
HCFAC/CMS

ALUMNI NEWS

FALL 2007 (Vol. 13 No. 4)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, the Summer is over and Fall is upon us. The days are getting shorter and the Winter Holidays are just around the corner.

I am very pleased to report that 30 of our members and friends had a terrific time at the Summer Picnic (see article inside) and I encourage everyone to join in future activities of this nature. Speaking of which, check out the flier enclosed about the Holiday Luncheon, which is planned for Wednesday, December 12 at the beautiful Turf Valley Country Club. Sign up information is on the flier. This is a really nice setting and the food is first rate, as the 92 people who attended last year will readily agree. The Association will be subsidizing the cost again to make it well worthwhile and reasonably priced. We hope to see many of you there.

I am pleased that the association continues to attract new members and that we are able to keep members on board. On page 2 you will see a list of 13 new members, bringing the membership up to an all time high of 513.

In this issue you will find information on the year 2008 membership renewal process, including the form to complete and an envelop to use (**But only if you need to renew**). Dues remain at \$5.00 per year and we hope that those needing to do so will take advantage of the opportunity to renew at this time, while it is fresh in your mind. 290 of you do not have to renew at this time because you are already paid up through 2008 or beyond and **you should NOT find a renewal form with your newsletter. 223 of you are due to renew and should find a form enclosed.**

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

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DUE DATES FOR FUTURE ISSUES

Winter Issue – December 28, 2007

Spring Issue – March 28, 2008

Send material to:

HCFA/CMS Alumni News
P.O. Box 47564
Baltimore, MD 21244-7564

TELEPHONE: 410-786-3918

FAX: 410-786-3898

E-MAIL:

HCFAALUM@cms.hhs.gov

INTERNET:

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

NEW MEMBERS

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

Altamease R. Arnold
Maude L. Byrd
Samuel Guida
James Hake
Michael A. Hupfer
Joyce Kelly
Peter Leffman
Thomas P. McCormack
Wayne Moon
Stanley Nachimson
Tilly Rolin
Vittorio S. Santoro
Kathy Simmons

We now have 513 active members.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND PAYMENT OF YEAR 2007 DUES

It is again time to begin the collection of the annual dues, this time for the year 2008, covering the period of January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. Enclosed with this issue of the Alumni News is the re-enrollment form (**but only for those 223 members who need it**). Dues remain at just \$5.00 per year. 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.)

For your convenience, we have included a pre-addressed envelope to send in your 2008 dues. **If you have already paid your 2008 dues you should NOT find an enrollment form included with this issue.**

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. To facilitate keeping track of individual enrollment periods, the mailing labels used to send the HCFA/CMS Alumni News now contain the member's I.D. Number and the date of expiration of enrollment, i.e., 12/31/07. **Those with a date later than 12/31/07 do NOT need to renew at this time.**

NEW MEMBER DIRECTORY UPDATE

At the back of this newsletter you will find a page with a Member Directory Update. It includes all additions (i.e., new members) and reported changes since the Summer 2007 Edition of the Member Directory was issued. We plan to continue to include updates from July 2007 on in future issues of The HCFA/CMS Alumni News, until the next issuance of a complete Member Directory. Therefore the update in each issue will be a complete one and can replace all prior updates. **Since this is an update, you will NOT find yourself listed in it unless there has been a change in your membership information or you became a new member since the Member Directory was issued.**

We encourage members to keep us informed of changes so that we can in turn keep everyone up to date. E-mail addresses seem to be particularly subject to change or elimination.

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 for faster response (as the office e-mail is only accessed weekly).

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://ssaeaa.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 all 12 months of the counting period used to set the January 2008 federal retiree COLA, the final count stands at 2.3 percent. The annual COLA count measures the change in the index's average from one-third calendar quarter to the next. Social security beneficiaries, as well as most civil service annuitants, foreign service and military retirees will be among those receiving the 2.3% adjustment in their January 2008 checks. Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) annuitants age 62 and over, as well as FERS survivors and disability retirees, will receive a full Social Security COLA, but the adjustment in their FERS annuity will be 2.0

percent. This is due to the fact that the FERS COLA formula differs from that used for CSRS retirees whose federal service did not earn them Social Security coverage.

