
HCFA/CMS

ALUMNI NEWS

SUMMER 2011 (Vol. 17 No. 3)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, Memorial Day and the 4th of July have come and gone and Labor Day seems right around the corner. Let's all enjoy the best of the rest of the summer.

I am pleased that the association continues to attract new members. On page 2 you will see a list of 10 new members, bringing the current membership to an all time high of 610. 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 certainly strive to provide varying information of interest to all of our retirees.

In this issue you will find items about the COLA Count (looks like so far we are actually in line for a 3.26% COLA), a report on the successful Spring Cookout, a report in this issue and a separate flier about, a new OKTOBERFEST in September on September 21, FEHB Underserved Areas, A visit to Baltimore by our Hawaiian member Bob Bath, a tip about "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) on your telephone, and senior management announcements. We again serve up some whimsical pieces in the KomedY Korner. There are lots of items that hopefully will be of interest to you.

We are also enclosing a new 2011 Member Directory, as we try to do with each Summer issue of the HCFA/CMS Alumni News.

I want to wish you all a Wonderful Rest Of The Summer 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

Fall Issue – September 28, 2011

Winter Issue – December 30, 2011

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NEW MEMBERS

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

Beverly Adkins
Sharon Appleby
Carleen Basso
Richard Chambers
Anita Heygster
Donal D. Hogan
Donna Mueller
Joe Razes
Debbie Reeves
Irene Ruby

We now have 610 active 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@adelphia.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 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.

SSAEAA

We'd again like to remind members that we do have a link to the Social Security Administration Employee Activities Association (SSAEAA) on our web site. The actual URL for it is

"<http://ssaeea.org>" but you can just click on the link on our page. HCFA/CMS retirees are automatically members of the SSAEAA and are eligible to participate in discount purchases.

COLA COUNT

Through nine months of the counting period toward the January 2012 federal retiree cost of living adjustment, the inflation index used to set that adjustment stands at plus 3.26 percentage points above the 2008 third quarter average (due to price deflation, in the past measurement year, the 2008 third quarter average is still the point of comparison) base index of 215.5. The annual COLA count measures the change in the index's average from one-third calendar quarter to the next. The twelve month counting period started at -1.9% and has improved to +3.26%, following an improvement of 1.1% in March, 0.8% in April, and 0.5% in May, and a decrease of 0.2% in June. There are three months left in the counting period. So far, we have a 2012 COLA of 3.26%, after two years of no COLA.

SPRING COOKOUT

Some 44 Alumni members and friends (a record setting number) came to the spring cookout at the home of alumni member Lillian Lehnert in Fulton, Maryland on June 15 and everyone had a wonderful time. This set an all time attendance record, beating last year by one. Lillian was a most gracious host and we can never thank her enough for her hospitality. Many of the partygoers brought hot or cold covered dishes and/or desserts. Food was plentiful and fantastic. Allan Platt cooked up the meat in fine fashion and the liquid refreshment was in good supply. The weather was great for the entire day, picture perfect. A lot of reminiscing, story telling and just great conversation filled the air. We hope to repeat the wonderful experience with another great picnic next year. We hope to see even more of you next year.

OKTOBERFEST IN SEPTEMBER

The Spring Cookout was such a huge success that Lillian Lehnert has graciously offered to host an Oktoberfest in September. The enclosed flier provides the details and contains the signup form. Plan to celebrate the Fall Festival and the joys of retirement From Noon until 4:00 p.m. on September 21. Say hello to old friends and just have a wonderful time. The menu will consist of wursts, hot dogs, potato salad, beans, sauerkraut, beer, and German desserts.

FEHB "UNDERSERVED" AREAS REVISED

The list of "medically underserved" areas for FEHB program purposes will change slightly in 2012, OPM has said. 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 list is Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Alaska will be added to the list and South Carolina is being dropped.

