enrollment and Operations Group and subsequently served as both the Acting Director of the Medicare Program Integrity Group and the Director of the Medicaid Integrity Group.

**DISABLED AND ELDERLY HEALTH
PROGRAMS GROUP (DEHPG)**

Mike Nardone joined the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS) as Director of the Disabled and Elderly Health

Programs Group (DEHPG). Mike comes to the agency from working as a Managing Principal at Health Management Associates (HMA). Prior to role at HMA, Mike served as acting secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. He also previously served as deputy secretary of the state's Medicaid program, and as executive director of the Governor's Long Term Living Council. Mike has also been associate executive vice president for government relations for the University of Pennsylvania Health System and Hospital at the University of Pennsylvania and led Philadelphia's homeless services system. He also served as an elected member of the executive committee of the National Association of State Medicaid Directors and was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Medicaid Leadership Institute Fellow.

**CENTER FOR CONSUMER
INFORMATION AND INSURANCE
OVERSIGHT (CCIIO)**

Jeff Wu has been appointed as the permanent Associate Deputy Director for Policy for the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO). Jeff has been with CCIIO as the Division Director of the Division of Policy and Analysis within the Payment Policy and Financial Management Group since 2011. Before joining CMS, Jeff was an associate with the law firm of Covington & Burling, where he practiced corporate and appellate law, and an associate consultant at Oliver Wyman & Company, where he was a strategy consultant for financial institutions. Jeff holds an A.B. from Harvard College, a J.D. from Stanford Law School, and an M.B.A. from Stanford Business School.

OFFICE OF HUMAN CAPITAL

Rear Admiral (RADM) Scott Giberson has joined the Office of Human Capital as the Deputy Office Director. He has served many roles in the Corps such as; pharmacist, clinician, Senior Public Health Advisor, Senior Medical Program Officer, Director, and Chief Professional Officer. Most recently RADM Giberson was an Assistant U.S. Surgeon General and Senior Advisor to the Office of the Surgeon General. Previously, he served as Acting U.S. Deputy Surgeon General (July 2013 -Dec 2014) and as the first Director of the Division of Commissioned Corps Personnel and Readiness from 2011 through 2015. RADM Giberson also served as the overall Commander of Commissioned Corps Ebola Response in West Africa from Sept 2014 through June 2015. RADM Giberson holds a Bachelor's Degree in Pharmacy from Temple University, a Master's Degree in Public Health from the University of Massachusetts, and a graduate certificate in Health Emergencies in Large Populations. He also received an Honorary Doctor of Science from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

KOMEDY KORNER

OLD GUY FISHING

Submitted by Larry Lawson

It was raining hard and a big puddle had formed in front of the Red Rocks beer parlor.

An old man (he shall remain anonymous) stood beside the puddle holding a stick with a string on the end and jiggled it up and

down in the water.

A curious gentleman asked what he was doing. "Fishing," replied the old man.

"Poor old fool," thought the gentleman, so he invited the old man to have a drink in the pub.

Feeling he should start some conversation while they were sipping their beer, the gentleman asked, "And how many fish have you caught today?"

"You're the eighth."

SIGNS YOU ARE GROWING OLD!

- Your houseplants are alive, and you can't smoke any of them.

- Making whoopee in a twin bed is out of the question.

- You keep more food than beer in the fridge.

-6:00 a.m . is when you get up, not when you go to bed.

- You hear your favorite song in an elevator.

- You watch the Weather Channel.

- Your friends marry and divorce instead of "hook up" and "break up."

- You go from 130 days of vacation time to 14.

- Jeans and a sweater no longer qualify as "dressed up."

OLD GUY FISHING (Continued):

- You're the one calling the police because those %&@# kids next door won't turn down the stereo.
- Older relatives feel comfortable telling whoopee jokes around you.
- You don't know what time Taco Bell closes anymore.
- Your car insurance goes down and your car payments go up.
- You feed your dog Science Diet instead of McDonald's leftovers.
- Sleeping on the couch makes your back hurt.
- You take naps.
- Dinner and a movie is the whole date instead of the beginning of one.
- Eating a basket of chicken wings at 3 AM would severely upset, rather than settle, your stomach.
- You go to the drug store for ibuprofen and antacid, not condoms and pregnancy tests.
- A \$4.00 bottle of wine is no longer "pretty good stuff."
- You actually eat breakfast food at breakfast time.
- "I just can't drink the way I used to" replaces "I'm never going to drink that much again."

