

Newsletter Date

March 2011

Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces

www.smcaf.org

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SMCAF 2011 MEETINGS

The Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces

*The SMCAF spring council meeting will be held at the Uniformed Services
University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) on*

Friday - Saturday April 15 & 16 2011.

Council Members will be notified separately by letter.

*This year's annual meeting is being held during the 117TH Annual Meeting of
AMSUS November 6 – 9, 2011 in San Antonio, TX. Details will be published as
soon as they become available.*

Mark your calendars and start making plans.

2010-2011 Council

President: Fred A. Cecere, M.D.

Vice President: A. Herbert Alexander, M.D.

Secretary Treasurer: Michael S. Clarke, M.D.

Councilors

David M. Lichtman, M.D.

John M. Chandler, M.D.

Jay A. Johannigman, M.D.

Kevin G. Berry, M.D.

Enrique Mendez, Jr., M.D.

James A. Zimble, M.D.

Harold M. Koenig, M.D.

A. Mason Ahearn, M.D.

Honorary Councilor

Honorary Councilor

Past President

Past President

AMA Representative

Mary Catherine Nace, M.D.

Byron C. Hepburn, M.D.

Delegate

Alternate Delegate

Committee Chairmen

TBD

Thomas G. Peters, M.D.

A. Herbert Alexander, M.D.

Edmund G. Howe, M.D.

Frederic G. Sanford, M.D.

Mary C. Nace, M.D.

William J. McDaniel, M.D.

Ronald R. Blanck, D.O.

A. Mason Ahearn, M.D.

Archives and Medical History

AMSUS Committee

Electronic Media and Communication

Ethical Issues in Military Medicine

Legislative and Legal

Medical Education

Membership

Professional Services

Recruitment and Retention

From The President

To our members:

The world is undergoing rapid change. We have all watched as events have unfolded in Egypt, now in Bahrain, Iran, Libya and other non-democratic governments in the Middle East. The changes are happening faster than any of us could have predicted but as with the collapse of the Soviet Union, governments and regimes often implode suddenly, without any chance for other nations to react swiftly.

The preparedness of our nation to respond to these rapid and often violent changes requires a stable and healthy nation with a military capable of responding as required to protect and defend our nation in all circumstances. The health of those men and women who serve our nation and keep us strong is the responsibility of all of us.

As we have said before, we are committed as a society to the preservation and enhancement of the best Military Medical System in the world. To be creditable in this effort, our Society must retain and expand our ability to influence and meaningfully advise the leadership of Federal Medicine. As Society members, we are proud to be serving our nation and remain dedicated to advancing and promoting the needs of the active Military Medical community.

SMCAF has remained committed to retaining our independent charter and continuing our representation at the AMA to enhance the representation of the Military and Federal Physicians. To do this, SMCAF must retain financial independence. We must continue to collect dues, expand membership and preserve our special relationship to the Surgeons General and the Federal Medical Leadership. To do this, all of our members must continue to support the organization and conduct meaningful gatherings and committee meetings.

We are now about 80 members strong. Our presence at the national meeting has been slightly less than half our membership. This year, the AMSUS meeting will be held in San Antonio TX and will be sponsored by the Veterans Administration. The last two joint SMCAF/Federal Physician meetings in St. Louis and Phoenix have been truly inspirational. Those of you that did not attend the meeting in Phoenix missed discussions of the role of our military in Health Diplomacy and Disaster Response, the first panel of Foreign Surgeons General, the inclusion on our US Surgeons General Panel of the US Public Health Service and an awe inspiring set of presentations on Regenerative Medicine led by Dr. George Weightman and his colleagues from the leading Academic Institutions in the United States. This year, the program, with the support of the Veterans Administration, will focus on rehabilitative breakthroughs for our Wounded Warriors.

