

Mary C. Blue, M.D., Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



VALERIE C. MOORE, M.D.
WHERE IS MY GUN?

It looks like we could have a really long hot summer, even hotter than we usually have here in Ft. Myers. The newspapers said that gun sales were up for the week after the Los Angeles riots. The people buying guns felt they would not be adequately protected by law enforcement if a similar situation were to happen here in our state.

The article went on to say that law enforcement cannot protect us because dangerous felons are turned out of prisons without serving much of their term. Law enforcement is frustrated, the property owners are frustrated and people driving down the road have to worry about being accosted in their vehicles. Everyone agrees that the possibility of violence is at every turn, in every town. The base level of crime we live with every day is astounding, but now on top of that there is the possibility of more violence.

Certainly there will be some other incident that can be the spark for violence. There may not be another video image of four white officers beating a black man, but there will be something equally disturbing.

There are several choices that one can make in the months to come. One is to do exactly as many are already doing, arm yourself. It is true, law enforcement will not be able to stop a large group of people burning with frustration and anger.

(continued on page 2)

"DR. JOHN"

Trains

Being older than I look, my sentient years span the time when people rode trains (and paid their bills, and said thank you—but there's no point in being maudlin), which I sometimes recall. We still have trains, but I understand the advertising and the reality are in parallel universes, so not many people ride.

There was a time when every town with ten people and a mule had a train going through every day, to drop off the mail and pick up the milk, at least. Now these people drive 150 miles to get on a white-knuckle commuter plane that takes them to Atlanta, which they vow never to do again unless dead, or worse.

Until the RR management totally blew it, a train trip was an adventure. A streamliner was an impressive piece of machinery, to begin with: the windows were huge, the seats comfortable for a while, the clickety-click was hypnotic, and you could walk through the cars to the Club Car and buy an overpriced Coke, and read Field and Stream.

If you had money, you could have a berth and sleep on the crisp sheets in the world, leaving the curtain open just a little so you could see the lights of the towns. When you saw cars stopped at a crossing, you knew all those people were wondering where you were going; I think they were obligated to do this, like an unwritten law.

The other people (me) slept sitting up, in a seat that reclined not far enough, using the clickety-click as a lullaby; this was effective unless a wheel had a flat spot (clickety-thud-click). Even worse was when the New York-type girls came through the car at 2 a.m., giggling while the guys they met in the Club Car tried to persuade them to go somewhere I didn't catch. I hated those noisy people, who ultimately made me decide to transfer to the air or just don't go. That was halfway through college.

The best part of all, even better than dinner in the diner with white tablecloths and heavy silverware, before they ran out of food, was the last ten miles going to Miami.

(continued on page 2)

FMA ANNUAL MEETING/ORLANDO

Lee County Delegation



Back Row: Drs. Francis L. Howington; Larry P. Garrett; Robert E. Arnall; David M. Shapiro; Rodger W. Shaver, M.D. Front Row: Ann Wilke; Drs. Mark S. Gorovoy; Valerie C. Moore; Phillip E. Andrews; Ronald J. Delans; Steven R. West ■

Dr. Valerie C. Moore served on Reference Committee NO. 11 and Dr. Phillip E. Andrews served on Reference Committee NO. 1.

Dr. Robert Arnall wears many hats for the FMA. He was elected Vice Chairman for the Council on Hospital Medical Staffs; is CHMS liaison to the FMA Committee on PRO; FMA designee on the State Health Care Board's committee on Hospital Patient Discharge Data Technical Advisory Panel.

Dr. Larry P. Garrett will moderate the Lower West Coast caucuses for the next FMA Annual meeting. The Caucus represents 8 counties.

Dr. Ronald Delans will head up the Lee County Delegation for the next Annual meeting. Please let him know your concerns for future resolutions.

DELEGATE REPORTS

Rodger W. Shaver, M.D., Delegate: Reference Committee IV — Legislation and miscellaneous.

Resolutions adopted as policy by the House of Delegates included: 92-24 The FMA will work with the Florida Osteopathic Association to standardize CME requirements for re-licensure.

