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of the MAHONING COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

Volume XLVIII

**APRIL**, 1978

Number 4



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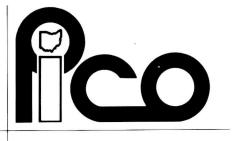
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1978

### From the Desk of the President



# WHO SPEAKS FOR THE PRACTICING PHYSICIANS???

Many articles are appearing in the press dealing with the problem of high doctor fees. They range from editorials (as recently seen in the Saturday Vindicator (March 25, 1978) to reviews by syndicated columnists, to letters to the editor by "concerned citizens." The American Medical Association has received the brunt of the criticism by reporters and concerned citizens alike. Surprisingly, the average individual who himself belongs to a pressure group such as the teamsters, auto workers, steelworkers' unions (more out of compulsion than choice), considers the A.M.A. to be an extremely powerful union of doctors. He is convinced that each practicing physician as a requirement of his practice or licensure *must* belong to the A.M.A. He is totally unaware that barely forty percent of our ranks belong, and we indeed belong out of choice rather than compulsion. If told, he would never believe that seven percent of the physicians practicing in Mahoning County do not even belong to the Mahoning County Medical Society.

Without doubt, the American Medical Association is a potent force in the political arena, working for the good of the patient and the doctor alike. I am amazed at its effectiveness, when one considers that it is the only potent united force representing our profession in spite of the fact that only forty percent support it. I am convinced that if there were no A.M.A. some sort of total care government (federal) program would now long since have been a reality. Without total physician support, however, I think we are only delaying the inevitable. We win a few isolated battles but the outcome of the war seems little

changed from ultimate defeat of our forces.

How would the situation be, if we (all four hundred thousand plus strong) all supported our A.M.A.? Suppose we had the solid unity of the Teamsters, or the United Auto Workers. Would our profession be better off?? I think it probably would. I would never wish mandatory as opposed to voluntary membership. We are one of the last bastions of professionalism. Certainly the school teachers, nurses and other like professional groups have lost, to a significant degree, their professionalism by compulsory unionism.

professionalism by compulsory unionism.

The time is growing late. With every passing day, federal (and state as well) government intervention in the practice of medicine be-

comes a more firmly entrenched reality.

(Continued on Page 94)



# BULLETIN of the Mahoning County Medical Society

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Number 4

The opinions and conclusions expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Editorial staff nor the official views of the Mahoning County Medical Society.

**EDITOR** 

Dean J. Limbert, M.D.

**EDITOR EMERITUS** 

James L. Fisher, M.D.

#### **EDITORIAL STAFF**

Robert R. Fisher, M.D. John C. Melnick, M.D. James A. Lambert, M.D. Jack Schreiber, M.D.

#### **Editorial**

It seems that medicine is under a continuous bombardment of challenges which has produced much frustration among the individual practicing physician. One of the areas of concern is the mounting medical costs and the doctors role in achieving cost controls.

What are some of the factors of causing increase of hospital costs? There are many obvious ones which can be cited, such as, inflation in the general economy, imposition of government mandated programs, introduction of new techniques, and changing hospital utilization patterns such as expanded emergency wards.

Whether we wish to admit it or not, some of our activities contribute substantially to rising costs. All our decisions are important including the medicines we prescribe, the tests we order, the necessity to hopitalize and the type of operation or other treatments.

What can be done to retard escalation of medical costs? The federal trade commission and some members of congress believe an increase in the number of physicians will stimulate competition, especially if these are advertised. Careful studies however, have shown that an increase in the number of doctors would increase the number of services, therefore, it would actually add to the cost. For every new doctor who enters practice his activities result in more than \$250,000 in medical costs yearly. If we multiply this number by 1,500 doctors who enter practice yearly the results are obvious. On the other hand there are ways which doctors can be helpful.

Physicians and medical students should be educated in the value of economizing in the practice of medicine. This is especially true for the community of family physicians who have a great responsibility in caring for patients with incurable medical problems. Medical educators and chief of service should make every effort to acquaint students with the economic facts of medicine as well as the technological ones. We should constantly evaluate the usefullness of various prescribed tests. The elimination of unnecessary tests on a large number of patients is long overdue. We should re-evaluate our age old habits and look more closely to what we are subjecting our patients to and also make certain that what is indicated is really implemented. We should not allow medical students to order series of diagnostic tests

#### **Editorial**

without over-view and concurrence of senior persons, including decisions concerning who is to be placed in expensive intensive care units.

There are some fundamental guidelines in addition which have been

established by the American Medical Association. These are:

1. All physicians including staff and residents should know the hospital rates and all of the costs for diagnostic procedures, such as blood tests and radiological studies performed on their patients.