Many of our members have failed to respond to multiple dues requests and have not chosen to attend the Annual meeting now held in conjunction with our sister organization AMSUS. At this critical time in our history, we need everyone to remain active members. We need your financial and intellectual support along with your attendance at meetings to sustain our illustrious organization and to secure our future as glorious as our past.

Our ongoing merger with AMSUS is progressing into a tightly cohesive state. The Society can now sustain itself with only a few hundred highly selected dues paying members and remain engaged in the dialogue necessary today to provide impactful representation for our cause. By merging with a prestigious, powerful sister organization like AMSUS, we have become part of a like-thinking, ethically based voice of Military Medicine and have a platform to reach thousands of thoughtful and concerned serving and former military health professionals.

An added value in a time of alignment with the VHA is the membership in AMSUS of hundreds of VHA physicians dedicated to service to our heroes. The membership has voted to invite selected physicians of the VHA with a total of 15 years of Federal service to join our society. These highly selected individuals, along with other AMSUS members selected by the council, will be invited to join. The dues will remain at the fifty-dollar level but all new members will be required to pay a one-time, one hundred-dollar initiation fee to allow us to sustain our administrative secretary and our independent charter and organization. Other than annual dues, there are no new assessments for current members at this time.

The relationship with AMSUS has been crafted and is uniformly supported by the AMSUS and SMCAF councils in a manner that ensures SMCAF's independence. We will continue to function as a physician organization with an independent board and officers. AMSUS has confirmed and lived to their agreement to provide much of the administrative support required to run a modern association. The only requirement is that all members of SMCAF must be members of AMSUS. With the exception of a few holdouts that I will be contacting personally in the next few weeks, we have largely achieved this goal. Both AMSUS and SMCAF have worked closely together to eliminate redundancy, lower expenses for SMCAF, and seek ways to expand our membership.

The Society of Medical Consultants represents the physicians who treat our wounded heroes, take care of their families and return these the "greatest patients in the world" to successful and productive lives. Please continue to support the organization by paying your dues, attending our meetings, and supporting the organization's efforts to survive in this rapidly changing world.

Fred A. Cecere, MD, President
COL, MC, USA (Ret)

Minutes: Annual Meeting, SMCAF, 31 Oct. – 4 Nov. 2010

Annual Council Meeting
November 2, 2010

The council meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m., November 2, 2010 at the Phoenix Convention Center, room 126B. President Fred Cecere, M.D. presided over the meeting. He welcomed the 11 council members present.

Minutes of the prior meeting held in Washington, D.C. were presented. There were no corrections, deletions or additions to the minutes and they were approved unanimously.

President Cecere then presented an overview of the society's status and its transition into a major section of AMSUS, (Association of Military Surgeons of the United States). Dr. Cecere reiterated the points made in his previous presidential letter to the membership. There are presently 81 paid active members of the society, 55 of which are members of AMSUS. In accordance with our agreement with AMSUS, all members of SMCAF will be required to join AMSUS. The AMSUS membership fee is nominal. Members attending the SMCAF annual meeting held in association with AMSUS will need to pay AMSUS meeting registration.

It was noted that eight new members were joining SMCAF. They have been nominated proposed by Dr. Lichtman, Dr. Ahearn, Dr. Cecere, Dr. Anderson, Dr. Alexander, Dr. Waller, Dr. Swan and Dr. McDaniel. The eight new members were all MDs. In alphabetical order the new members were Dr. Baltazara, Dr. Michael Bass, Dr. Brian Gamble, Dr. Lotuaco, Dr. Thomas W. Travis, Dr. Harry Ward, Dr. James B. Ward, Dr. Michael J. Waszemski, and Dr. Jonathan Woodson. Active membership for these eight applicants was voted positively by the director's.

Under membership, it was also noted four members have moved to

emeritus status. They are Dr. Harold Fauver, Dr. David Burras, Dr. Joseph W. Sokolowski and Dr. Frederick Primich. All four emeritus members were retired. These new emeritus members were approved.

