

the Newsletter



The Voice of Lee County Medicine

P. O. BOX 159

CAPE CORAL, FLORIDA 33904

January 9, 1975

JANUARY MEETING: *Special Notice:* JOINT MEETING WITH THE AUXILIARY: Jan. 20th

SOCIAL HOUR 6:30 DINNER 7:30 -- SHERATON INN; BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR WIFE ON YOUR RESERVATION CARD. SPEAKER: Robert Zollinger, M. D., F.A.C.S., Professor and Chairman of Dept. of Surgery, Ohio State University. MARK THIS DATE AND RETURN YOUR CARD PROMPTLY, WITH BOTH YOUR RESERVATIONS. THERE WILL BE NO BUSINESS TRANSACTED ON THIS NIGHT.

SUBJECT: "HELPING YOUR HUSBAND WITH HIS HOBBY"

By now you should have received your dues notices. The computer doesn't "know it all" so we had to make some corrections manually. We trust that they are clear. Several members who are eligible for change of status have not requested same. If you wish to "go active", please get your letter of request in as soon as possible so that it may be acted upon and dues adjusted accordingly before the funds are forwarded to the FMA.

Before the end of this month you will each receive a letter from your President asking your cooperation in helping to solve the secretary's problem of answering telephone queries relative to locating a doctor.

At least three members of your Board of Governors will attend the Leadership Conference in Orlando on January 25th and 26th.

Note of a Symposium on HIGHLIGHTS IN CANCER 1975 FOR THE PRACTICING PHYSICIAN will be held Saturday, January 18, 1975, at Tampa General Hospital Auditorium. 6½ hrs. credit by the Florida Academy of Family Physicians allowed on the C. E. Program. Full information from this office.

As you know, the membership voted to support the FORUM for 1975. Date and speakers will be announced later, with full details. Dr. Philip Payne is Chairman of the Committee.

In lieu of the treasurer's report formerly read at the society meeting, we submit the following: CHECKING ACCOUNT: \$ 69.08; savings account: \$ 647.96 PETTY CASH: \$ 30.00

A representative of the company publishing the telephone directories will meet with members of this society in order to work out the proper YELLOW PAGE listing which will conform to FMA regulations. All directory listings after July 1st MUST conform to FMA regulations. As our directory is published in May, 1975, we do have one year of grace, but hopefully we will have the job at least partially accomplished for this year's publication. This office has a copy of the regulations as set forth by the FMA AND AS PUBLISHED IN THE July 1974 FMA JOURNAL. Do you have your FMA Journal for that month.

*Make your reservations for Jan 20.
Get dues in early.*

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Medical
Society

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CAPE CORAL, FLORIDA

February 7, 1975

FEBRUARY MEETING: Monday, Feb. 17, SHERATON INN. Social hour: 6:30; dinner, 7:30.
PROGRAM: Dr. R. V. P. Hutter, Director of Laboratories, St. Barnabas Medical Center, Livingston, New Jersey will speak on PROGNOSTIC FACTORS IN BREAST CANCER.

The American Cancer Society, Florida Division, is underwriting the cost of Dr. Hutter's appearance on the program.

MEDICAL FORUM: DATE: April 2, 7:30 PM PLACE: Exhibition Hall, Fort Myers.
SPEAKERS: W. Dean Warren, M. D., Whitehead Professor and Chairman of Dept. of Surgery, Emory University School of Medicine. SUBJECT: "Ethical Considerations of Medical Research in Man"
Thomas Noto, M. D., Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine (Cardiology), University of Miami School of Medicine; SUBJECT: Coronary Artery Disease
Further publicity will appear in the local news media and Chamber of Commerce news releases.

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE: The Continuing Education Program report forms have been sent to each of you from the FMA -- and duplicates from this office. DO NOT THROW THEM AWAY. It is the responsibility of each member to keep a record. Your president will discuss this with you at the February meeting.

The new charter has arrived from the FMA and we are moving toward incorporation. Volunteers are again called for to serve as DOCTOR OF THE DAY at the legislative sessions in Tallahassee -- April 8 through June 6. Please let this office know if you are interested and forms will be furnished you in order to express your preference for a day to serve.

This office receives information on seminars and upcoming medical meetings from time to time. We also receive information on office space for rent. Call if we can help.

The response to the "Are you taking new patients?" has been good -- approximately 100 replies with 20 "yes" replies from the primary care physicians. This should ease the situation somewhat.

It's "Resolution Time" again. Our delegates will present for your approval a resolution, approved by the Board of Governors, for inclusion in the Delegates Handbook for 1975.