Physicians should know whether the various test procedures are indicated. They should know the paramaters and accuracy of these tests.

3. The physicians should stimulate hospital administrators to evaluate costs

of supplies.

These above comments and guidelines are only suggestions, a beginning for a dialogue which hopefully will result in the future in costs savings without sacrificing quality of medical care. It is hoped that this ongoing discussion will stimulate some of us to recognize the importance of mounting medical costs. It is our responsibility to involve ourselves with the problems of our community in an attempt to try to provide medical care to as many people as possible which is affordable.

—Dean J. Limbert, M.D., Editor

#### PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL March 14, 1978

The regular meeting of the Council of the Mahoning County Medical Society was held on Tuesday, March 14, 1978 at the Youngstown Club.

Dr. Lambert, treasurer, reported that the business of collecting dues and assessments for 1977 was completed. He announced that 39 members have not yet paid their 1978 dues

have not yet paid their 1978 dues.

A letter from the Ohio State Medical Board was read in which the Board asked for a determination on an ad appearing in the Vindicator. The

matter was referred to the Board of Censors.

A letter from the Healtho-rama chairman, Nancy George, was read in which comments were requested concerning the proposed 1978 Health-o-rama.

A letter was read concerning the scoliosis screening program. The mat-

ter was referred to the Board of Censors.

Dr. Chiu announced that the members of the Osteopathic Relations Committee are: Dr. Abdu, chairman, Dr. Anderson, Dr. Phillips, Dr. Sovik, Dr. Squicquero, Dr. Stanford and Dr. Wiltsie.

Dr. Melnik, chief delegate, announced that the resolution concerning insurers letters to patients which imply overcharge had been sent to OSMA

for consideration by the House of Delegates.

It was reported that plans for the Scholarship Dinner, scheduled for April 13, are progressing nicely, and that there is still room for volunteers to attend the dinner.

Dr. Anderson reported on a recent meeting of the Liaison Committee with the Liaison Committee of the HSA and that a mutually beneficial dis-

cussion ensued.

Dr. Kiskaddon discussed his work with the HSA in regard to getting HSA backing for a proposal that the plaintiff and his attorney in a malpractice suit be required to pay a penality if the suit is determined to be unfounded. He read a resolution to this effect, which he proposed be sent to the OSMA House of Delegates. This will have to be sent as an emergency resolution due to the fact that it comes after the deadline for submission of resolutions. Council agreed to approve the resolution in principle, leaving it up to our delegates to work out the final wording.



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#### **NEWS NOTES**

June 1st has been announced by the Mahoning County Medical Society Foundation as the deadline for receiving applications for loans for medical students this year. Last year, three loans of \$1000 each were made and it is anticipated that a like number will be made this year. Applications are available at the Medical Society office.

The Jan. 1, 1980 deadline for 150 hours of Continuing Medical Education is only one year and eight months away. It is the responsibility of each physician to keep his own record. Both the Medical Board and OSMA have printed logs for this purpose.

Dr. Henry Holden is the new president of staff at Youngstown Hospital Association, with Dr. John J. Turner as president elect, and Dr. Robert G. Warnock, secretary-treasurer.

Dr. John C. Melnick has been certified as a diplomate of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine. Drs. F. W. Dunlea, D. H. Levy and Asher Randall have been recertified for the Board of the American Academy of Family Practice. Dr. George L. River has been certified in the sub-specialty of Medical Oncology by the American Board of Internal Medicine. Dr. David E. Pichette has been certified by the American Board of Urology.

There will be no issue of the *Bulletin* in May. Next issue will be in June. All members are reminded to make plans to attend the Ohio State Medical Association meeting in Dayton, May 7-10.

#### **Classified Advertising**

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#### MORE MEDICAL SCHOOL APPOINTMENTS

In addition to the academic appointments listed in the Jan., 1978 issue of the *Bulletin*, the Northeast Ohio Universities College of Medicine has awarded faculty rank to the following physicians in their respective specialties:

#### Members of Internal Medicine Council

Y. K. Amorn, M.D. Glenn J. Baumblatt, M.D. Masud Bhatti, M.D. Andrew A. Detesco, M.D. Thomas N. Detesco, M.D. Richard Ebie, M.D. Sudershan K. Garg, M.D. J. Gregori, M.D. Shawki N. Habib, M.D. Raul H. Hernandez, M.D. Henry Holden, M.D. Paul W. Ho, M.D. Joungsen Hong, M.D. Sadiq S. Husain, M.D. Michael I. Jacobson, M.D. Nazim Jaffer, M.D. Robert L. Jenkins, M.D. P. R. Lakhani, M.D. William P. Loesser, M.D. Charles H. McGowen, M.D. E. R. McNeal, M.D. James E. Might, M.D. Herbert A. Parris, M.D. Juan A. Ruiz, M.D. I. P. Shah, M.D. James L. Smeltzer, M.D. Warner F. Stanford, D.O. F. Tiberio, M.D. Arthur V. Whittaker, M.D.