92-30 The FMA will work with the insurance commissioner to require that HMO's, PPO's and other pre-paid plans document review procedures when payment denials are made and make physician reviewers available to speak directly with the referring physician. If necessary the FMA will seek legislative action to achieve these objectives.

92-65 The FMA will work with Blue Cross/Blue Shield to resolve inequities in the interpretation of concurrent care to establish fair reimbursement to both primary care physicians and consultants.

92-60: This resolution was probably the most significant policy adopted by the FMA in several years. Universal health care plans are being developed without formal physician input. To provide physician input at all phases of the development of these plans, the Board of Governors is instructed to establish an ad hoc Technical Advisory Committee. This committee is charged with exploring which legislative actions would be necessary to establish a legally mandated physician organization to be directly involved in the development of legislative and regulatory guidelines for health care policy.

Steven R. West, M.D., Delegate: No matter what television show you watch or what newspaper is read, one cannot help but come across the September, 1991 report of joint ventures among health providers in Florida. Volume II was written for the Florida Healthcare Cost Containment Board. This survey and report is being used throughout the county to justify further government regulation. It was done to analyze if medical and professional joint ventures increase the cost of medical care, restrict the access to medical care, increase medical care utilization, or adversely affect the quality of care. This report was meant to be the basis for recommending possible regulation of medical joint ventures by the state of Florida. The report concluded that particular types of joint venture medical facilities contribute to one or more of the adverse outcomes listed above, indicating the need for regulation of medical joint ventures in the state of Florida.

This report was reviewed and studied by LEWIN-ICF. This firm, out of Washington DC, is a consulting firm which is often used by both the federal government and the state of Florida in analyzing healthcare.

The conclusion of this healthcare consulting group was that this study was poorly done, that the statistical techniques used in the report were not well explained, indicating that comparison variable used in the report were often misleading or incomplete. The consulting firm felt that the report did not support the argument that medical joint ventures in the state of Florida needed to be regulated.

Mark S. Gorovoy, M.D., Delegate: The organization details of the meeting were excellent with time for educational seminars. I was quite impressed with the seminar on AIDS and tuberculosis and its future implications for health care.

Every aspect of medicine was touched upon. The discussions were lively and I felt that in general those resolutions that would further physicians' rights and improve medical care for the patients were adopted. It was a most impressive learning experience. ■

HURRICANES — ARE YOU PREPARED?

Hurricane season is again upon us. As physicians we have a special role to play during a hurricane. During a hurricane:

1. Be sure you know which hospital you are to report to. (You signed-up through the Medical Society in 1991 and each hospital has the list.)
2. Check the hospital disaster plan to know when you should be there.
3. Do not wait for the hospital to call you, this is your commitment and obligation as a physician to be there when needed.
4. Be prepared to evacuate your family when the county emergency management officials call for an evacuation of Lee County. Have a plan ahead of time; evacuate your family 30 hours before landfall.
5. Prepare to stay 24 to 48 hours after the storm, 3 to 4 days total.
6. Check with your assigned hospital to see if they will have room for you to bring your family. Remember, it is safest for your family to leave during the evacuation; encourage your family not to stay at the hospital.
7. A 72 hour disaster survival kit should include the following: a) Nonperishable food; b) Small cans of food; c) A manual can opener; d) Personal medications, pills and prescriptions; e) Special food for infants; f) Baby needs: diapers etc.; g) First aid kit; h) Battery operated radio and flashlights; i) Extra batteries; j) Drinking water, 1 gallon per person per day; k) Blankets, pillows, sleeping bags; l) Sanitary supplies; m) Cards, books and small games; n) Road maps; o) Wet and cold weather clothing.

Lee County Medical Society Disaster Planning Committee. Steven R. West, M.D., Chairman. ■

LEE COUNTY MEDICAL
SOCIETY BULLETIN3805 Fowler Street
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The Editor welcomes contributions from the members. Opinions expressed in the Bulletin are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect policies of the Society.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
(continued from page 1)

Another choice is the "Calvin and Hobbes" option. Calvin, a 5 year old cartoon character, tells us, "Once you see problems, you feel like you ought to try to fix them... and fixing problems always seems to require personal change... the secret to happiness is short term, stupid self-interest!"

