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# HCFA/CMS

## *ALUMNI NEWS*

WINTER 2014 (Vol. 20 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.

I am happy to begin yet another one-year term as your President. I am also very pleased to report that 138 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 at a very good pace. On page 2 you will see a list of 17 new members, bringing the membership up to an all time high of 723. In this issue we are initiating the 2014 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 12/31/13 or earlier need to renew, members with expiration dates later than 12/31/13 do not.**

In this issue you will also find items about the COLA Count, the Board of Directors, the CMS Holocaust Memorial Program, the Social Security Alumni Blog, a Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Alumni Donation, the Alumni St. Patrick's Day Celebration on March 20 (Flyer also enclosed), and the latest in CMS senior staff and organizational news. As usual, the KomedY 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

**OTHER DIRECTORS**

Richard C. Faulstich  
William A. Grant  
William H. Hogsten, Jr.

**OFFICE ASSISTANTS**

Darlene Summerfield

**DUE DATES FOR FUTURE ISSUES**

Spring Issue – March 31, 2014  
Summer Issue – June 30, 2014

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<http://www.cms.gov/CMSAlumni>

**NEW MEMBERS**

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

Maria Aron  
Deborah M Auerbach  
Anna K Barton  
Rodney L Benson  
Jacqueline Buise  
Dennis Czulewicz  
Franklin J Eppig  
Rodger N Goodacre  
Lisa Levine  
Cynthia K Mason  
Terri L Murphy  
Elaine M Olin  
Carol Plum  
Victoria A Robey  
Robin Salawitch  
Bill Tate  
Charlie Wittig

We now have 723 active members.

**2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors re-appointed incumbent board members Lillian H Lehnert, Herbert B Shankroff, and Lynn T Strange to another two-year term, ending December 31, 2015. The 3 members officially began their new two-year term at the Board Meeting on January 10, 2014.

The Board also unanimously elected the following officers, to serve for the calendar year 2014:

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

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND PAYMENT OF YEAR 2014 DUES**

We have finally been settled into our new Alumni Office, at 2520 Lord Baltimore Drive, and so we are now beginning the collection of the annual dues, this time for the year 2014, covering the period of January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014. Members receiving this issue via e-mail will find a renewal form attached to their e-mail regardless of whether they need to renew. Those members will also receive a complete electronic Member Directory, which will include a column labeled **EXPIRDT**, which contains the date their membership expires. **Those with a date later than 12/31/13 should ignore the renewal form, as they do not need to renew at this time.**

**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 advise 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., 12/31/13. **Those with a date later than 12/31/13 do NOT need to renew at this time. If you have already paid your 2014 dues you should NOT find an enrollment form included with this issue.**

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.)

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. And Bill Engelhardt says you can always e-mail him personally at [wengelhardt@comcast.net](mailto:wengelhardt@comcast.net) for faster response (as the office e-mail is only accessed weekly).

### **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

**SOCIAL SECURITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (Continued):**

“<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 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.

**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**

138 Alumni members and friends came to the Holiday Luncheon at Alexandra's Restaurant in the beautiful Turf Valley Country Club on December 12 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 0.50 percentage points below the 2013 third quarter average base index of 230.327. The current index stands at 222.174. 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

**COLA COUNT (Continued):**

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.

**HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL PROGRAM**

The annual CMS Holocaust Memorial Program will be held in the auditorium at CMS Headquarters on May 1, 2013, at 10:30 A.M. Mrs. Sylvia Weiss, a Hungarian born survivor of Auschwitz, will be the main speaker. There will be a service and a prayer by Rabbi Tsvi Schur commemorating the dead. The Krieger Schechter Day School's children's choir will again sing.

Any alumni interested in attending please contact Herb Hane via e-mail at [herbgitta@verizon.net](mailto:herbgitta@verizon.net) or via telephone at (410) 544-3244.

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION**

For the second 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 20, 2014. See the enclosed Flyer for all of the details.

**DONATION TO CFC**

The Alumni Board of Directors again decided that a donation to the CMS Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), a most worthwhile cause, would be appropriate.

The CFC sponsored a Talent Show in November and Alumni President Bill Engelhardt took advantage of the opportunity to publicly present a check for \$1,500 to Marc Hartstein, Chairman of the 2013 CFC Campaign, on behalf of the alumni. Some 300 CMS employees attended the Talent Show and Bill was able to make a pitch for the Alumni Association. His pitch and the donation were well received.

**SENIOR MANAGEMENT  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**

Tim Love has been appointed to the position of Chief Operating Officer. His federal government experience goes back nearly three decades including service in the United States Navy, as a Peace Corps Volunteer and, for the past 22 years, with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services where he began his CMS career as a Presidential Management Fellow. During his tenure at CMS, Tim has served in a range of leadership positions including: Chief Information Officer & Director of the Office of Information Services (OIS); Director of the Office of Research, Development & Information; Senior Policy Advisor in the White House Office of Health Reform; Deputy Director for Medicare Parts C&D in the Center for Medicare; Acting Deputy Director for Operations in the Innovation Center; and, most recently, as CMS' Deputy Chief Operating Officer. Tony Trenkle, the prior Chief Information Officer (CIO) and Director of the Office of Information Services, has left CMS to take a position in the private sector.

