

Board Briefs  
*March 26, 2007*

CMA sponsored MedMail, eMedFax program: Mr. M. Arif Shaikh explained how the program works. It is a secure way of communicating with patients, physicians, laboratories and pharmacies. CMA owned MEDePass authenticates the identities of licensed healthcare professionals and their staff. These identities are expressed electronically as digital certificates. MedMail converts and stamps every document authenticating the date of receipt and providing sender and receiver the status of the messages as it travels from sender to receiver. It contains anti-spamming and anti-phishing architecture and will interface with popular mail server software. There is data backup and storage systems for continuity and recovery. MedMail is compliant with the web consulting requirement and will allow physicians to bill using CPT Code 0074T.

SBCMS Alliance President Linda Letson invited the board to attend the SBCMS/SBCMS-Alliance dinner and program at 6:00 pm on April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Matich Conference Center, St. Bernardine Medical Center, San Bernardino. The guest speaker, Dr. Richard Moersch, has participated in a multitude of adventures while serving as a tour physician for the American and National Geographic Societies. Reservations are \$25 per person and can be made by calling the SBCMS offices by April 13<sup>th</sup>. She also encouraged the board to contribute to the Maxine McAllister Health Careers Scholarship Fund. All proceeds go directly towards nursing scholarships. Scholarships are awarded to students working towards a career in registered nursing who will work in San Bernardino County. Donations are tax deductible.

IEHP's total membership is 304,377; Medi-Cal enrollment is 252,035 with 41,821 enrolled in the Healthy Families program. Healthy Kids enrollment for San Bernardino County is 4,732; Riverside's Healthy Kids is 4,332. IHSS enrollment is 1,097. Dual Choice Medicare is 360. The February auto assignment was 38 percent.

Legislative report: A record number of bills have been introduced aimed at redefining scope of practice. 2007 continues to unfold as a year of major health care reform in California. Varied special interest groups are positioning themselves to capitalize in this environment of change. The reform proposals call for a dramatic overhaul of the current system. These reforms will open the window for broad range discussions on changing the system by providing greater access and containing the costs of health care. At present there are six bills aimed at expanding the scope of practice. It is estimated that there may be ten or more such proposals by the end of the legislative year and each of these measures argues that allowing the expansion of scope will reduce the cost of health care. CMA will mount a vigorous effort to defeat these proposals and protect patient safety.

Ms. Stratton presented the 8-month financial report for period July 1, 2006 through February 28, 2007. Total revenue is \$416,896. Total expenses are \$320,996. Excess revenue over expenses is \$95,900 after depreciation. The board approved the financial report as submitted.

Doctor Weinstein, Chair of the Historical Committee, encouraged the board to attend and support the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Medical Museum Open House and 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on April 29 at 2 pm.

Historically CALPAC sustaining membership has included AMPAC membership, which by mutual agreement \$50 from each \$150 CALPAC sustaining membership was forwarded to AMPAC and those members automatically became AMPAC members. As a result of AMPAC's new interpretation of

federal law, CMA is no longer able to continue offering AMPAC membership to CALPAC sustaining members. Since AMPAC will no longer receive its membership revenue through CALPAC, they will directly solicit PAC membership from AMA members residing in California.

CALPAC will work with the local medical societies to sponsor district fundraising events for local legislators. They will focus their attention on those who currently serve in influential positions and those friends of medicine whose political careers appear to include elective office beyond service in their current positions.

SBCMS student representative, Brook Nightwalker, introduced Erin Schmidt to the board. Ms. Schmidt will replace Brook when her term ends in June 2007. Ms. Nightwalker reported the medical students are planning a pool-side social event for young physicians, residents and medical students in late spring or early summer at a private home. They plan to distribute the new SBCMS Practice Resource Guide. This will give non-members an opportunity to become more informed about SBCMS.

The 2007-2008 appointments to CMA Standing Councils and Committees were provided to the board for approval. Current term expires in 2007 at the conclusion of the CMA House of Delegates. The board approved the appointments as submitted.

The SBCMS Board approved the new SBCMS Practice and Resource Guide that will replace the existing "New Office Checklist." The new document will be posted on the SBCMS website, will be available for members to download, and SBCMS staff will copy and mail it to those requesting copies.

Net revenue from the SBCMS' Medical Student Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction held on March 4<sup>th</sup> at Sayaka's Japanese Restaurant in Colton totaled \$5,491. Proceeds from the event will allow the medical students to continue to provide numerous community service projects including a medical student run clinic for students and the community.

Nominations were solicited for the 2007 Outstanding Physician Awards and the Outstanding Citizen Award that will be presented at the June 21, 2007 Installation of Officers program at the Mission Inn. The deadline to submit nominations is April 20.

SBCMS members are encouraged to participate in the Society's 2007-2008 committees. Those interested in serving on a committee should return the committee form to SBCMS by April 27.

The Executive Committee and Board of Directors approved a new award - "the SBCMS Presidential Award". The award will be added to the slate of awards given at the annual installation of officers meeting. The award will be chosen by the sitting President, approved by the Executive Director, and consulted with the Executive Committee. The award will be kept confidential until the evening of presentation and will not necessarily be given out every year or necessarily to a physician. Doctor Walters provided the board with criteria based on outstanding service and the SBCMS mission statement. The board approved the criteria as submitted.