SUMMER COOKOUT

Some 30 Alumni members and friends came to the summer cookout at the home of past president Walter B. Schauer mann on August 17 and everyone had a wonderful time. As always, Walt and Eileen Schauer mann were most gracious hosts and we can never thank them enough for their hospitality each year. This year we were also graced with the presence of Eileen's delightful mom, Margaret Davidson. Ellen Engelhardt's pound cake was superb, as usual, and Bill Engelhardt supplied fresh tomatoes and peaches that Darlene Summerfield worked wonders in preparing. Sheila Frank brought along a great gourmet dish, pudding with fresh fruit, made by her daughter. Camille Grant's meatballs and sausages were wonderful. Bernadette Joy's tray of brownies went over real well. Jackie Sheridan-Moore's fresh fruit salad was a big hit. Darlene Summerfield brought along terrific potato salad, baked beans, a vegetable tray and deviled eggs. Food was plentiful and fantastic. Bill Grant and Walt Schauer mann cooked up the meat in fine fashion and the liquid refreshment was in good supply. The weather was great and the picnic was held outdoors and indoors in beautiful and spacious surroundings. A lot of reminiscing, story telling and just great conversation filled the air. Like good wine, this just gets better and better every year, and so we intend to have a summer picnic again next year! We hope to see even more of you then.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

As mentioned in the President's Message and the enclosed flier, the Holiday Luncheon will be on December 12, 2007 at the Alexandra's Restaurant in the Turf Valley Country Club. The Restaurant itself will be the location and we will have the entire restaurant if needed. Last year some 94 alumni members and friends came to the Holiday Luncheon and everyone had a wonderful time. Everyone enjoyed the event and the place was abuzz with happy people renewing old acquaintances. And an HCFA/CMS Alumni subsidy, being repeated again this year, kept the cost at a very reasonable level. This was a record setting crowd by far and attendance has been increasing each year. We hope to have a similarly great experience and see even more of you at this year's Holiday Luncheon.

As it was last year, the luncheon will be a buffet. The menu follows.

Starters: Salad Maison, Classic Caesar Salad or Seasonal Crab Soup.

Entrées: (One fish, one beef, one poultry – exact preparation subject to change) Pan Roasted Salmon, Tournedoes Alexandra and Chicken Marsala.

Desserts: 3 or 4 different Chef's Choice of Desserts Displayed.

FEDERAL BENEFITS OPEN SEASON

The open season previously referred to as the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Open Season is now called just the Federal Benefits Open Season, because it applies to three benefits. The FEHB, the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP), and the Federal Flexible Spending Account Program (FSAFEDS) all have the same open season. The FSAFEDS Program can help active employees save money by allowing them to set aside pre-tax funds to pay for eligible out-of-pocket dependent-care and health-care expenses.

The open season for all three programs will be held from Monday, November 12, 2007, through Monday, December 10, 2007.

2007 MEDICARE PART B PREMIUM

On October 1, CMS announced the Medicare Part B premium (outpatient services) will rise to \$96.40 per month effective January 2008 from the current \$93.50. The annual Part B deductible will also increase from \$131 to \$135. The Part A (hospitalization services) deductible for the first 60 days as a hospital inpatient will increase \$32—from the present \$992 to \$1,024.

Most seniors will have to pay 5.6 percent more for basic Medicare coverage next year, officials have announced. But premiums for more affluent beneficiaries will increase by as much as 83 percent, because the federal government will require wealthier people to pay more. About 1.5 million of the 42 million Americans on Medicare will have to pay the higher premiums based on income, a change instituted by Congress as part of the 2003 law that created the Medicare drug benefit program.

The standard monthly premium for Medicare Part B, which covers doctor visits and outpatient hospital care will rise to \$93.50 from \$88.50 this year, said CMS Administrator Mark B. McClellan. The Part B deductible will be \$131.00. Individuals with an annual income of more than \$80,000 (or more than \$160,000 for married couples) will pay monthly premiums of \$106.00, \$124.70, \$143.40 or \$162.10, depending on their income, with single individuals with incomes over \$200,000 or couples over \$400,000 paying the \$162.10. Beneficiaries below the income threshold pay 25 percent of the cost. By the end of a three-year transition period, those with high annual incomes will pay 35, 50, 65 or 80 percent of the total cost of Part B coverage.