**SENIOR MANAGEMENT  
ANNOUNCEMENTS (Continued):**

**CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER &  
DIRECTOR OF OIS**

Dave Nelson has been appointed to the positions of Chief Information Officer and Director of the Office of Information Services (OIS). Dave has served in a range of leadership positions including: Director of Call Center Systems in the Office of External Affairs & Beneficiary Services; Director of the Data Analytics and Control Group in the Center for Program Integrity; Director of the Office of Enterprise Management; and, most recently, Acting CIO and OIS Director.

**FEHB "UNDERSERVED" AREAS  
CHANGES**

The list of "medically underserved" areas for FEHB program purposes is changing slightly in 2014, potentially affecting enrollment decisions for next year. States on that list are deemed to have critical shortages of primary care physicians. The designation requires FEHB fee-for-service plans to provide benefits to participants who use any health care provider licensed to perform the medical service at issue. The new list is Alabama, Arizona, Idaho, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Montana and South Carolina are being dropped.

**BUNNEE BUTTERFIELD**

Alumni member Bunnee Butterfield recently wrote: I thought the folks I knew/know

might be interested in hearing that I had a heart transplant on October 8. I was discharged 9 days after the surgery and am doing quite well. It is truly amazing how much better I feel! I am looking forward to the time (perhaps some months from now) when we can travel somewhere other than the hospital! I'm past the three-month mark, which means the biopsies are less frequent and some of my 23 medications have been decreased or eliminated. All the biopsies have been 1A which signals no significant rejection and is very good news. Still have some side effects from some of the meds, but nothing unbearable.

**KOMEDY KORNER**

**RETIREMENT IN FLORIDA**

Anonymous

A Few years ago, my wife and I moved into a retirement development on Florida's southeast coast. We are living in the "Delray/Boca/Boynton Golf, Spa, Bath and Tennis Club on Lake Fake-a-Hachee." There are 3,000 lakes in Florida; only three are real.

Our biggest retirement concern was time management. What were we going to do all day? Let me assure you, passing the time is not a problem. Our days are eaten up by simple, daily activities. Just getting out of our car takes 15 minutes. Trying to find where we parked takes 20 minutes. It takes a half-hour in the check-out line in Wal-Mart, and 1 hour to return the item the next day.

Let me take you through a typical day: We get up at 5:00 am, have a quick breakfast

**KOMEDY KORNER (Continued):**

and join the early morning Walk-and-Fart Club. There are about 30 of us, and rain or shine, we walk around the streets, all talking at once. Every development has some late risers who stay in bed until 6:00 am. After a nimble walk, avoiding irate drivers out to make us road kill, we go back home, shower and change for the next activity.

My wife goes directly to the pool for her underwater Pilates class, followed by gasping for breath and CPR. I put on my 'Ask me about my Grandchildren' T-shirt, my plaid mid-calf shorts, my black socks and sandals and go to the clubhouse lobby for a nice nap.

Before we know it, it's time for lunch. We go to Costco to partake of the many tasty samples dispensed by ladies in white hair nets. All free! After a filling lunch, if we don't have any doctor appointments, we might go to the flea market to see if any new white belts have come in or to buy a Rolex watch for \$2.00. We're usually back home by 2:00 pm to get ready for dinner.

People start lining up for the early bird about 3:00 pm, but we get there by 3:45 because we're late eaters. The dinners are very popular because of the large portions they serve. We can take home enough food for the next day's lunch and dinner, including extra bread, crackers, packets of mustard, relish, ketchup and Splenda, along with mints.

At 5:30 pm we're home, ready to watch the 6 o'clock news. By 6:30 pm we're fast asleep. Then we get up and make five or six trips to the bathroom during the night, and it's time to get up and start a new day all

over again.

Doctor-related activities eat up most of our retirement time. I enjoy reading old magazines in sub-zero temperatures in the waiting room, so I don't mind. Calling for test results also helps the days fly by. It takes at least a half-hour just getting through the doctor's phone menu. Then there's the hold time until we're connected to the right party. Sometimes they forget we're holding, and the whole office goes off to lunch.

Should we find we still have time on our hands, volunteering provides a rewarding opportunity to help the less fortunate.

Florida has the largest concentration of seniors under five feet and they need our help. I myself am a volunteer for 'The Vertically Challenged Over 80.' I coach their basketball team, The Arthritic Avengers. The hoop is only 4-1/2 feet from the floor. You should see the look of confidence on their faces when they make a slam-dunk.

Food shopping is a problem for short seniors, or 'bottom feeders' as we call them, because they can't reach the items on the upper shelves. There are many foods they've never tasted.

After shopping, most seniors can't remember where they parked their cars and wander the parking lot for hours while their food defrosts.

Lastly, it's important to choose a development with an impressive name. Italian names are very popular in Florida. They convey world travelers, uppity sophistication and wealth. Where would you rather live: Murray's Condos or the Lakes

**KOMEDY KORNER (Continued):**

of Venice?

There's no difference -- they're both owned by Murray, who happens to be a cheap bastard.