- 90% of the time you spend in front of a computer is for real work.

- You drink at home to save money before going to a bar.

- When you find out your friend is pregnant you congratulate them instead of asking "Oh no what the heck!"

THE NEW BABY

With all the new fertility technology, a 66 year old woman was recently able to give birth to a baby. When she was discharged from the hospital and went home, her relatives came to visit.

"May we see the new baby," one asked?

"Not yet," said the mother, who decided to have a little of her own fun with the relatives. "I'll make coffee and we can visit for awhile first."

Thirty minutes had passed, and another relative asked, "May we see the new baby now?"

"No, not yet," said the mother.

After a few minutes had elapsed, they asked again, "May we see the baby now?"

"No, not yet," replied the mother.

Growing very impatient, they asked, "Well, when can we see the baby?"

"When it cries!" she told them.

"When it cries?" they demanded. "Why do we have to wait until it CRIES?"

THE NEW BABY (Continued):

"Because I forgot where I put it."

WISDOM FROM SENIORS!

- The best way to forget all your troubles is to wear tight shoes.
- The nice part about living in a small town is that when you don't know what you're doing, someone else does.
- The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight because by then your body and your fat are really good friends.
- Amazing! You hang something in your closet for a while and it shrinks two sizes!
- I read this article that said the typical symptoms of stress are: eating too much, impulse buying, and driving too fast. Are they kidding? That is my idea of a perfect day!
- I know what Victoria's Secret is. The secret is that nobody older than 30 can fit into their stuff.

ANNIVERSARY

An aged farmer and his wife were leaning against the edge of their pig-pen when the old woman wistfully recalled that the next week would mark their golden wedding anniversary.

"Let's have a party, Homer," she suggested.
"Let's kill a pig."

The farmer scratched his geizzled head.

"Gee, Ethel," he finally answered, "I don't see why the pig should take the blame for something that happened fifty years ago."

WIFE'S LAST WORDS

Tina was on her deathbed, with her husband Mike at her side. He held her cold hand as silent tears streamed down his face.

"Mike," she said weakly.

"Hush my darling," he interrupted, "don't talk, save your strength."

But she insisted, "Mike, before I die, there's something that I have to confess."

"There is nothing to confess," said the weeping husband. "It's all right. Everything's all right."

"No, no. I must die in peace. I must confess that I have been unfaithful to you."

He stroked her hand, "Now, Tina, don't be concerned. I know all about it."

"You do?" she gasped.

"Sure darling, why else would I poison you?"

OBITUARIES

JAMES “JIM” KAPLE

By Clif Gaus

Jim Kaple passed away in Tucson, Arizona on August 5, 2015. He ran the Medicare demonstrations in the Bureau of Health Insurance and when that program moved to ORS in 1975 Jim and staff came to report to me as I was the Director of the Division of Health Insurance Studies. When HCFA was created in 1977, my whole ORS staff became the center of the HCFA Office of Research, Policy and Demonstrations. Jim stayed on after I left in 1980.

IN MEMORIAM

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

**GARY A BAILEY (2/25/16)*
JAMES “JIM” KAPLE (8/5/15)**
ELIZABETH “BETTY” KAY (3/2/16)***
HOWARD L SAKS (2/26/16)****
MARY LEE SEIFERT (3/7/16)*
NAPOLEON SYKES (2/29/16)*******

* HCFA/CMS Alumni Member

** HCFA Retiree

*** Sister of HCFA/CMS Alumni Member Blanche Duffy

**** Husband of CMS Employee Debra J Saks

***** Husband of HCFA/CMS Alumni Member Brenda J Sykes

**If you are aware of any other deaths of Alumni please notify the editorial staff
May 2016**