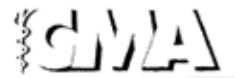




North Coast Physician



In This Issue:

| | |
|---|----|
| CMA President Message, Ruth Haskins, M.D. | 4 |
| <i>"Our Strength Lies In Our Rich Diversity"</i> | |
| In My Opinion, Luther F. Cobb, MD | 5 |
| <i>"Acting Presidential "</i> | |
| Open Forum, George Ingraham, M.D..... | 6 |
| <i>"Whatever Happened to General Hospital?"</i> | |
| Open Forum, Ruby Bayan, M.D..... | 7 |
| <i>"Waterfront Recovery Services"</i> | |
| <i>"UC Davis Precepting Program Offers New Opportunities"</i> | |
| 2018 Proposed Slate of Officers/Directors/Committees | 8 |
| Welcome New Physicians | 10 |
| Coming, Going and Moving Around | 10 |
| Social Calendar | 10 |
| Public Health Update, Donald Baird, M.D..... | 12 |
| <i>"Strain of RB51 Brucella From Raw Milk"</i> | |
| Lawsuit Fights "Existential Threat" to Medical Staff Gov. | 13 |
| NORCAL Risk Management | 14 |
| <i>"3 Steps to Responding to Negative Online Comments"</i> | |
| HDN Tattler | 15 |
| Welcome Medical Students | 16 |
| Continuing Medical Education / Grand Rounds Calendar | 22 |
| Classified Ads | 23 |

EDITORIAL & PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Luther Cobb, M.D.
Emily Dalton, M.D.
Jennifer Heidmann, M.D.
George Ingraham, M.D.
Stephen Kamelgarn, M.D. "Guru"
Scott Sattler, M.D.
Erik Weibel, M.D. - Webmaster

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Penny E. Figas

CONSORTIUM COORDINATOR

Terri Taylor

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Timothy Dalsaso, M.D. PRESIDENT
Kelvin Vu, D.O. PRESIDENT-ELECT
Stephanie Dittmer, M.D. SECRETARY/TREASURER
John Nelson, M.D. PAST PRESIDENT
Tin Botzler, M.D. DIRECTOR
May Hong, M.D. DIRECTOR
Kendra Iskander, M.D. DIRECTOR
Courtney Ladika, M.D. . DIRECTOR
Join Luh, M.D. DIRECTOR
Diana Yandell, M.D. DIRECTOR
Donald Baird, M.D. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER
Warren Rehwaldt, M.D. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER
Alison Palacios, D.O. EASTERN DISTRICT
Kelly Kinsley, M.D. NORTHERN DISTRICT
William Carlson, M.D. CMA DELEGATE
Corinne Frugoni, M.D. CMA DELEGATE
Timothy Dalsaso, M.D. CMA DELEGATE
Courtney Ladika, M.D. CMA ALT. DELE
Join Luh, M.D. CMA ALT. DELE
John Nelson, M.D. CMA ALT. DELE
James Cotter, M.D. CMA DIST. X TRUSTEE

Cover Photo
"ABANDONED RAILROAD BRIDGE AT MARSH"

The Editorial and Publications Committee encourages our member's comments for publication. Please submit electronically prior to the 15th of the month preceding publication. hdcnms@sbcglobal.net

North Coast Physician is published monthly by the Humboldt-Del Norte County Medical Society, 3100 Edgewood Road, P.O. Box 6457, Eureka, CA 95502. Telephone: (707) 442-2367; FAX: (707) 442-8134; E-Mail: hdcnms@sbcglobal.net Web page: www.hdcnms.org

North Coast Physician does not assume responsibility for author's statements or opinions; opinions expressed are not necessarily those of North Coast Physician or the Humboldt- Del Norte County Medical Society.

Acting Presidential

Luther F. Cobb, M.D.



For a bit over a year, Penny has been gently prodding me to pen a few remarks about the experience of being President of CMA. I have to say that it has been one of the highlights of my professional career to have had the opportunity to serve my fellow physicians and the public we serve in that capacity.

For 10 years, I was a member of the seven-member Executive Committee of CMA, the members of which are the current and immediate past Presidents, the President-Elect, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees, and the Speaker and Vice-Speaker of the House of Delegates. Of course, each of these persons also have the individual roles assigned to their offices. The EC meets at least monthly, usually in person in Sacramento or occasionally in conjunction with Board, House of Delegates, or other meetings of the Association. This body performs the day to day direction of the 75 or so employees of the Association, who carry out a wide variety of tasks, most of which I think are "below the radar" of the average County Medical Society member.

For example, in Dustin Corcoran we have a CEO/Executive Vice President who really is the envy of all other advocacy organizations in the State. He is a bright, articulate, and very well-connected player in the Sacramento sandbox. He has the ability to figure out directions of political and regulatory currents and poise CMA to meet these challenges in a direct and effective way.

Perhaps the best example of this was the battle over Proposition 46. It seems a long time ago now, but this was without a doubt the gravest threat to the viability of medical practice in this state. For a short bit of background, since the mid-70's, California has been recognized as the leader in medical malpractice reform with

the institution of MICRA, the Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act. I won't review the various provisions of the act (passed under first Jerry Brown administration!), but it stabilized a very unstable and dangerous malpractice litigation situation that threatened the viability of medical practice. I was a mere medical student at the time, but recall the danger well.

Prop 46 would have increased the "non-economic damages" cap on malpractice awards at least fivefold, with an open-ended escalator clause that would have increased litigation drastically. Whether your practice is solo, group, academic or large group, this would have not only affected the reimbursement and costs of practice, but would have exposed all of us to myriad nuisance suits that anyone who has been sued knows is a major blow to a doctor's equanimity if not sanity.

When this was proposed, initial polling suggested that it had a very high chance of passage, based on the deceptive arguments in favor, and support of many prominent politicians at the State as well as Federal level. This truly execrable law would have also imposed drug testing on the flimsiest of pretexts, with automatic suspension from practice while the process dragged on. It would have been a practice death penalty, even for those who had committed no infraction.

With the dynamic CMA team, we not only turned back what appeared at first to be an irresistible tide, but we defeated the Proposition by a 2:1 majority, which is almost unheard-of in California proposition battles. It did not win a majority in ANY California county, which had never occurred before. This was a truly remarkable outcome, and it was far from inevitable at the onset of the struggle.

This was without a doubt the most impor-

tant and hard fought issue in my tenure, and I'm proud to have been one of those to help push this across the finish line. This took place while I was President-Elect, and in fact I held off taking office for a few weeks so that Dick Thorp, my predecessor in the office, could offer continuity in the advocacy. But it was expertise of both the full-time and contract employees arranged by Dustin that put this over the finish line.

In Janus Norman, we have the best legislative lobbyist in Sacramento, and I have known quite a few in my tenure in office and before. We were able to entice him from arguing for Labor issues. He is also an incredibly bright and articulate man, and also personally charming. He is the one who carries the brunt of the hundreds of proposed bills that are considered every year in the Assembly and Senate. It is almost always the case that if there is a bill that is not seen favorably by CMA, it does not get through the legislative process. Although we tend to get blase' about this at times, it takes continued and dedicated effort, and Janus is the tip of the spear for the effort, aided by a small but effective crew of lobbyists. Sometimes the term "lobbyist" is viewed with disdain, but all that is implied is an advocate that takes the policy that we the physicians of CMA develop through our Council on Legislation, House of Delegates, and Board of Trustees, and use that as a guide to the various proposals that crop

"Presidential" Continued on Pg.18

.....
• ***"Bookmark" - www.cmanet.org/HOD &***
• ***Bookmark: www.cmanet.org/grassroots***
.....