I hope this material has been of help to you future retirees. If I can be of any further assistance, please look me up when you're in Florida. I live in the Leaning Condos of Pisa in Boynton Beach.

**\$5.37!**

Submitted by Barbara and Chuck Booth

That's what the kid behind the counter at Taco Bell said to me.

I dug into my pocket and pulled out some lint and two dimes and something that used to be a Jolly Rancher. Having already handed the kid a five-spot, I started to head back out to the truck to grab some change when the kid with the Elmo hairdo said the hardest thing anyone has ever said to me. He said, "**It's OK. I'll just give you the senior citizen discount.**"

I turned to see who he was talking to and then heard the sound of change hitting the counter in front of me.

"**Only \$4.68**" he said cheerfully.

I stood there stupefied. I am 56, not even 60 yet? A mere child! Senior citizen?

I took my burrito and walked out to the truck wondering what was wrong with Elmo. Was he blind? As I sat in the truck, my blood began to boil. Old? Me?

I'll show him, I thought. I opened the door and headed back inside. I strode to the counter, and there he was waiting with a smile.

Before I could say a word, he held up something and jingled it in front of me, like I could be that easily distracted! What am I now? A toddler?

**"Dude! Can't get too far without your car keys, eh?"**

I stared with utter disdain at the keys. I began to rationalize in my mind! "**Leaving keys behind hardly makes a man elderly! It could happen to anyone!**"

I turned and headed back to the truck. I slipped the key into the ignition, but it wouldn't turn. What now? I checked my keys and tried another. Still nothing.

That's when I noticed the **purple beads** hanging from my rear view mirror. I had no **purple beads** hanging from my rear view mirror.

Then, a few other objects came into focus: The car seat in the back seat. Happy Meal toys spread all over the floorboard. A partially eaten doughnut on the dashboard.

Faster than you can say **ginkgo biloba**, I flew out of the **alien** vehicle.

Moments later I was speeding out of the parking lot, relieved to finally be leaving this nightmarish stop in my life. That is when I felt it, deep in the bowels of my stomach: hunger! My stomach growled and churned, and I reached to grab my burrito,



### **KOMEDY KORNER (Continued):**

only it was nowhere to be found.

I swung the truck around, gathered my courage, and strode back into the restaurant one final time. There Elmo stood, draped in youth and black nail polish. All I could think was, "**What is the world coming to?**"

All I could say was, "**Did I leave my food and drink in here?**" At this point I was ready to ask a Boy Scout to help me back to my vehicle, and then go straight home and apply for Social Security benefits.

Elmo had no clue. I walked back out to the truck, and suddenly a young lad came up and tugged on my jeans to get my attention. He was holding up a drink and a bag. His mother explained, "**I think you left this in my truck by mistake.**"

I took the food and drink from the little boy and sheepishly apologized.

She offered these kind words: "**It's OK. My grandfather does stuff like this all the time.**"

All of this is to explain how I got a ticket doing 85 in a 40 mph zone.

**Yesss**, I was racing some punk kid in a Toyota Prius.

And no, I told the officer, I'm not **too old** to be driving this fast.

As I walked in the front door, my wife met me halfway down the hall.

I handed her a bag of cold food and a **\$300** speeding ticket.

I promptly sat in my rocking chair and

covered up my legs with a **blankey**.

The good news was that I had successfully found my way home.

### **DANCING AND DRIVING!**

One night a nurse was making her rounds in a nursing home. While walking down the hall, she came across an open door. She looked in and saw old Frank sitting up in bed pretending to drive. She asked, "Frank, what are you doing?"

He replied, "I'm driving to Toronto."

The nurse smiled at him and carried on making her rounds. The next night as she walked past Frank's room she saw the same thing. Again she asked, "Frank, what are you doing?"

He replied, "I'm driving to Toronto. It's a two day trip, you know!"

The nurse smiled at him and carried on making her rounds. Five minutes later she came across another open door and looked in. She saw Bob pretending to dance with someone. She then asked, "Bob, what are you doing?"

Bob replied, "I'm dancing with Franks wife. He's gone to Toronto for a couple of days."

**HISTORIC PHOTO AT 1995 DEDICATION OF CMS SINGLE SITE COMPLEX IN BALTIMORE MD**

This is an historic photo of former HCFA Administrators Robert Derzon, Howard Newman, Leonard Schaeffer, Bill Toby, Bruce Vladeck, and Gail Wilensky with DHHS Secretary Donna Shalala at the opening of the HCFA single site in 1995.



Front: L to R-Secretary Donna Shalala, Leonard Schaeffer, Gail Wilensky, and Robert Derzon, first HCFA Administrator

Back row: Bill Toby, Dr. Helen Smits, Deputy Administrator to Bruce Vladeck, Bruce Vladeck and Howard Newman

# **IN MEMORIAM**

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

**FAYE C HOGSTEN (11/26/13)\*  
HILLORY WIGGIN (1/20/14)\*\***

\* Wife of HCFA/CMS Alumni & Board of Directors Member William H Hogsten, Jr  
\*\* CMS Employee

**If you are aware of any other deaths of Alumni please notify the editorial staff  
February 2014**