



Leonard Howard MD



Leonard R. Howard MD

I am now able to speak to you from the viewpoint of riding on the back of the tiger rather than just anticipating what it might be like. We have several issues that are keeping us busy at your HMA headquarters. As for the new provider agreement with HMSA, we are actively exploring several courses of action to resolve some of the problem areas. The important point about this is that the HMA is unable to give you a recommendation as far as your signing or not signing the contract. We have made arrangements for you to

obtain legal help in reviewing the contract in order to make an informed decision. Call the HMA headquarters to obtain information on this help.

I met with Mr. Robert Nickel and Dr. Richard Chung at HMSA to follow up on resolution #9 passed by the house of delegates concerning the physician incentive bonus payments. After listening to their full presentation of the program, it does not sound as bad as we had first thought. We have made arrangements for informational briefings at HMA headquarters to fully explain the program and answer your questions. We will send the issue to the HMA/HMSA Claims Review Committee for their review and recommendation.

I have completed the restructuring of the committees to put priority where our mission statement dictates. The less active committees will be turned into either subcommittees or ad hoc committees depending on their activity in the past year and how they relate to the mission. Four large umbrella committees have been established: Legislative, Communications, Peer Review, and Public Health. These committees will include in their membership the chairs of the sub and ad hoc committees assigned to them. Committee chairs will report to Council on a periodic basis, and to the Executive Committee with any priority items.

Council will meet every other month, and an expanded Executive Committee made up of the usual Executive Committee plus the five county presidents will meet on the alternate months for extended informational exchange. My goal is that every member of the HMA knows what their organization is doing for them. In knowledge their is strength and unity. Lack of knowledge sows dissent: thus the push for disseminated knowledge of our activities. Liberal use of fax will keep the leadership up to date with what is going on, and they will be able to brief their colleagues at the local level. All communications from the members in the front lines will be much appreciated. Together we can become the representational and advocacy force that we dreamed of in the reorganization discussions.

An Island Sort of Christmas

Sunny days with blustery wind
And magnificent surf the currents send.
Verdant mountains that twinkle at nights
Like oversized fur trees with Christmas tree lights.

But here on this island the peaks are too low
For God's winter blessing—the gift of fresh snow!
Still deep in these tropics we're fantasy locked—
There's snow on store windows and most trees are flocked.

There are Santas at malls all dripping with sweat
Wrapped in their furs like all Santas you've met.
The people are buzzing in their skins of all hues
Excited for the season that brings us good news—

Good news of a Babe and the message of peace,
And a message of hope that never will cease—
So here in Hawaii, by day and by night
It's an island sort of Christmas—and we do it up right!

*Robert S. Flowers
from Paiko Peninsula*

Christmas Ballet

I stopped the car for Susan to shop
At the autoteller...and out she hopped.
I glanced away while she worked the machine
To study the mountains, covered in green.

My eyes returned to the front of the bank
Where she took her cash and murmured a "thank"
For modern technology which never sleeps,
And gives back on holidays, the money it keeps.

She smiled as she turned to approach the car,
But such as the winds here in Christmas are -
They lifted her hat with its embroidered sash
And she lunged for it using the hand with the cash!

Those winds who targeted first her hat,
Seized on that handful of bills stacked so fat!
They swirled in the air as high as the roof—
Reminiscent of movements in a *Keystone Cops* spoof!

She looked like a puppy, snapping at flies,
Grasping for "twenties" espied by her eyes.
Leaping and jumping in a comic ballet
A scene I'll remember 'til I'm old and gray.

Pirouettes, and toe stands, arabesques, swan dives
Fouettes and entrechats, unusual for wives.
Then all of a sudden the wind stilled its force,
But the "twenties" recovered were deficient, of course!

A lone one was missing: I joined in the search,
Scouring the shrubs and the trees for a "perch"
At last we found it - But I really must say...
I'd surely have paid it...for that Christmas Ballet!

*Robert S. Flowers
Honolulu, Hawaii*



Letter to the Editor

**Jon M. Portis MD
President of the Hawaii
Ophthalmological Society**

Congratulations on publishing the two recent "Special Issues on Ophthalmology." I am sure these issues will be read thoroughly and even kept as a reference by your many readers. Thanks again for contributing to ophthalmology in Hawaii.

Thank you for Christmas Joys

For trees to climb
And words that rhyme
For pools to splash
And clay to mash
For balls to kick
And berries to pick
For piles of leaves
And Christmas Eves
For frozen ponds
And snowy fronds
For spills and thrills
On powder hills
For twinkling lights
And shiny brights
For Christmas treats
And cookies to eat
For stars in space
And Saving Grace

We thank you, God.
Amen.

*Robert S. Flowers
Honolulu, Hawaii*

**Someone out there
needs your help...
volunteer**

**THERE'S NOTHING
MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD**

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