Idaho, Illinois, Kentuck

SENIOR MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

CMS CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

Mark Hogle, Office of Information Services (OIS), has been selected for the position of CMS Chief Technology Officer (CTO). As CTO, Mark will serve as the agency's principal expert and advisor on advanced technical matters relating to the development, evaluation and utilization of information technologies.

Mark is a Information Technology (IT) professional with more than 24 years of technical experience and 17 years of experience in IT research, design, engineering and project management. He has been with CMS since February 2003 and has been instrumental in setting the strategic IT standards for the agency, and implementing a variety of enterprise-wide IT systems and services. Mark played an integral role in developing the "CMS 3-Zone Architecture" that is now a part of the CMS Technical Reference Architecture, and led the implementation of enterprise services in the areas of file transfer, content management, identity management, and security monitoring and management. In his most recent role as Senior Technical Advisor in OIS' Information Services Design and Development Group, Mark provided exemplary IT leadership, guidance and governance over the development of several new systems. In addition, Mark served as systems integrator for a number of major projects, the most recent being the Electronic Health Record Incentive Payment Program.

CENTER FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID INNOVATION (CMI)

Julie Boughn has been appointed as the Deputy Director for Operations in the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMI). Julie has been serving as the Acting Deputy Director of the Innovation Center since late November 2010. Julie joined CMS in September 2000 and has held various positions, including Chief Information Officer and Director of the Office of Information Services (OIS) beginning in May 2006. Prior to joining CMS, Julie spent 15 years in the Social Security Administration's Office of Systems.

Dennis Wagner and **Paul McGann** will be transitioning to the Innovation Center to work on the Partnership for Patients initiative. In their new roles they will be functioning as co-directors of the initiative. Because this Campaign is an HHS-wide initiative, Dennis and Paul will have cross-departmental accountabilities to the Secretary, the Deputy Secretary, to the CMS Administrator, and to a Partnership for Patients Coordinating Committee chaired by AHRQ Director Carolyn Clancy. The Coordinating Committee is comprised of HHS OpDiv Directors. Dennis and Paul,

together with all of CMS and the Department, will be squarely focusing on achieving results on the Campaign's ambitious aims of a 40% reduction in Hospital Acquired Conditions and a 20% reduction in Preventable Readmissions over the course of the next three years. In addition to management of the Partnership for Patients Initiative, both Dennis and Paul will have broader management responsibilities in the Center - Dennis in the area of Campaign Leadership and Paul in the area of Deputy Chief Medical Officer for activities centered on Campaign Leadership.

OFFICE OF ACQUISITION AND GRANTS MANAGEMENT (OAGM)

Daniel Kane has been appointed as the Director of OAGM. As the CMS Senior Contracting Official, Dan is responsible for the awarding and administration of all CMS contracts subject to the Federal Acquisition Regulations. He will also have the dual role of serving as the CMS Chief Grants Management Official ensuring the award and administration of all CMS discretionary grants. Prior to assuming this role, he served in multiple leadership positions in OAGM including: Acting Director, Deputy Office Director, Group Director, Division Director, Contracting Officer and Contract Specialist. Before joining CMS in 1991, Mr. Kane served as a Contracting Officer with the National Aeronautical and Space Administration and the Department of Defense.

OFFICE OF CLINICAL STANDARDS & QUALITY (OCSQ)

Dr. Patrick Conway has joined CMS as the Director of the Office of Clinical Standards & Quality (OCSQ) and Chief Medical Officer. As Director of Hospital Medicine and an Associate Professor at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Dr. Conway helped lead faculty and staff in their mission to improve health outcomes across a \$1.5 billion health care system that included more than one million outpatient visits and 30,000 hospital admissions. He was responsible for all divisions and institutes, as well as the electronic health record measurement system, the provider performance measurements, and external reporting of quality measures. Before joining Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Dr. Conway was Chief Medical Officer at HHS in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS (OC)

Julie Green Bataille has joined CMS as the Director of the Office of Communications. Prior to coming to CMS, Julie served as Associate Vice President for Communications at Georgetown University. In that position, she oversaw all media relations, publications, public events, executive communications and paid media. She led a university-wide communications working group, coordinated multiple crisis communications efforts and began institutional social media channels and a digital partnership. Earlier in her career, Julie served as Press Secretary for the U.S. Department of Education and as an assistant press secretary in the White House press office.

OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES (OIS)

Tony Trenkle has been appointed as the Director of OIS, and as the Chief Information Officer. Tony became the OIS Acting Director in December 2010. Prior to joining OIS, Tony served for five years as the Director of the Office of E-Health Standards and Services, and before coming to CMS in 2005, Tony held leadership roles in several Federal agencies, including the Social Security Administration and the General Services Administration.

Henry Chao has officially re-joined CMS' Office of Information Services as Deputy Director/Deputy Chief Information Officer. Henry was previously CMS' Chief Technology Officer and has over 23 years experience in information systems and cyber security management. He returns to CMS from the Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, where he has served as Chief Information Officer since August 2010.

Henry Chao and **Bill Saunders**, who also continues in his role as OIS Deputy Director/Deputy Chief Information Officer, will jointly support Tony Trenkle in managing the additional OIS workload associated with the Affordable Care Act and other new initiatives, including the development of a CMS enterprise shared services model, and the long term modernization of CMS' IT environment.

Karen Trudel, who has been leading the Office of e-Health Standards and Services (OESS) has joined OIS to coordinate enterprise-wide activities supporting the implementation of health reform. She will spearhead a number of initiatives aimed at defining and implementing enterprise services, policies, and governance. She currently serves as the Program Manager for the Electronic Health Record (EHR) incentive program and the agency-wide implementation of ICD-10, and also represents the agency on the Health Information Technology Standards Committee and the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics. Prior to joining OESS, she held a variety of positions in IT, program operations and policy areas.

Robert Tagalicod will succeed Karen as the director of OESS. Rob has been the Deputy Director of CMS' Office of Communications and previously served as Special Assistant in the Office of the Administrator, assisting oversee and report on key ARRA initiatives such as HITECH, Prevention, and Comparative Effectiveness Research.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Charlotte Newman, Director of the Division of Training, has been appointed as the Deputy Director in the Office of Public Engagement. Charlotte has led the National Medicare Training Program since its inception, following passage of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. Before joining CMS in 2000, she was with Delmarva Foundation, the Quality Improvement Organization for Maryland and the District of Columbia, where she was the Director of Education.

Susan Hollman has been appointed as the Director of the Division of Training. Susan was formerly Director of the Division of Content, leading development of the Medicare & You Handbook and other publications, and has served as a technical advisor in the Division of Training since 2008.

Ikeita Cantú Hinojosa has been appointed as the Director of the Partner Relations Group. She had worked in the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO). She brings a strong policy background to this position, including oversight of the Division of Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) in CCIIO's Consumer Support Group. She served as Assistant Director of Government Relations for Planned Parenthood Federation of America and as Director of Government Relations for the National Association of Social Workers.

DIVISION OF ENTERPRISE NETWORK COMMUNICATIONS (DENC)

A new Division of Enterprise Network Communications (DENC) has been established within the Office of Information Services (OIS), Enterprise Data Center Group (EDCG). This division will serve as the focal point for all data and telecommunications services within the Agency, providing a foundation for implementation of enhanced Unified Communications for CMS and its business partners.

DENC realigns data, voice and video services from the Office of Operations Management (OOM), Administrative Services Group (ASG) and the OIS/EDCG into a unified communication services division.

Edward Gray has been appointed as the Director of this new division. Ed brings his vast knowledge of CMS IT infrastructure services and network communications to this role to serve as the focal point for delivering all data, voice and video communications to the Agency.

OOM/ASG will continue to provide management of the Auditorium, Multipurpose Room and Media Center, facsimile services, the Public Address System, digital signage as well as automation of employee services such as conference room scheduling, Customer Service Inquiries tool, etc. These services will not be administered by the new OIS/EDCG/DENC organization.