Further, it was noted that there were 11 resigned memberships.

Dr. Cecere discussed plans for the Spring Council meeting to be held in Washington, D.C. Further information on this meeting will follow. It is scheduled April 15th and 16th, 2011 in the District of Columbia.

Discussions were held on the (1) society's changing role and its support of federal medicine. Further discussions proposed, (2) a more efficient organizational structure for SMCAF, (3) an increase in the society's role enhancing graduate medical education within federal medicine, (4) increasing the society's responsibility in overseeing potential problems in the federal healthcare system and (5) the forthcoming federal healthcare reform. It was emphasized that the society will remain exclusively for physicians, MDs and DOs.

Discussion followed on the acceptance of physicians from the Veterans Administration. It was proposed by President Cecere that VA medical physicians who have served for a considerable time be eligible for SMCAF membership. Ten to 15 years experience in the VA was suggested.

Dr. Cecere proposed membership expanded to 200. This is being done by screening the physician candidates from AMSUS and selecting approximately 100 new members to be invited for membership. A one hundred dollar initiation fee was proposed and accepted by the council pending approval at the annual meeting. This fee is required for the viability of the organization.

Dr. Cecere discussed the forthcoming national changes in healthcare and how they would affect the Veteran's

Administration and DoD's ability to provide healthcare to the beneficiaries now and in the future. SMCAF has a vital role to play in helping shape the future not just of military medicine but of Federal Medicine.

Levels of SMCAF membership were discussed and it was felt that there should be only one level of membership, that being active membership requiring \$50 dues per year. The AMA delegate was discussed. It was felt we should retain our AMA delegate and continue to encourage our members to join the AMA. There was some concern about the percentage of the members of SMCAF who are members of the AMA. The committee did not believe we could require all members to be members of the AMA.

Dr. Cecere discussed streamlining the membership process and strengthening our relationship with AMSUS. Dr. Cecere will call all the present members who are non-members of AMSUS and explain the requirement as a necessary part of remaining AMSUS members.

The executive secretary of the society, Margo Cabrero was asked to step out of the room. A discussion followed on Margo's salary. It was proposed by president Cecere that a second 50% cut in her salary take place due to the financial status of the Society. Mrs. Cabrero returned and indicated she was receptive to this proposal.

Two new members for the council were proposed: Navy Captain Kevin Barry for a three-year term and Navy Captain John Chandler for a two-year term. They were unanimously accepted. General Peach Taylor will not continue on the board. It was proposed that Dr. Ken Swan, the former membership chairman be invited to become the chairman of the Achieves in Medical History and also Dr. Hanover was proposed for chairmanship of the Ethics in Medicine Committee. The Membership Committee would be headed by RADM William McDaniel.

Minutes: Annual Meeting, SMCAF, 31 Oct. – 4 Nov., 2010 Continued

A moment of silence was held for our two deceased members, Dr. Frank Volpe and Dr. Charles R. Mock.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 p.m. after Dr. Cecere outlined the activities to follow on Wednesday, November 3rd when AMSUS sponsors the academic program and luncheon. The Enrique Mendez lectureship will take place at lunch. Also, the Seal Award will be presented. A short business meeting will also be held Wednesday afternoon.

Michael S. Clarke, M.D.

Annual Business Meeting November 3, 2010

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Membership of SMCAF, (Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces), was called to order at 3:20 pm by Dr. Fred Cecere, president.

This business meeting was held during the afternoon of the SMCAF academic sessions November 3rd, Wednesday in the Phoenix Convention Center. Twenty-seven active members were in attendance.

Dr. Cecere reviewed the status of the organization, noting that there were presently 81 active dues paying members. He said it is planned to increase the membership to 200. He noted that all SMCAF members are required to be members of AMSUS.

At present, 55 members are both AMSUS and SMCAF members. Dr. Cecere will contact non-members of AMSUS. The AMSUS dues are \$60 per year in addition to the SMCAF dues of \$50 annually.