FEHB RATES FOR 2007

Fedweek.com advises that average premiums in the FEHB plan will rise 2.1 percent in 2008, the second straight year of minimal increases overall, OPM has said, although as in the past there will be significant variation among plans. Due to accounting rules, the average enrollee share will be up by 2.9 percent. Increases have been moderating steadily since the 12.7 percent average for 2002 over 2001, with the actual average increase for 2007 over 2006 working out to be 1.6 percent. The average biweekly enrollee premium will rise by \$1.58 to \$59.69 for self-only

coverage and by \$4.11 to \$135.13 for family coverage. However, premiums in the largest plan, Blue Cross-Blue Shield Standard—which has about half of all FEHB enrollees—will increase by more than 8 percent. The Standard Self option (104) will increase by \$10.51 per month and the Standard Family option (105) will increase by \$23.49 per month. Nine-tenths of enrollees will see an increase of less than 10 percent and a third will see an increase of less than 5 percent, officials said.

For 2008 there will be 283 plans, one fewer than in 2007 because 14 plans are dropping out and 13 new plans are joining. The dropouts have about 29,000 enrollees, the largest of them the Blue HMO in Ohio, with nearly 17,000.

FEHB "UNDERSERVED" AREAS REDEFINED

OPM has revised the list of "medically underserved" areas for FEHB program purposes. 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 2008 list is Alabama, Arizona, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Texas and West Virginia were dropped from the 2007 list and no states were added.

PREMIUM CONVERSION

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee has approved HR-1110, a bill that would allow federal retirees to participate in the premium conversion arrangement through which active employees may pay their FEHB premiums on a pre-tax basis. That tax break does not apply to retirees because of a provision of the tax code. Passage through the committee is a necessary step but now the bill moves to the House Ways and Means Committee, which in prior years has sat on the measure even after similar approval by the government reform panel. Members there have raised concerns about the potential cost in lost tax revenue as well as the precedent that the measure would set for extending the same break to private sector retirees, at a much higher cost.

MUTUAL FUND PURCHASE

FEDweek.com reminds us that under the tax code, mutual funds must distribute any trading gains to investors each year. Many funds make capital gains distributions in November or December. If you want to buy shares in a fund near year-end, you should wait until after the "record date," when all shareholders will receive the distribution.

The next day, the fund will go "ex-dividend." The trading fund's share price will drop, reflecting the distribution payout, and buyers will not get the distribution. If a fund makes a \$3-per-share

distribution, for example, the fund's trading price will fall by \$3 on the ex-dividend date.

Therefore, you'll get a lower price if you buy on or after the ex-dividend date. You'll also avoid a nasty tax headache. That headache will occur if you buy earlier and receive the distribution, which means you'll owe tax on a return of your own money.

Say you buy 1,000 shares of a fund at \$10. The next day, you get a \$3,000 distribution, at \$3 per share. You'll owe tax on that \$3,000 distribution and the fund will be trading at \$7. You would have done better to wait to buy at \$7 per share.

GRACE E. WALLACE HONORED

HCFA/CMS Alumni member Grace E. Wallace is being honored by the Concord Baptist Church. She will be a recipient of the "Valued Hours Award" at the 20th annual Fullwood Foundation Benefit and Recognition Breakfast in memory of Harlow Fullwood, Jr., at 8:30am on January 12, 2008 at Martin's West. Contact Grace at 410-655-9634 for further details.

SENIOR MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

MESSAGE FROM ACTING ADMINISTRATOR KERRY N. WEEMS

September 5, 2007

As President Bush announced yesterday, I have been appointed the Acting Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. It's a particular honor to have been entrusted with the job of leading this agency, so critical to the lives and health of more than 90 million Americans.

The Department of Health and Human Services has been my home for more than 24 years. While some of you may have met me during that time, I look forward to working with each of you in the coming months. Our mission is to sustain and build upon CMS's considerable achievements and to continue to find innovative ways to ensure that our programs are the best they can be. In particular I intend to focus on three key objectives: aligning and accelerating our many health care quality initiatives; providing meaningful information for beneficiaries and their caretakers so they can be informed health care consumers; and protecting the integrity of our programs and systems.

Our work at CMS is some of the most important facing the country today and its impact on the lives of beneficiaries is extensive. For these reasons, it's both a great privilege and an enormous responsibility to serve as your new Acting Administrator. I am confident that together we can carry on the exceptional work of this agency. I look forward to working with you on the many challenges ahead.

I am also pleased and honored that Herb Kuhn has officially been appointed Deputy Administrator. Herb deserves our thanks and gratitude for serving as the steady hand in charge of CMS over the past six weeks. Herb will play an important leadership role, as I will rely on his experience to help guide our team. Please join me in congratulating Herb.