This is the attitude that is probably the most prevalent. For those of you like me, who are procrastinators, this seems like the easiest option. If I get a gun, I will have to learn how to use it and be responsible for its whereabouts, when I can't even keep track of my car keys.

There ought to be some other option, one of constructive action. As physicians, people come to us every day to help them solve problems. Why can't we use the medical model to address the sick patient, our society? Use the symptoms to identify the illness, decide on the plan of treatment. Sounds pretty naive, doesn't it? Well, it probably does, but I have always maintained that any problem our people choose to address with all their effort can be solved, or if not solved, at least improved. Leaders in the city, state and nation have to help us address the problems that lead to rioting, racism and poverty. As physicians, we are these leaders or have access to these leaders. We have the most to lose, our children's future world. That is what is in the most danger of being destroyed, not our homes or our offices. And guns will not stop our children's world from being destroyed by angry mobs. So I ask myself, and our community leaders, what are we going to do to make this summer be different? I hope we have more options than to buy guns or merely hope for the best. ■

"DR. JOHN"

(continued from page 1)

I would stand in the vestibule between cars, and the porter would lower the window so I could lean out. The train would be slowing to yard speed, we would go through Little River and the downtown skyline would appear, and I would be engulfed by the wonderful smell of Miami: a combination of warmth, salt air, flowers, a little garbage, bus fumes and memories of my father's shaving lotion. If I didn't have hay fever I could have smelled even more things.

And then I would see my parents, who had been waiting for an hour. My father counted the days (aloud) until I would be coming home, and the second thing he would say to me was, "In just three months you'll be going back."

I never understood why he did that. ■
John R. Agnew, M.D.

LEE AUXILIARY INSTALLED
AS 1992-93 FMA-A PRESIDENT

(R) Mrs. Elaine Dickens, FMA-A past president installs (L) Mrs. Elizabeth Kagan as the 1992-93 FMA-A Auxiliary President at the Auxiliary's Change of Leadership ceremony, May 29, in Orlando.

In Mrs. Kagan's inaugural address, she emphasized the important tasks she feels the FMA-A must address during the year, "We share a similar commitment to the solution of child abuse, homelessness, domestic violence, AIDS, and access to health care." Education on health issues, legislation, political skills and community projects are but a few of the goals she had set for the FMA-A.

The Lee County Medical Society Auxiliary and the Society shared in the Change of Leadership by presenting Mrs. Kagan flowers and gifts. ■

MEDICAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD
1992 Recipient — Joseph K. Isley, Jr., M.D.

L-R, Mr. Robert Griggs, President, FL Voluntary Health Association, Inc.; Gerald L. Schiebler, FMA President; Joseph K. Isley, M.D., Radiologist from Lee County.

Dr. Isley received the First Annual award to recognize a physician member of the FMA who has provided unusual service to Florida's citizenry through volunteer work performed within the FL Voluntary Health Association. He was nominated by the American Lung Association of Florida for his efforts to keep open the state A.G. Holley Hospital for severely ill and drug resistant TB patients. ■

AUXILIARY NEWS

Respectfully submitted by Betty Rubenstein, Corresponding Secretary of the Lee County Medical Society Auxiliary.

On May 27-30 at the Florida Medical Association Annual Meeting in Orlando, Lee County's own Liz Kagan was installed as the President of The FMAA. Barbara Siegel, Lynne Gorovoy, Connie Howington, Robin Liebowitz and Betty Rubenstein were proud to attend the installation. We all would like to express our warm congratulations to Liz on her accomplishment, and offer her our encouragement and support towards a very successful year!

The Lee County Medical Society Auxiliary's Second Annual Volunteer Program took place on June 16, 1992 at Lee Memorial Hospital and Healthpark. The objective of this project is to enhance the physicians' children's understanding of the hospital environment and enhance their desire for community service. The children (ages 10-14) are assigned a tour of duty for a day working with other volunteers and staff, helping in the Pediatric section, the rehab center and with patient visitation. The day was a big success! Our thanks to Marivic Gamez for organizing the day and making sure things ran smoothly.