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

May 9, 2010

Rich Stevens, of the Center for Medicare/Medicare Contractor Management Group in Baltimore MD, has been selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. Rich is recognized for this honor for ongoing contributions to the Agency's mission to promote high-

value health care in Medicare.

Roberto Tirado-Velez, of the Philadelphia Regional Office, has been selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. Roberto is also being recognized for this honor. Despite the high volume of work, he is the consummate professional who is tenacious about helping all Medicare partners and protecting the Medicare Trust Fund.

Edgar Howard, of the Center for Medicare/Medicare Plan Payment Group in Baltimore MD, has been selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. Edgar is recognized for this honor for outstanding performance as the Center for Medicare Team Lead for the Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug System (MARx) Redesign and Modernization project.

Edith Harris, of the Atlanta Regional Office, has been selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. Edith is recognized for this honor for her personal initiative and outstanding customer service in handling Medicare Secondary Payer issues.

June 11, 2011

Ellen Griffith, of the Office of Communications in Baltimore MD, has been selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. A 10+ year veteran of the press office, Ellen's work on high-profile press rollouts have demonstrated a commitment to quality and dedication to CMS.

Mai Le-Yuen, of the Chicago Regional Office, has been selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. Mai is being recognized for this honor for her outstanding efforts to protect patient health and safety for beneficiaries in a number of provider settings.

June 20, 2011

Sandra Drew, of the Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs in Baltimore MD, has been selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. Sandra's commitment to manage the decision-making process is noteworthy. She goes above and beyond to ensure effective communications and collaboration with her assigned components.

John Castro, of the Dallas Regional Office, has been selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. John is also being recognized for this honor. Due to a large amount of turnover, he has had to work and collaborate with a number of new staff demonstrating personal initiative and commitment.

July 5, 2011

Sharon Anderson, of the Office of Operations Management in Baltimore MD, has been selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. Sharon is being recognized for this honor for her tireless efforts to ensure that hiring incentives are processed quickly and correctly.

Sherrian Pater, of the Kansas City Regional Office, has been selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. Sherrian is being recognized for this honor for her exemplary service of the highest quality to providers and beneficiaries affected by the Joplin, Missouri tornado and Midwestern flooding.

July 18, 2011

Mark Smolenski, of the Office of Acquisition and Grants Management in Baltimore MD, has been selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. Mark is being recognized for this honor for his outstanding performance on the Qualified Independent Contractor Program and customer service.

Lisa Artale-Bross, of the Denver Regional Office, has been selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. As the CMHPO Associate Improvement Coach, Lisa has repeatedly demonstrated her willingness to go "above and beyond" in initiating quality improvement projects for the Division.

In recognition of their accomplishments, these employees have their pictures posted on the CMSNet.

HAWAII COMES TO BALTIMORE

By Bill Engelhardt

Fellow HCFA/CMS Alumni Association member Bob Bath, who was the San Francisco Regional Office outstationed person in Hawaii until his retirement, visited the states in May. He still lives in Honolulu. He and I go back to the early 1970s in the Medicaid program. We had lunch together at Monaghan's Pub in Gwynn Oak, MD, near CMS headquarters on May 26. The picture of us below was taken there (Bob is the one with the sun glasses hanging on his shirt and I'm the old geezer in the red shirt).



And here is Bob at the Mercedes overseas delivery facility when he picked up his new car in 2008 in Germany. The car is a 1885-85 - Benz Tricycle. Bob bought his Mercedes in Germany, drove it around for a month there and then had it shipped to Hawaii, all of which was cheaper than buying it in Honolulu.



"ICE " YOUR PHONE
Submitted by Patricia Harris

Apparently this is a standard procedure paramedics follow at the scene of an accident when they come across your cell phone.

ICE - "In Case of Emergency"

We all carry our mobile phones with names & numbers stored in its memory but nobody, other than ourselves, knows which of these numbers belong to our closest family or friends.