Dues remittances have been flowing in in a steady stream: Current financial status:
Checking: \$ 3,416.66; Savings: \$ 657.60 Petty cash: \$ 30.00

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Society

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April 7, 1975

APRIL: There will be no general membership meeting this month due to the MEDICAL FORUM. For the May meeting we will be guests of Shell Point Village. The May NEWS LETTER will carry the details and include a map directing us to Shell Point Village..

PLEASE READ THE ATTACHED SHEET CAREFULLY. The heading is self-explanatory.

A FIRST for this society and the medical community!!! The letter you recently received from Frank Mann represents the FIRST time that the members of this society have been asked for an opinion on legislative issues pertinent to their profession. PLEASE REPLY TO FRANK.

Memorandum from the Board of Medical Examiners: A law approved May 31, 1974, and recorded in LAWS OF FLORIDA states that every physician's prescription blank shall have the following legend printed on its face: " Substitution allowed (Practitioners initials)
Prior approval required (Insert initials PA)

MEMORANDUM FROM FMA: We have been asked by F MA to advise all members that a news article appearing in the Cape Coral BREEZE stating that a computerized health testing program sponsored by Cape Coral Retired Officers Assn. bears FMA approval. THIS IS IN ERROR. The program DOES NOT bear FMA approval, and they are asking the newspaper to issue a retraction, as well as the International Compumedics Corporation. "At no time was FMA approval given."

FMA CONVENTION: April 23-27 at the Americana Hotel in Bal Harbour. . You may earn 22 hrs. of credit toward the Continuing Education Program.

DUES: If you haven't remitted yet, please do so promptly.

FINANCES: Total ASSETS: \$ 6,597.11 of which \$ 657.60 is in the Savings account.. \$2,000.00 better than statement of March 1974.

We have a few Florida Physician Assn. application forms on hand, together with a copy of their by-laws.

The Society extends appreciation to all those who worked on the FORUM program: the TV panels, (including early a.m. appearances), the Forum itself, the reception

This communication was received from the FMA Board of Governors and Pres. Marcus Moore requests that it be circulated to the membership for your information.

SUMMARY OF RECENT TRIAL LAWYERS
CONFERENCE ON PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY SUITS

It was reported to the Council on Legislation and Regulations that a conference of trial lawyers was recently held to educate attorneys on how to more effectively and efficiently sue physicians. It was stated that because of the "no-fault" automobile law, attorneys are looking, in increasing numbers, to the medical malpractice field as a source of income. The following general concepts were suggested:

1. When a complaint comes to the attorney, he should suggest that the client go to the hospital and get a copy of his medical records. (No mention of an attorney is to be made to the hospital)
2. The attorney then reviews the medical record and if there appears to be a potential case, he advises the client to go to the physician. He is to take a reliable witness -- e.g., minister -- and ask certain key questions of the physician about his case. (These questions are obtained from publications available to attorneys) The physician, it is hoped, because of not knowing an attorney is involved will not exercise appropriate caution in answering the questions. He will thus open himself to possible suit.
3. The patient is to immediately go back to the attorney and he and the witness give their depositions.
4. The attorney then sends all the data to physicians who are paid a fee to render opinions on areas of potential malpractice. They send to the attorney their opinions as to his best avenues for suit.
5. After receiving the above recommendations as to areas of suit, the attorney then officially asks for the medical records from the hospital and physician. (He hopes that in the interim some of the records may have been altered as he still has the copy the patient got)
6. Everyone even remotely connected with the action is then sued. The strategy here is to get some allied professional, because of personal fear, to break down and put "finger" on the physician.

The above procedures allegedly will result in more and higher settlements.

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P.O. BOX 159, Cape Coral, Florida

33904 PH: 332-3737

May 7., 1975

MAY MEETING: PLEASE READ CAREFULLY THE ATTACHED PAGES, noting the invitation and map from SHELL POINT VILLAGE -- our hosts for the evening. Hors d'oeuvres and dinner "on the house" at 6:45 Pm and 7:30 PM. NOW -- despite the fact that we do not have to meet a financial guarantee to the hotel as in the past PLEASE BE CONSCIENTIOUS ABOUT RETURNING YOUR RESERVATION CARDS so that this office can advise the people at Shell Point regarding their dinner preparations. ALL JOHNNIE-COME-LATELY'S please use our answering service for reservations or cancellations up until MONDAY NOON -- May 19. DO TRY TO ATTEND.