The Auxiliary and Foundation Boards will be hosting a Welcome Brunch in early September 1992 at the home of Debi Campbell. We all want to give the new physicians' spouses a warm welcome and let them know what our Auxiliary is all about. The entire General membership is invited to attend.

Our Second Annual Pot Luck Dinner will take place on a Saturday evening in early September for all Medical Society members, newcomers and their spouses. This is a way for new and old members to get together in a casual relaxed atmosphere. Please plan to join the Auxiliary for a fun evening of sharing good home cooked food and making new friends.

If you are aware of a new physician moving into our community or has already arrived, please contact Mary Jane Harris (936-2097) or Betty Rubenstein (482-6327). ■

WELCOME BRUNCH — Wednesday, September 2nd, 1992
POTLUCK IN PARADISE — Saturday Evening, September 5th, 1992

THE
QUESTION
MANOPINIONS - EDITORIALS
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

John W. Snead, M.D.

HOW WILL NEW OSHA REQUIREMENTS AFFECT YOUR PATIENTS AND YOUR PRACTICE?



"We feel the effects will be minimal at this time as our standards for dealing with blood borne pathogen in the OR environment already comply with those of OSHA. We will however, need to formalize our compliance by documenting: 1. Departmental standard for universal barrier precautions and compliance; 2. Annual reviews and new employee education; 3. Follow-ups of all possible blood borne pathogen exposure; 4. HBV promotion and availability, free of cost, for all our risk personnel."

Michael Hedden, M.D.



"I hate to see more government regulations in the practice of medicine. However, in the light of our recent doctor/hepatitis epidemic, it is difficult to find it unjustified."

John V. Hugill, M.D.



"Most of us have been practicing a lot of these precautions right along; and I don't think the government should be involved so heavily in the practice management of physicians."

Larry A. Hobbs, M.D.



"One of the benefits of OSHA is that it will require us to tow the line. We have many facilities that used to have waivers on some potentially toxic chemicals. These facilities have now gone to a zero waiver state and that will benefit all our drinking water."

Michael F. Annall, M.D.

NEXT MONTH'S QUESTION

"Is the AMA correct in wanting government to loosen its anti-trust reigns to allow physicians to collectively bargain?"

Send your comments to the Medical Society.

Bulletin deadline is the 15th of each month . . . we want to see you in the print media! ■

HIV DISABILITY
INSURANCE

Effective July 1, 1992, any disability policy issued on or after that date must include in its definitions any restriction of a health care practitioner's ability to perform his/her profession because of action taken by the state licensing board as a result of testing HIV positive. In order to receive disability benefits, the insured must experience an actual loss of income as may be required under the terms of the policy.

The new law is not retroactive to policies in effect prior to July 1, 1992. It is anticipated that some disability insurance companies will offer riders to provide coverage in accordance with the new legislation and we suggest all physicians contact their respective disability carriers to determine the status of their disability coverage. For policies already in effect, physicians should inquire as to the availability of an HIV disability rider and determine how they should proceed in obtaining such coverage if available. ■

NEW MEMBER APPLICANTS

Application For Membership

Active members are requested to express to the Board of Censors or Board of Governors any information or opinions they may have concerning the eligibility of the applicants.

JOSEPH R. HOBSON, D.O.

Dr. Joseph Hobson was born in Spirit Lake, Iowa. He received his medical degree at Kirksville College of Osteopathic medicine in Missouri. He completed his internship at Detroit Osteopathic Bi-County Hospital in Highland Park, Michigan and his residency at Camp Pendleton Naval Hospital in California.

Dr. Hobson is practicing Family Practice at 2134 McGregor Boulevard with Dr. Edward Salko, Jr. ■



JACK M. LOMANO, M.D.

Dr. Lomano was born in Columbus, Ohio. He received his medical degree at Ohio State University in Columbus. He completed his internship and his residency at Ohio State University Hospital also in Columbus.

Dr. Lomano will be practicing Obstetrics/Gynecology at 9981 Healthpark Circle in Solo practice. ■



JOSE V. PADILLA, M.D.

Dr. Padilla was born in Arecibo, Puerto Rico. He received his medical degree at the University of Puerto Rico in San Juan. He completed his internship and residency at the University of Puerto Rico Pediatric Hospital in Rio Piedras.

Dr. Jose Padilla is practicing Pediatrics at the Family Health Centers on Medical Lane. ■



BRIAN FEIOCK, M.D.

Dr. Feiock was born in Lakewood Ohio. He received his medical degree at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. He completed his internship and residency at St. Paul Medical Center in Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Feiock will be practicing Gastroenterology/Internal Medicine at 2665 Cleveland Avenue with Dr. Nick Sharma. ■



PHYSICIANS IN THE NEWS

Our appreciation to Drs. Valerie C. Moore and John V. Hugill for participating in the FMA 1992 Doctor of the Day program for the Legislature.

William Harwin, M.D. was elected Secretary of the Florida Society of Clinical Oncology. He has served as Treasurer, Program Chairman and Board Member.

The American Board of Internal Medicine has announced that Mohammad A. Rashid, M.D. and Abusayeed M. Feroz, M.D. have passed the Critical Care Medicine Examination. They are now Certified as a Diplomate in Critical Care Medicine.

Walter H. Harvey, D.O. has successfully completed and passed the subspecialty examination for certification in hematology by the American Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine.

James Reeves, Jr., M.D. is presently on the American Cancer Society State Division Board of Directors. He will serve as Unit President in September.

Valerie C. Moore represented the LCMS at the AMA Annual Meeting in Chicago in June. ■

FLORIDA CAMP FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH
WITH DIABETES, INC.

Dear Lee Co. Medical Society,

On behalf of the campers, volunteers and staff of Florida Camp for Children and Youth with Diabetes, I want to thank you again for sponsoring youngsters from the Lee County area to attend the camp through the McCourt Scholarship. We have received the sponsorship check and the names of the individuals designated and are now in the process of contacting them.

The support of the Lee County Medical Society has been invaluable through the years in assuring that these young people can attend the camp regardless of the family financial situation. Our goals for the camp are simple: provide a fun camping experience for the children in a medically safe environment while teaching proper diabetes management. We want them to realize that they are not limited in their activities and quality of life. You help us to achieve these objectives.

Our thanks and appreciation again. We are looking forward to a rewarding summer.

Sincerely yours,

Rosalie Bandyopadhyay, Administrator

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Please help us to complete our project by the fall. If you have had your picture taken at PBS Studio and have not picked out your proof, call them at 936-8600. Please return your form to the society office if you have not already done so. Thanks for your cooperation to make this endeavor a success. ■

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REPORT FROM HOSPITAL MEDICAL STAFF COUNCIL

Robert E. Arnall, M.D.

In May and June of this year, both the FMA Council on Hospital Medical Staffs and the FMA Hospital Medical Staff Section met. This report will focus on the activities of the FMA Council.

In January, 1992 the Hospital Cost Containment Board began collecting physician specific data. The FMA Hospital Medical Staff Council has been monitoring the process. Data to be available to the general public will be admitting physician information concerning length of stay, charges, and payor classification (Medicaid, Medicare, self payment, etc.). In addition, every procedure will be documented, naming the physician performing the activities.

Each quarter the data will be available. There will be no attempt on the part of the Hospital Cost Containment Board to analyze or critique the numbers other than to verify that they are accurate at the 95% level.

The FMA Council on Hospital Medical Staffs is attempting to discover what impact this has had on physicians in other states where this has previously been done.

The release of the first quarter in 1992 is expected to be in September.

Another important activity of the Council has been the development of model bylaws. These are available on request from each county medical society.

The necessity for developing the model bylaws for medical staffs was dictated by some hospitals attempting to increase their control over physicians by modifying and manipulating the medical staff bylaws. Physicians must be diligent in reading their bylaws and cautious in amending them.