Kerry N. Weems

PRESIDENTIAL MERITORIOUS EXECUTIVE RANK AWARD

Each year the President confers the prestigious awards of Distinguished and Meritorious Executive to a select group of career members of the SES. These outstanding senior executives consistently demonstrate integrity, commitment, and exceptional service to the American public over an extended period of time. They are leaders who successfully balance the needs and perspectives of their customers, stakeholders, and employees with organizational results.

Five CMS Senior Executive Service (SES) members are the recipients of the Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award. **Jacqueline Garner**, Consortium Administrator for Medicaid and Children's Health Operations; **Timothy Hill**, Director, Office of Financial Management; **James Kerr**, Consortium Administrator for Medicare Health Plans Operations; **Terris King**, Deputy Director, Office of Clinical Standards and Quality; and **Elizabeth Richter**, Acting Director, Center for Medicare Management. CMS has more award recipients than any other HHS OPDIV this year, which is particularly significant given the honor this award bestows.

These executives were honored for their service on a wide range of CMS initiatives that included implementing hundreds of MMA provisions; establishing new policies to ensure that contracting, budgetary, and accounting methodologies were beyond reproach; implementing a comprehensive monitoring strategy to assess CMS' interim Discount Drug Card program; promoting an environmental scanning process to ensure all of the DRA provisions were being implemented; and serving as a critical leader in managing the unanticipated tripling of case work in all of the regional offices, all of which helped lay the groundwork to ensure beneficiaries get the best quality care for the best price.

Maria Montilla has been selected as the SES Director, Accounting Management Group (AMG) in the Office of Financial Management. As the Acting Director, AMG, she has provided a vital stewardship over the Medicare Trust Funds by directing debt management and settlement activities, financial management and accounting systems operations, oversight of Medicare contractors' financial operations, and the coordination of all the Chief Financial Officers' (CFO) reporting and audit, and internal control reviews over financial reporting in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-123. Since November 2006, Maria has provided direction and coordination to the activities of CMS' CFO and internal control functions for CMS and its contractors, including establishing and managing the execution of debt compromise and settlement policy. Maria has 10 years of audit experience working for the OIG prior to coming to CMS in 1999. She received her Bachelor of Business Administration (Accounting major) from Loyola College of Maryland and her Masters of

Business Administration from the University of Baltimore. She is a Certified Public Accountant with over 18 years of accounting and audit experience.

Mr. Robin R. King joined CMS on October 15, 2007, as the Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA). Mr. King has over 15 years of senior-level public policy communications experience directing strategy-led, national organizations in advocacy, issues management, and in developing long-term brand strategy for organizational success. Mr. King comes to CMS from The Aluminum Association where he was Vice President of Public Affairs. Prior to this position, Mr. King was the Director of Communications for the NASDAQ Stock Market providing executive direction for communications and public relations for the world's largest securities regulatory and second-largest stock market then headquartered in Washington, D.C.

Charlotte Yeh has been appointed to serve as the Acting San Francisco Regional Administrator, effective August 21, replacing Jeff Flick who left CMS on August 10. Charlotte Yeh has served as the Boston Regional Administrator for the past four years.

Carol Maloof has been appointed to serve as the Acting Deputy Regional Administrator in Boston, following the retirement, (after 36 years of Federal service, of Ava Chung. Carol Maloof has been serving as a Branch Chief in the Division of Quality Improvement in Boston.

Renard Murray has been appointed to serve as the Acting Boston Regional Administrator during the absence of Charlotte Yeh. Renard Murray has been serving in the position of Associate Regional Administrator, Division of Medicaid & Children's Health Operations (DMCHO) in Atlanta.

Jay Gavens has been appointed to serve as the Associate Regional Administrator, Division of Medicaid & Children's Health Operations (DMCHO) in Atlanta. He has been serving as a Branch Manager in that division.

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

July 24, 2007

Susan Guerin, from the Center for Medicare Management, was selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. Susan is being recognized for her role as the operational lead for Critical Access Hospitals and Indian Health Services. In the relatively short time that she has been at CMS, she has become a recognized expert in these areas.

August 6, 2007

Karen Webb, from the Office of Beneficiary Information Services, was selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. Karen is being recognized for her tireless support of the Call Center Operations Group. Her efforts in managing the travel budget and associated

workload, allows the Group to be successful and efficient in the management of multiple large contracts.

