

Norman Goldstein MD

Report to the 140th HMA Annual Meeting

October 17-10, Kauai, Hawaii

The Hawaii Medical Journal is alive and doing well! Despite the "thin" issues in 1995 and 1996, because of budgetary restraints, we have had some very special issues.

In 1995, they included April—**Medicine, Law and Bioethics**, May—**Fred Reppun Memorial issue**, June—**Fred Gilbert Festschrift**, July—**Military Medicine in Hawaii**, November—**History of Medicine in Hawaii**. In 1996, the March Special issue was dedicated to **Vog** and the September issue to **Domestic Violence**. A special issue in December will deal with **Death with Dignity**.

Thanks to the Guest Editors for these issues: S. Y. Tan, MD; Bob Nordyke, MD; Ben Berg, MD; John Breinich, MS and Al Morris, MD; and the 1996 Guest Editor: Florence Chinn MD.

The reference staff of the Hawaii Medical Library has graciously continued to prepare our invaluable Index to the Journal.

Our regular columns by Russell Stodd MD and Henry Yokoyama MD continue to be very popular, according to the Readers Survey done in October 1995. Because of our limited funds, the manuscript pages as well as some of our other regular columns had to be kept to a minimum.

We published 80 manuscripts in 1995 and 36 from January to October 1996. Many thanks to our 157 Peer Review Panel members which were listed in the January 1996 issue (page 5), our hard-working staff, Carol, Becky and Noreen. Jan Estioko worked with us for eight years, but is no longer with the Journal. Dietrich Varez' art continues to give us a very "Hawaiian" feeling to our covers, and Pacific Printing and Publishing continues their excellent services delivering the Journal on time, every time.

Our major problem is financial. For many reasons, we are not getting enough advertising income; hence, "thin issues." **Members can help by suggesting drug company representatives, car sales people, bankers, etc. who should contact the HMA office and take out ads.** A physician's business card, referral page is also planned. The Journal is very highly respected by the media in Hawaii. We also became a member of the Hawaii Publishers Association in 1996.

The Journal must continue publishing, not just for the members/readers, but for the continued prestige of the Hawaii Medical Association.

Euthanasia Conference—Denver

The Hemlock Society will sponsor its Ninth Annual Euthanasia Conference on November 8 and 9, 1996 in Denver, the new home of the Society. (A report of the conference will appear in the December issue of the Journal—The Special issue on Death with Dignity.)

Hemlock Hawaii hopes to have established members as well as new members attend. For further information, contact:

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The Journal welcomes Letters to the Editor on this subject as well as any of our articles.

Carl W. Lehman MD

EUREKA! The HMA now offers to its members, the financial management expertise to manage retirement plans by a corporation (SEI), who in the past accepted only accounts of 250 million dollars or larger. Through the HMA, members may use SEI to manage their retirement plans. There is still a \$150,000 minimum requirement, but that is achievable by most doctors after contributions for a number of years. The cost of management fees through this large organization is less than half of what most of you are paying to brokers at this time, to manage your retirement fund investments. The savings from these lower fees will pay for your HMA, the AMA dues, with personal savings to the HMA member. This action by the HMA resulted from Dr "Len" Howard's efforts in finding this opportunity for the HMA. For more detailed information on this project, please read Dr Howard's message in the forthcoming Hawaii Medical Newsletter.

The HMA held a 1-1/2 day Strategic Planning session in August 1996, facilitated by the AMA's vice-president Strategic Planner, Mr Bruce Balfe. We derived at a consensus to focus on assisting members with financial and management problems in their practices.

In addition to the above project, we initiated two other activities this year which may greatly benefit members.

1. Central verification of credentialing is now available through the HMA to decrease the amount of forms required of you to complete for each hospital and managed care group that participates with us.
2. Our attorney, Lisa Tong, will critique contracts submitted by third party insurance companies, manage care organizations, hospitals, etc. and provide legal information (not legal advice) to our members.

We believe that the above tangible activities provided by the HMA more than offset the members annual dues. I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities. I also ask that you support the AMA which has been most successful in influencing the language and passage of many bills through the Congress this past year. The HMA has been politically active in our state legislative activities this past year and plans to maintain our active presence at next year's Legislature through our Analyst (better than a lobbyist) who represents us at all times during the Legislative session.

As my term of Presidency for the HMA is nearing completion, I wish to express my deep appreciation to the membership for the honor and privilege you have given to me to preside over this most prestigious organization.

This my last message has been the most difficult for me to write, not because of lack of topics, but because of the multitude of activities and subjects that we address in organized medicine.

Mahalo and Aloha—

Thanks to Lori Arizumi of the Hawaii Professional Media Group for helping the Journal with our advertising for many years. Lori now represents the Hawaii Dental Journal.

Welcome on board Michael Roth and Frederick Berg of Roth Communications.