The treasury report indicated approximately \$21,000 remaining in the money market funds and \$7,192 in the operating fund. A separate typed

treasury report was disseminated.

It was proposed that there be only one category of membership in SMCAF, the associate category would be eliminated. SMCAF dues will remain at \$50 per year.

The new members of SMCAF will come from membership of AMSUS by invitation.

Dr. Cecere mentioned that Dr. Herb Alexander is the president-elect and that the nominating committee had selected Dr. John Chandler and Dr. Kevin Barry as new Councilors.

He also mentioned that plans are underway for Veteran's Administration physicians to be allowed membership in SMCAF. Membership would be extended to physicians within the VA System. Possibly 15 or 20 years of VA experience would be required for consideration of SMCAF membership.

Eight new members were introduced and approved unanimously. Three members have died and a moment of silence was held for them. Three members will also be moving to emeritus status.

General George Anderson, the executive director of AMSUS reported that SMCAF will continue for a second year as a provisional section of AMSUS. In 2011, SMCAF is scheduled to become a fully functioning Section of AMSUS.

Dr. Cecere introduced the seal award winner, Dr. Ronald R. Blanck. Lieutenant General Blanck received the Seal Award during the luncheon meeting of SMCAF.

Dr. Cecere complimented Dr. William Duncan, the Undersecretary of Health for Quality and Safety of the VA, on his outstanding lectureship, the Enrique Mendez Lectureship sponsored by SMCAF.

Meeting was adjourned and the academic sessions of the society continued.

Michael S. Clarke, M.D

**SPRING COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 15-16, 2011**

The council meeting will begin at 11:00 am until 5:00 pm on Friday and from 8:00 am until 12:00 pm on Saturday. Some discussion will include upcoming AMSUS meeting, AMSUS strategic plan, SMCAF future and recent meetings with quad surgeons.

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW SMCAF MEMBERS

Active Member

Michael Bosse, M.D.
Baltazara G. Lotuaco, M.D.
Harry Ward, M.D.
Jane B. Ward, M.D.
Jonathan Woodson, M.D.
Michael J. Yaszemski, M.D., Ph.D.

Associate Member

Bryan Gamble, M.D.
Thomas W. Travis, M.D.

DUES NOTICE

ACTIVE AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Active Members are physicians who served on active duty in one of the branches of the Uniformed Services of the United States and who have served as Medical Consultants to a component of the Uniformed Services. Physicians in the reserve components who are consultants are also qualified for Active Membership. All active members are required to pay dues in the amount of \$50.00 yearly.

If you have any questions in regard to your membership status, contact the Executive Director at smcaf@usuhs.mil

MEMBERSHIP E-MAIL ADDRESSES

In order to relieve the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter as well as increasing the use of its web site, SMCAF is now sending this newsletter via E-mail. This newsletters as well as past issues are now available on our web site. Please be sure that we have your current E-mail address and of any of those members that you are in contact with

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION CORRECT?

SMCAF

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Fredericksburg, VA
22406

E-MAIL: smcaf@usuhs.mil

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.smcaf.org

Please take the time to notify us of any changes in your mailing address, phone numbers, e-mail address, and on retirement from or termination of Active Duty

E-MAIL:
smcaf@usuhs.mil





The Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces

DUES NOTICE

Michael S. Clarke, M. D.
Secretary-Treasurer

Annual Dues: Member \$50.00 _____ \$ _____

SMCAF Education Fund _____ \$ _____

Please make check payable to SMCAF TOTAL \$ _____

Address Correction: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Specialty: _____

Current AMSUS Member: Yes _____ No _____

SMCAF Members are required to be AMSUS Members by January 1, 2011.

If you are not an AMSUS Member do you intend to join?

Yes _____

No _____ I wish to resign my membership in SMCAF

AMA Member Yes _____ No _____

If yes please supply your AMA Member number _____

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