The bylaws should include qualifications for staff membership, procedures for applying and renewing privileges and the process for corrective action.

Recently, some hospitals have suggested revising the bylaws into a skeleton document and placing all substantive provisions e.g. appointments, reappointments, etc. into "hospital policies."

This presents grave danger to medical staff rights. Portions removed and placed in "policies" are not a part of the bylaws and, therefore, not subject to medical staff agreement. The Board may then amend these policies independent of the staff.

The dangers here are numerous. Staff members may lose privileges without medical staff hearing or appeal rights. Physicians denied access and privileges will have no due process, despite perhaps, excellent ability and staff opposition to the action.

Beware of statements pertaining to reappointment related to "performance." This is the term that may be used to allow economic credentialing unrelated to quality issues.

Beware of policies that may give the Board unilateral rights to make adverse decisions unrelated to Executive Committee action.

Medical staffs should reject bylaw amendments that will reduce or forfeit the physicians due process rights and inhibit the ability to insure quality.

Activities of the American Medical Association, hospital Medical Staffs Section will be reported later. ■

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U S Fencing Association National Championships**LOCAL PHYSICIANS NEEDED**

The Fort Myers Fencing Club and the Central Division of the USA (United States Fencing Association) will be hosting the USA National Championships, at **Harborside Convention Center on June 5th-12th, 1993**. As we will be bringing approximately two thousand visitors we believe this will be a boost to the Fort Myers economy. In order to hold this event, however, **we must provide a medical doctor on the premises at all times** during the competition. We would like to ask for the help of some of our members to participate in this event as a volunteer medical physician, or perhaps you know of a retired physician who is still licensed and would be available in this regard. The USA is a registered non profit organization and any time given should be tax deductible.

We need you for this exciting community project! Please contact: Stuart Levy, M.D., 334-2256 or Thomas Howson, Fort Myers Fencing Club, 853 Java Plum Avenue, N. Ft. Myers, FL 33903. ■

THE PEOPLE'S MEDICAL SCHOOL

Thad Goodwin, M.D., Chairman, LCMS Speakers Bureau

This spring the Lee County Medical Society was asked to participate in a Continuing Education course called "The People's Medical School", sponsored by Edison Community College. The course was open to students and the general public, and was presented at ECC, beginning March 3 and ending April 7, 1992. A total of twelve lectures were presented by local physicians and healthcare professionals in that period of time. The Speaker's Bureau for the LCMS coordinated all of the lectures, and we would like to thank all of those who participated: Bradley Castellanos, DPM; John Fifer, MD; Sergio Mather, MD; Paul Raskauskas, MD; Stan Schwartz, MD; Alan Siegel, MD; Mark Greenberg, MD; Daniel Schwartz, MD; Ginger Patterson, M.Ed., RD; Paul Yudelman, MD; Robert Schwartz, MD; Jerry Kantor, MD.

The program was felt to be a success, and there are plans to offer it again next year! We all appreciate the efforts of those who help to educate the public on matters concerning their health. Not only is it a valuable public service by itself, but it helps to project a very positive image of physicians at a time when that is needed. ■

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"SMOKE FREE 2000" CONTEST

52 School districts in Florida participated in the "Smoke Free for All Seasons" calendar contest. Twelve statewide winners were selected at a judging contest in Tallahassee. Ms. Amber Campbell of Cape Elementary School won from Lee County.

On Monday, May 19th at the Lee County School Board meeting, Dr. Valerie Moore, President of the Society, presented Amber with a \$100 Savings Bond and a framed picture of her drawing. Calendars with the 12 winning designs will be distributed to all Florida Fifth-grade classrooms for the 1992-93 school year. ■

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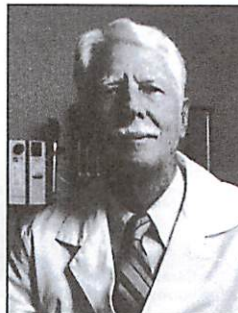
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