August 20, 2007

Brian Martin, from the Center for Beneficiary Choices, was selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. Brian is being recognized for his role in the oversight and review of all Part D plan formularies. Specifically, in his efforts to ensure all Part D Formularies are reviewed to prevent discrimination and to ensure inclusion of a broad distribution of therapeutic categories of classes for all Medicare Beneficiaries.

September 4, 2007

Patricia Gongloff, from the Office of External Affairs in Baltimore, Maryland, was selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. Pat is being recognized for her role in the development and implementation of a performance reporting system for the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), our national grassroots personalized counseling network. Specifically, she is being recognized for ensuring the delivery of value driven personalized counseling.

Linda Brown, from the Office of External Affairs in Washington, DC, was selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. Linda is being recognized for her unwavering commitment in carrying out the Secretary's priority that every senior has access to affordable prescription drugs and the Agency's strategic goal to have informed and confident consumers.

September 17, 2007

Arlene Gassmann, from the Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs in Baltimore, MD, was selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. Arlene was recognized for her outstanding personal initiative, dedication, and commitment to the Administrator's review of the Provider Reimbursement Review Board decisions.

Toni West, from the Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs in Washington, DC, was selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. Toni was recognized for her unwavering commitment in carrying out the CMS and HHS goals and objectives through the preparation of briefing materials for the Office of the Administrator and the preparation of the Secretary's Forecast Report for the Department.

October 1, 2007

Yaminee Thaker, from the Office of the Actuary in Baltimore, MD, was selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. Yaminee was recognized for her role in coordinating the OACT projections for the Mid-Session Review of the President's FY 2008 Budget.

Linda E. Dean (Kess), from the Office of Legislation in Washington, DC, was selected for the Chief

Operating Officer's Achievement Award. Linda was recognized for her personal initiative and commitment to supporting the management and staff for the Office of Legislation, and ensuring that CMS is investing in and developing its next generation of leaders.

October 15

Sherry Wilson, from the Office of Operations Management in Baltimore, MD, was selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. Sherry is being recognized for this honor for taking the initiative to implement process improvements that have significantly improved response time, communications, and overall work-flow related to processing personnel actions.

Jane Hyatt Thorpe, from the Office of Policy in Washington, DC, was selected for the Chief Operating Officer's Achievement Award. Jane is being recognized for this honor for her dedication to the work of the Agency and to improving health care delivery for Medicare and all citizens.

In recognition of their accomplishments, those employees from central office each earn the privilege of using a reserved parking space for two weeks. Additionally, their pictures are posted on the CMSNet. Those employees outside central office have their pictures posted on the CMSNet.

KOMEDY KORNER

FRECKLES & WRINKLES

An elderly woman and her little grandson, whose face was sprinkled with bright freckles, spent the day at the zoo. Lots of children were waiting in line to get their cheeks painted by a local artist who was decorating them with tiger paws. "You've got so many freckles, there's no place to paint!" a girl in the line said to the little fella.

Embarrassed, the little boy dropped his head. His grandmother knelt down next to him. "I love your freckles. When I was a little girl I always wanted freckles," she said, while tracing her finger across the child's cheek. "Freckles are beautiful."

The boy looked up, "Really?"

"Of course," said the grandmother. "Why, just name me one thing that's prettier than freckles."

The little boy thought for a moment, peered intensely into his grandma's face, and softly whispered, "Wrinkles."

WHAT IS A GRANDPARENT?

Taken from papers written by a class of 8-year-olds

Grandparents are a lady and a man who have no little children of her own. They like other people's.

A grandfather is a man grandmother.

Grandparents don't have to do anything except be there when we come to see them. They are so old they shouldn't play hard or run. It is good if they drive us to the store and have lots of quarters for us.

When they take us for walks, they slow down past things like pretty leaves and caterpillars.

They show us and talk to us about the color of the flowers and also why we shouldn't step on cracks.

They don't say, "Hurry up."

Usually grandmothers are fat, but not too fat to tie your shoes.

They wear glasses and funny underwear.

They can take their teeth and gums out.

Grandparents don't have to be smart.

They have to answer questions like, "why isn't God married?" and "How come dogs chase cats?"

When they read to us, they don't skip. They don't mind if we ask for the same story over again.

Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if you don't have television, because they are the only grown ups who like to spend time with us.

They know we should have snack-time before bedtime and they say prayers with us every time, and kiss us even when we've acted bad.

A 6 year old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," He said, "She lives at the airport, and when we want her we just go get her. Then when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport!"

OLD AS DIRT

"Hey Dad," one of my kids asked the other day, "What was your favorite fast food when you were growing up?"

"We didn't have fast food when I was growing up," I informed him. "All the food was slow."

"C'mon, seriously. Where did you eat?"

"It was a place called 'at home,'" I explained. "Grandma cooked every day and when Grandpa got home from work, we sat down together at the dining room table, and if I didn't like what she put on my plate I was allowed to sit there until I did like it."

By this time, the kid was laughing so hard I was afraid he was going to suffer serious internal damage, so I didn't tell him the part about how I had to have permission to leave the table. But here are some other things I would have told him about my childhood if I figured his system could have handled it:

Some parents NEVER owned their own house, wore Levis, set foot on a golf course, traveled out of the country or had a credit card. In their later years they had something called a revolving charge card. The card was good only at Sears Roebuck. Or maybe it was Sears AND Roebuck. Either way, there is no Roebuck anymore. Maybe he died.

My parents never drove me to soccer practice. This was mostly because we never had heard of soccer. I had a bicycle that weighed probably 50 pounds, and only had one speed, (slow). We didn't have a television in our house until I was 11, but my grandparents had one before that. It was, of course, black and white, but they bought a piece of colored plastic to cover the screen. The top third was blue, like the sky, and the bottom third was green, like grass. The middle third was red. It was perfect for programs that had scenes of fire trucks riding across someone's lawn on a sunny day. Some people had a lens taped to the front of the TV to make the picture look larger.

I was 13 before I tasted my first pizza, it was called "pizza pie." When I bit into it, I burned the roof of my mouth and the cheese slid off, swung down, plastered itself against my chin and burned that, too. It's still the best pizza I ever had.

We didn't have a car until I was 15. Before that, the only car in our family was my grandfather's Ford. He called it a "machine."

I never had a telephone in my room. The only phone in the house was in the living room and it was on a party line. Before you could dial, you had to listen and make sure some people you didn't know weren't already using the line.

Pizzas were not delivered to our home. But milk was.

All newspapers were delivered by boys and all boys delivered newspapers. I delivered a newspaper, six days a week. It cost 7 cents a paper, of which I got to keep 2 cents. I had to get up at 4 AM every morning. On Saturday, I had to collect the 42 cents from my customers. My favorite customers were the ones who gave me 50 cents and told me to keep the change. My least favorite customers were the ones who seemed to never be home on collection day.

Movie stars kissed with their mouths shut. At least, they did in the movies.

Touching someone else's tongue with yours was called French kissing and they didn't do that in movies. I don't know what they did in French movies. French movies were dirty and we weren't allowed to see them.

If you grew up in a generation before there was fast food, you may want to share some of these memories with your children or grandchildren. Just don't blame me if they bust a gut laughing.

Growing up isn't what it used to be, is it?

MEMORIES from a friend:

My Dad was cleaning out my grandmother's house (she died in December) and he brought me an old Royal Crown Cola bottle. In the bottle top was a stopper with a bunch of holes in it. I knew immediately what it was, but my daughter had no idea. She thought they had tried to make it a salt shaker or something. I knew it as the bottle that sat on the end of the ironing board to "sprinkle" clothes with because we didn't have steam irons. Man, I am old.

How many do you remember?

Head lights dimmer switches on the floor.
Ignition switches on the dashboard.
Heaters mounted on the inside of the fire wall.
Real ice boxes.
Pant leg clips for bicycles without chain guards.
Soldering irons you heat on a gas burner.
Using hand signals for cars without turn signals.

Older Than Dirt Quiz:

Count all the ones that you remember not the ones you were told about!
Ratings at the bottom.