If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call. Yes, there are hundreds of numbers stored but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency? Hence this ICE "In Case of Emergency" Campaign. The concept of ICE is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As cell (mobile) phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during emergency under the name ICE "In Case Of Emergency."

The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents, there were always mobile phones with patients, but they didn't know which number to call. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognized name for this purpose. In an emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel and hospital Staff would be

able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialing the number you have stored as ICE.

For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2 and ICE3 etc. A great idea that will make a difference! Spread the concept of ICE by storing an ICE number (2 is better) in your Mobile phone(s) today!

COMEDY KORNER

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. 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...."

IT PAYS TO BE OLD!

A 70-year old extremely wealthy widower showed up at the Country Club with a breathtakingly beautiful, very sexy 25 year old blonde who knocked everyone's socks off with sex appeal &

charm. She hung over his arm listening intently to his every word. His buddies are aghast! On their 1st chance they cornered him & asked, "How'd you get the trophy girlfriend?"

He said "Girlfriend? She's my wife!"

They're knocked over, but continued, "So how'd you persuade her to marry you?"

"I lied about my age" he said.

"Did you tell her you were only 50?"

He smiled and said, "No I told her I was 90!"

EYE CATCHING MOMENT

A man was dining in a fancy restaurant and there was a gorgeous redhead sitting at the next table. He had been checking her out since he sat down, but lacked the nerve to speak to her.

Suddenly she sneezed, and her glass eye came flying out of its socket toward the man. He reflexively reached out, grabbed it out of the air, and handed it back.

"Oh my, I am so sorry," the woman said as she popped her eye back in place. "Let me buy your dinner to make it up to you," she said.

They enjoyed a wonderful dinner together, and afterward went to the theatre and later had drinks. They talked, they laughed, she shared her deepest dreams and he shared his. She listened.

After paying for everything, she asked him if he would like to come to her place for a nightcap and stay for breakfast. They had a wonderful, wonderful time.

The next morning, she cooked a gourmet meal with all the trimmings. The guy was amazed. Everything had been SO incredible! "You know," he said, "you are the perfect woman. Do you treat every guy you meet this way?"

"No," she replied. "You just happened to catch my eye."

FACTS ABOUT OLD FOLKS

Q: Where can guys over 65 find youthful, pretty women who are interested in dating them?

A: Look in the library-----under Romantic Fiction.

Q: How can a guy cope during his wife's menopause?

A: By staying busy. If you're mechanically inclined, you can remodel the garage. When you are finished you will have a flat in which to live.

Q: How can a woman raise the heart rate of her 65+ year old spouse?

A: She should tell him she's with child.

Q: What can an older woman do for the wrinkles on her neck?

A: Don't wear a brassiere. The additional hanging "weights" will take out the wrinkles.

Q: How can older people remember where they parked their cars?

A: Use the Valet service. They have to remember where your car is.

Q: Do older people have problems storing their short term memories?

A: No, they have problems retrieving the memories from storage.

Q: Do older people have deeper sleep?

A: They do, but normally their deep sleep happens in the afternoon.

Q: Where can older people find prescription eye glasses?

A: On top of their heads.

Q: What is the most often used sentence uttered by older people when they visit antique shops?

A: "Gee, I have one of these."

IN MEMORIAM

The Alumni Association respectfully acknowledges

the passing of the following

Alumni/Employees/Spouses and expresses its

sympathy to family members:

BARBARA CURTIS (5/5/11)*

SALVATORE JOHN D'ANNA (6/22/11)**

WILFRED A. "BILL" FRAZIER (6/17/11)***

PHILIP E. IRELAND (6/18/11)****

KATHLEEN MARIE KLEMM (5/11/11)*****

LEO G. MILLS (3/26/11)****

* Wife of HCFA/CMS Alumni Member Jimmie Curtis

** Husband of HCFA/CMS Alumni Member Patricia L. D'Anna

*** HCFA/CMS Retiree from the New York Regional Office

**** HCFA/CMS Alumni Member

***** Wife of CMS employee John D. Klemm

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

July 2011