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#### Members of OB/GYN Council

Milton Lenhart, M.D. Assistant Professor of OB/GYN

#### Members of Pathology Council

Surjit K. Bal, M.D.
James R. Gillis, M.D.
Frank J. Kocab, M.D.
Alam M. Qadri, M.D.
Ernesto F. Sabado, M.D.

Samuel Zoss, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Pathology Assistant Professor of Pathology Assistant Professor of Pathology Assistant Professor of Pathology Assistant Professor of Pathology

#### Members of Pediatric Council

J. James Anderson, M.D. Narcisco C. Domingo, M.D. Norma J. Hazelbaker, M.D. John R. LaManna, Jr., M.D. Humberto A. Latorre, M.D. Robert A. Wiltsie, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics Assistant Professor of Pediatrics Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics Assistant Professor of Pediatrics Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics

#### SCHOLARSHIP DINNER IS APRIL 13

The annual dinner honoring scholarship in 25 high schools is Thursday, April 13. A list of the scholars is on page 88 of this Bulletin.

#### 1978 ROSTER OF SCHOLARS

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- \*Laura Schulz
- \*David Bittler
- \*John Natoli

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- \*Frank Trimble

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- \*Angeline Stergiou
- \*Thomas Fares
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- \*Eugene Potesta

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- \*Robert Felden
- \*Iohn Scott

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#### SEBRING McKINLEY

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#### SOUTH

Pamela Goodwine

\*Marvin McBride

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- \*Mary Patricia Rousher
- \*Susan Lynn Salopek Robert Humphries

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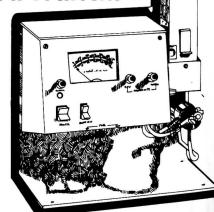
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April 25 M. J. Vuksta

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April 28 S. G. Patton, Jr.

May 3 C. Waltner

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May 7 M. M. Masry

May 9 G. E. DeCicco May 11 G. W. Cook B. Mirvis

May 12 H. S. Banninga W. J. Tims

May 13 E. R. McNeal B. A. Bacani

May 14 W. E. Sovik C. M. Kohli

**May 17** C. C. White

May 18 S. F. Gaylord L. M. Deppisch

May 20 T. F. Barrett

May 21 M. A. Soares

May 23 M. W. Neidus J. W. Tandatnick W. J. Cleary

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A. Calder
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June 8
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G. G. Nelson
E. R. Ebie
S. K. Mishr

June 9 V. C. Kunin J. Noll M. F. Sheridan

June 10 R. W. Parry J. P. Shah

June 12 J. H. O. Bleacher T. S. Bal

June 13 J. G. Guju R. L. Jenkins, Jr. F. A. Resch J. P. Cleary

June 14 R. R. Fisher

June 15 U. H. Boening A. R. Cukerbaum

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### From the Bulletin

#### FORTY YEARS AGO — APRIL 1938

For Post-Graduate Day that year came a group from the Lahey Clinic headed by Dr. Frank Lahey who brought with him neurosurgeon Gilbert Horrax, gastro-enterologist Everett D. Kiefer and internist Elmer C. Bartels.

It was our eleventh annual meeting and exceeded all others in attendance, perfection of arrangements and excellence of program. Hundreds of physicians came from western Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Cleveland to fill the Ohio Hotel ballroom. Our members were very proud and were bragging that we rivaled the convention of the Ohio State Medical Association. Credit was given to James Birch, John Noll and Lou Deitchman who headed the committees.

Gordon Nelson had a leading article on "Atypical Acute Appendicitis" describing the variations in symptomatology in the very young and the very old. He stressed the importance of history and physical examination rather than laboratory tests and urged early operation in case of doubt instead of

"wait and see"

New members that month were S. D. Goldberg and Harlan McGregor. R. B. Poling and C. S. Lowendorf were in St. Elizabeth's Hospital for appendectomies. Allan Altdoerffer and John Noll were on the sick list.

#### THIRTY YEARS AGO — APRIL 1948

Post-Graduate Day brought a group from the University of Illinois: John B. Youmans, Dean, Willard Ö. Thompson, Robert W. Keeton, Eric Oldberg and John T. Reynolds. There were clinics at the hospitals in the morning and general sessions afternoon and evening at the Ohio Hotel. Chairman Ondash was a busy man. The tradition of good weather for Post-Graduate Day was broken by a heavy downpour. There was a rival meeting in New Castle but visitors came here from twenty-two surrounding towns

and the attendance was well over three hundred.