1. Blackjack chewing gum
2. Wax Coke-shaped bottles with colored sugar water
3. Candy cigarettes
4. Soda pop machines that dispensed bottles
5. Coffee shops with tableside jukeboxes
6. Home milk delivery in glass bottles with cardboard stoppers
7. Party lines

8. Newsreels before the movie
9. P.F. Flyers
10. Butch wax
11. Telephone numbers with a word prefix (Olive-6933)
12. Peashooters
13. Howdy Doody
14. 45 RPM records
15. S&H Green Stamps
16. Hi-fi's
17. Metal ice trays with lever
18. Mimeograph paper
19. Blue flashbulb
20. Packards
21. Roller skate keys
22. Cork popguns
23. Drive-ins
24. Studebakers
25. Wash tub wringers

If you remembered 0-5 = You're still young
If you remembered 6-10 = You are getting older
If you remembered 11-15 = Don't tell your age,
If you remembered 16-25 = You're older than dirt!

I might be older than dirt but those memories are the best part of my life.

SENIORS' PRENUPTIAL AGREEMENT

An elderly couple in their 80's were about to get married.

She said: I want to keep my house.

He said: That's fine with me.

She said: And I want to keep my Cadillac.

He said: That's fine with me.

She said: And I want to have sex 6 times a week.

He said: That's fine with me, put me down for Friday.

OLD SAYINGS

Submitted by Ted Saffran

Whether a man winds up with a nest egg or a goose egg depends a lot on the kind of chick he marries.

Trouble in marriage often starts when a man gets so busy earning his salt, that he forgets his sugar.

Too many couples marry for better or for worse, but not for good.

When a man marries a woman, they become one; but the trouble starts when they try to decide which one.

If a man has enough horse sense to treat his wife like a thoroughbred, she will never turn into an old nag.

On anniversaries, the wise husband always forgets the past, but never the present.

Many girls like to marry a military man - he can cook, sew, and make beds, and is in good health, and he's already used to taking orders.

Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

Old age is when former classmates are so gray, wrinkled, and bald that they don't recognize you.

If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you are old.

First you forget names, then you forget faces. Then you forget to pull up your zipper, but it's really bad when you forget to pull it down.

OBITUARIES

MARIE PATRICIA "PAT" HASKINS

By Kelly Brewington | Baltimore Sun reporter
September 4, 2007



[Age 75] IRS auditor, secretary to Spiro Agnew

Marie Patricia Haskins, who was an IRS auditor and a secretary to Spiro T. Agnew, died of complications from dementia Thursday. She was 75.

Mrs. Haskins, who was born Marie Walter in Baltimore, was raised in the city's Hamilton. After graduation, she lived in Germany, Rochester N.Y., Wichita, Kan., and Denver, holding numerous jobs.

She married Owen Thomas Carroll at St. Dominic Roman Catholic Church, and the couple moved to Germany, where he was stationed. There she learned to speak German.

After the marriage ended in divorce, she married Roland V. Haskins, who worked in avionics marketing. The couple moved to various cities to follow his work.

Along the way, Mrs. Haskins carved out her own career, working in Mr. Agnew's Towson office, said her son, Thomas Haskins of Fairfax, Va. Mr. Agnew rose from Baltimore County executive to become governor and then vice president under President Richard M. Nixon.

She told her son later that Mr. Agnew was kind, honest and an easygoing boss, he said.

Mrs. Haskins became an auditor for the Internal Revenue Service in Denver, a job that allowed her to couple her organizational skills with a love for math, her son said.

"She was always very good with numbers and finances," Thomas Haskins said. "In her job, she was fair but also compassionate with people being audited."

The couple returned to Baltimore in the 1970s, and Mrs. Haskins was a program analyst at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Although she never sought an advanced degree, she enrolled in accounting courses at Baltimore-area community colleges, Thomas Haskins said.

After retiring, Mrs. Haskins volunteered as a counselor at the Baltimore chapter of the Service Corps of Retired Executives, helping entrepreneurs start businesses.

She loved to garden, and her orchids won several prizes at the Baltimore Flower Show, her son said.

She also loved dancing and until about three years ago, when she began experiencing symptoms of Alzheimer's disease, she frequented dance clubs to enjoy music, including country and pop.

"At 70 years old, she'd close the place up," Thomas Haskins said. "She was pretty amazing."

His mother constantly encouraged him to push himself, he said.

"She would say, 'It's OK to go out and try something and fail,'" he said. "Sometimes that's the only way you learn. She was always willing to do that herself."

A service will be held at 11 a.m. today at Ruck Towson Funeral Home, 1050 York Road.

Mrs. Haskins is also survived by two stepsons, Mike Thames and Mark Thames, whose places of residence were unavailable yesterday; a brother, Joseph Walter of Baltimore; and a sister, Margaret Walter of Baltimore.