PROGRAM: Dr. Joseph Zeterberg will talk on "SKIN TESTING FOR PENICILLIN ALLERGY". We will also have some word from our FMA delegates recently back from the convention. This being the last general membership meeting before summer recess, a few brief items of business will be dispensed with. Five new membership applications are up for vote.

Any late developments in the malpractice situation will be reported to you at the May meeting. If anything startling develops between now and that date -- May 19 -- your president will get out a special mailing.

CORRECTION CORNER: Letter from Dr. Thomas Noto advises that his real title is "Director of the Cardiovascular Lab at Mercy Hospital, and Senior Attending in Cardiology at Mercy Hospital." Dr. Noto continues: "my appointment to the Department of Medicine at University of Miami School of Medicine is only as a visiting professor. I would be most appreciative if this insignificant detail could be cleared up."

FINANCES: As of 4-30-75: Checking account, \$ 5,861.21; Savings, \$ 666.69; petty cash: \$30.00 The Board approved a transfer of funds to the savings account, the amount to be decided by the treasurer following payment of a few outstanding bills and an estimate of funds needed to continue the last six months' operation.

Your executive secretary wishes to take up this white space to express appreciation to you all for the courtesy, cooperation and consideration extended to me during the nine years I have held this challenging position. This includes every board member, committee member and individual with whom I have worked. Most of you know that I have been playing a dual role, with both parts becoming "heavier"; and so when you open in September there will be a new "lead" -- a very capable one, I can assure you. You can believe I will be following your "notices" with interest. Best wishes and a long run for you all!!!

BE SURE TO RETURN RESERVATION CARDS FOR MAY MEETING

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Society

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SEPTEMBER
1975

GREETINGS FROM YOUR NEW SECRETARY. I am Ann Wilke. My home phone number is 995-7362. where I can be reached after 4:00 P. M. Otherwise all messages will reach me at 332-3737. PLEASE GIVE THIS INFORMATION TO YOUR SECRETARIES; ALSO NOTE THE NEW MAILING ADDRESS ABOVE

SEPTEMBER MEETING: September 22 at the Sheraton Inn. Social hour: 6:30; dinner, 7:30
PROGRAM: Dr. Moore will discuss the current status of malpractice insurance crisis, on the State and local levels.
Cost of dinner this year will be \$ 8.50, tax & tip included. You all know about inflation. PLEASE BRING CHECK OR CASH. We don't have time to follow up on "call-the-office" members.

Dr. Howington will represent the Society at a meeting In Tampa on Sunday, Sept. 21, on the FMA Professional Liability Trust.

The Board approved appointment of Dr. Moore to the District Advisory Council, of the Department of Health & Rehabilitative Services.

The Board also approved continuation of Dr. H. Q. Jones, Jr. and Dr. Paul Brown as Key Contact physicians.

Our society is cooperating with Judge Shands' office in the formation of the Medical Liability Mediation Panel. Members will be drawn from our membership roster. If anyone objects to serving in this capacity, he should notify Dr. Moore.

Dr. H. Quillian Jones, Jr. will serve again as FLAMPAC chairman for District 10. We all know what a tremendous job he accomplished the previous years.

Some of you will find a second sheet attached to your NEWS LETTER regarding request for change of status. Please give your attention to this matter at once.

A number of new applications for membership will be presented to you at the September meeting.

DON'T FOREGET THE RECEPTION ON SEPTEMBER 26 FOR NEW DOCTORS & WIVES.

DON'T FORGET YOUR CHECK BOOK FOR THE SEPTEMBER 22!!!

BE SURE TO RETURN YOUR RESERVATION CARD

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October, 1975

OCTOBER MEETING: October 20th, SHERATON INN=Social hour: 6:30 PM, Diner: 7:30 PM. Cost of dinner \$8.50. - SUPPORT YOUR SOCIETY BY ATTENDING!

PROGRAM: Dr. Robert Steele of Sarasota, Florida, a member of the Medical Board of Examiners will present the program and answer any questions you might have regarding this very important Board.

We had 82 members participate in our September Dinner Meeting -- Lets try for a 100% at all times.

FMA-PLI forms must be filled out and returned as soon as possible to your Secretary. Those of you wishing to join this insurance program, please fill out ALL THREE FORMS and return at the above address. FMA needs 1000 members to start this program.

MEDICAL ECONOMICS COMMITTEE: This committee has been appointed to review the FMA-PLI forms and will hold its first meeting October 9th. Members appointed are: Drs. Jack Warnock, Cecil Beehler, William Northcutt, Frank Rawl and Robert Arnall as the Chairman.