Dr. W. W. Ryall wrote about his early years in Medical practice. He started in country practice in 1898 when there were no improved roads, no automobiles, nothing but horses and good legs to carry him around. Many days he walked 25 miles cutting across fields and climbing fences, always trying to hit certain houses at mealtime where he knew the food was the best. There was only one phone in the town, in the hardware store. He usually started the day at 6:00 A.M. but many calls were made at night because the farmers were too busy in the daytime to drive to town and tell him to come. He said it had been a grand life.

The Mahoning Chapter of the American Academy of General Practice was formed in Youngstown. Dr. J. C. Vance was the first President, G. E. DeCicco was Vice-President and David Levy was Secretary. Paul Davis of Akron was the first National President. Today there are chapters in every state and a \$300,000 headquarters building in Kansas City. Members are required to belong to their component County Medical Society and take a

prescribed amount of post-graduate study every year.

New members that month were: Arnoldus Goudsmit, William Newcomer and James Patrick.

#### TWENTY YEARS AGO — APRIL 1958

President Detesco said that fatigue causes impairment of judgment and clear thinking. Doctors should not be pushed beyond their endurance where they will not be efficient in making decisions affecting health or life of their patients.

Editor Morris Rosenblum wrote, "This is Cancer Week . . . and how

helpless we feel in the treatment of this appalling malady".

Membership passed the 300 mark and entitled us to another delegate to the O.S.M.A. Charles Stertzbaugh was made the new delegate.

New members were: Active: D. D. Krongold, I. Werbner, R. L. Thomas, B. Taylor, J. P. Kalfas, and E. J. Gluck. Junior Active: A. Lutz. Intern:

Elias Saadi, J. H. Fulks, W. T. Martin.

An important article by James Smeltzer hailed the work being done here on Cancer Control. He described both treatment and early detection. He urged physician participation in the use of the Papanicolou method of early detection of uterine cancer being done by Dr. Winifred Liu Mutschman who pioneered the method here.

#### TEN YEARS AGO — APRIL 1968

Dr. John E. L. Keyes passed away at the age of 81, after only one year of retirement. He was a friendly and kindly Opthalmologist, a consultant at Youngstown Hospital Association, Crile V. A. Hospital and the University Hospital in Cleveland.

Dr. Ray Scheetz, in his third year as president of the medical staff at St. Elizabeth Hospital, was elected to the advisory board of the hospital.

Dr. Barclay Brandmiller was honored by the Wittenberg University Alumni Association. He was awarded the Alumni Citation at the annual Founders Day dinner.

Dr. L. P. Caccamo was a delegate from the Ohio Society of Internal Medicine to the American Society of Internal Medicine at the annual meet-

ing in Boston, March 29-31.

Dr. Leonard M. Green returned from military service to resume his practice at 548 Gypsy Lane. He was stationed two years at Valley Forge General Hospital as Chief of Neurology Service with the rank of Captain. While there, he became a certified Diplomate in Neurology, was appointed to the neurology staff at Hanhemann Medical School, was Chief of Electromyography Laboratory at Hanhemann Hospital and presented a paper before the Philadelphia Neurological Society entitled, "The Kleine-Levin Syndrome: A case with Unusual E.E.G. Findings."

Dr. James Fulks lectured on "Aseptic Tracheotomy Care" at a meeting of the Ohio Chapter of The American Association of Inhalation Therapists in Youngstown. Dr. Fulks is Director of the department of Inhalation Therapy

at Youngstown Hospital Association.

New members that month were Dr. John R. Madison and Dr. Anthony Pannozzo.

—Robert R. Fisher, M.D.

#### WHO SPEAKS FOR THE PRACTICING PHYSICIANS???

(Continued from Page 78)

Excuses abound, by our colleagues, that the A.M.A. is a stone age relic and they either have cancelled their membership or have never joined because of this policy or that, with which they do not agree. These dissidents who themselves represent an overwhelming majority sit back and criticize

the A.M.A. but I have yet to see them propose a viable alternative.

We all know the maxim "In unity there is strength". Conversely, in disunity there is weakness and vulnerability. Financially, the practicing physician in general represents one of the most affluent segments of our economy. Professionally he still enjoys a significant degree of freedom (albeit this is daily being constricted). His "tunnel vision", however, does not permit him to see that we must have one single, powerful organization like the A.M.A., that speaks for us in the national arena that is rapidly becoming inundated by a morass of powerful pressure groups. Who, indeed, speaks with a powerful voice, for the independent, practicing physician??

—GEORGE H. DIETZ, M.D. President



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