ELIZABETH HANNA FOLEY-MOON

Submitted by Thom Coupar for Wayne Moon

Liz Foley, passed away in her sleep on August 17, 2007 at her home in Orinda, CA. She was 35 year resident of Orinda. She loved the outdoors and spent a lot time hiking around the Bay Area and in the mountains around Lake Tahoe. Playing tennis and golf were also activities she enjoyed doing with her friends. Her courage and love of life have touched many people.

Liz was born in Methuen, MA on August 27, 1943 to parents Judith and Alfred Gutman. She graduated with honors from Newton High School in 1961, and moved to California to attend the University of California at Berkeley. She majored in History, and was a member of the womens ski team (the first womens sports team of Cal to compete with other universities). In 1967, Liz

went to work for the federal government in the Medicare program. She retired in 2001 after 34 years of service as Director of Managed Care for the San Francisco Regional Office, which had responsibility for Medicare activities in California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii, and the Trust territories. In 1985, Liz was elected to serve a two-year term on the Board of the Orinda Association. Liz was a 25-year member of the Meadow Swim and Tennis Club in Orinda, playing league tennis for the club until June of this year. Liz had stage 4 cancer for the past 14 years but it did not stop her and her husband, Wayne Moon from traveling to 5 continents and 24 countries. Last year she went to Poland and participated in a ceremony establishing a memorial site where her Rabbi grandfather's synagogue once stood (burned during Crystal Nacht, 1938) to remind the city that a large Jewish community once existed there. Liz also was able to watch tennis matches at Wimbledon in 2006, which was a life long dream. In addition to her surviving husband Wayne, Liz was a loving mother to her two children, John and Anne Marie. Her son John lives in Lafayette with his wife Amy, and their two children Ryan and Connor. Anne Marie lives in San Francisco. She is also survived by her brother, Joseph Gutman of Santa Monica and her extended family of Ron and Debra Moon of Atherton, and Greg and Liz Moon of Orinda.

A memorial service, celebrating her life, was held on Friday, August 24, 2007 at the Veterans Memorial Building in Lafayette, CA. In lieu of flowers, the family requested that donations be made in Liz's name to Kaiser Hospice of Martinez, CA 94553 or your favorite charity.

JOHN H. SMITH

CMS Notice

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to our good friend and colleague, John H. Smith, who passed away unexpectedly on August 24, 2007. John began his Federal career more than 30 years ago, working in the Social Security Administration's Bureau of Health Insurance. During his career working primarily in the field of correspondence, John endured numerous reorganizations, the establishment of a new agency, and many changes in the processing of provider and beneficiary inquiries. Most recently, John worked in the Center for Beneficiary Choices and the Office of External Affairs. No matter where he worked or with whom he worked, John always had a wonderful work ethic, professional attitude and a team mentality. He demonstrated a wealth of knowledge, expertise, and guidance through his noteworthy contributions, exceptional quality of work, and commitment in furthering the goals and mission of the CMS. Throughout his Federal career, John met many people and made many friends along the way. He was a great asset to CMS.

In his personal life, John's love for his family came first – he was an exceptional son, brother and uncle – always giving and never expecting anything in return. He gave of himself to his friends as well, with never a second thought – giving came naturally to John. His love of the church was evident throughout his life by his involvement in church activities and in the way he lived his life; but, there was also a side of him that loved traveling to Atlantic City and playing the poker machines! John was also an avid fan of opera, New York musicals and plays and professional tennis. He was a person who lived and loved well and that love was returned by many!!

For those wishing to leave a message for John's family, or just read the statements of condolences, at the Guest Book at the Baltimore Sun, the following web site address will get you there:

<http://www.legacy.com/baltimoresun/GB/GuestbookView.aspx?PersonId=93348119>

IN MEMORIAM

The Alumni Association respectfully acknowledges

the passing of the following

Alumni/Employees/Spouses and expresses its

sympathy to family members:

ELIZABETH HANNA FOLEY-MOON (8/17/07) *

MARIE PATRICIA "PAT" HASKINS 8/30/07**

WILLIAM LANDRESS 9/16/07**

JOHN H. SMITH 8/24/07***

* HCFA/CMS Retiree, San Francisco RO

** HCFA/CMS Retiree, Central Office

*** CMS employee, Central Office

**If you are aware of any other deaths of Alumni please notify the editorial staff
October 2007**