TREASURERS REPORT: Savings: \$3, 192.67, Checking: \$1,515.68, Petty Cash: \$30.00. \$1,000 will be transferred to the Checking account from the Savings account to carry the Society thru the end of the year.

NEW MEMBERS: September 22nd Society Meeting, twelve new members were voted into the Society: Probationary members are Drs. Thanical P. Antony, John S. Bruno, David R. Butcher, Ashby M. Jordan, Luis P. Lay, Robert D. Pascotto, Barry J. Sell, Howard M. Sheridan, Michael E. Steier, Luis A. Ruilova. Dr. Jack O'Brian as an active member by transfer from the Peoria County Medical Society, Ill. and Dr. Irwin Kash as an active member by transfer from the Pinellas County Medical Society.
WE WELCOME YOU!

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P. O. Box 1704, Fort Myers, Florida, 33902

November, 1975

November Meeting: EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND NOVEMBER 17th MEETING-Sheraton Inn - 6:30 Social Hour, 7:30 Dinner.

PROGRAM: ELECTION OF OFFICERS-THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE PRESENTS THE FOLLOWING SLATE:

PRES. ELECT:	LARRY GARRETT
SECRETARY:	DAVID BROWN
TREASURER:	EDWARD GUTTERY
BOARD OF GOV. AT LARGE:	PETER ROSIER
CHM. GRIEVANCE COMM.:	JOHN BARTLETT
BOARD OF CENSORS:	EDWARD GUTTERY
(vote for two)	STUART HARRISON

This year with our increase in membership, we receive one more delegate to the Florida Medical Association.

FMA DELEGATES	#1 - LARRY GARRETT
	#2 - STEWART HAGEN
	#3 - LEE HOWINGTON
	#4 - QUILL JONES, JR.

FMA ALTERNATES	#1 - JOHN FENNING
	#2 - BRENT MUNDY
	#3 - ELLEN SAYET
	#4 - HARVEY TRITEL

Nomination for all positions may come from the floor and write-in space allotted on the ballot.

NEW MEMBER: We welcome Doctor Richard M. Davis to our membership.

TREASURERS REPORT: Savings: \$2,192.67, Checking \$1,416.25, Petty Cash \$30.00.

FMA-PLI TRUST: Please make your application as soon as possible. It takes time to process. Argonaut Ins. holders do not wait until Jan. 1 to file. Your money will be pro-rated.

DINNER RESERVATIONS: Make sure to return your card. Cancel before noon day of dinner if you can not attend. CALL 332-3737.

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December 1975

DECEMBER MEETING: Monday, December 15, SHERATON INN-6:30 Social, 7:30 Dinner
Please make reservations. If you are unable to attend meeting cancel your
reservations by noon Monday or you will be billed for a dinner not cancelled

PROGRAM: Mr. Charles W. Murfin, Executive Director of FLAMPAC and Dr. George
Palmer, Executive Vice President of the Florida Medical Association will
present a program on FLAMPAC and Legislative activities of the Florida
Medical Association.

FROM THE DESK OF DR. MOORE: I have been extremely impressed during my year
as your president with Dr. Palmer's competence and hope that all of you will
take this opportunity to meet him and perhaps understand why I am so impress
with the leadership we have at the Florida Medical Association. Among other
things, I think Dr. Palmer deserves most of the credit for getting the Florid
Medical Association Professional Liability Program off the ground.

Those of you interested in Telephone Directory Listings be sure to attend thi
meeting. Dr. H. Q. Jones, Jr. will discuss this problem and bring you a com
plete update..

TREASURER'S REPORT: Checking: \$1,530.52, Savings: \$2,192.67, Petty Cash \$30.00

DR. H. Q. JONES, JR., Our Distric 10 Director, for FLAMPAC, attended a Board
of Directors meeting November 15th, at the Hostess Inn, Tampa, Fla. This was
a 5 hour meeting to conduct all the business aspects of FLAMPAC.

DR. PAUL BROWN has been appointed by Governor Askew to the State of Florida
Commisson on Ethics for a 2 year term. This is indeed a honor for Lee County
and our Society. CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

NEW OFFICERS FOR 1976 elected at the November Meeting are as follows:

PRESIDENT: Francis L. Howington

PRES. ELECT: Larry Garrett

SECRETARY: David C. Brown

TREASURER: Edwin Guttery

BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE: Peter Rosier

Chairman Grievance COM: John Agnew

Board of Censors: (to serve 3 yrs) Stuart Harrison and Edwin Guttery

Anyone wishing to donate a copying machine please contact Dr. Joseph Isley.
The Lung Association is in bad need of one and it can be a tax write-off.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS