

***The Florida Legislature -
1992***

***A Year to Remember
Charles D. Williams, M.D.
1991-92 Legislative
Committee Chairman***

The Legislative Committee appreciated the hard work and assistance by the FRS leadership and members. The Committee was very active during the 1991-92 year and many hours of time were spent on activities relating to legislation. Items of concern included the self-referral bill, activity on fee caps, economic credentialing, the 1.5% tax on private radiological offices to fund indigent care, etc.

This year was a very complicated and difficult year legislatively and it was necessary to acquire the services of a lobbyist, Bruce Culpepper, to assist in the above activities. These items were so important on a national scale and affected our radiological practices to such an extent that ACR shared in the expenses of the lobbyist. The FRS is very appreciative of ACR's financial assistance and input from Mr. Tom Greeson and Gary Price. Tom Greeson is the legal counsel and Gary Price is the lobbyist for the ACR.

FRS needs to continue to work with the FMA in the future, but we can no longer depend on FMA to lobby for our specific interests and concerns as

evidenced by the recent past. This has been recognized previously by other specialties such as pediatrics, anesthesia, pathology, etc. These specialties have had their own lobbyists for years. FRS had been one of the few remaining specialties who have not had the benefits of a lobbyist. It certainly became evident this year that our specific needs cannot be met and protected without our own political representation in Tallahassee.

It was recently pointed out by the ACR Bulletin that the future of radiology will depend on our input into legislation on the state level. The future is becoming more complicated with the legislators wanting to place fee caps on imaging services, hospitals wanting to develop economic credentialing, the Governor wanting to tax our offices, etc. It is important that all of us on a ground roots level become involved. It is also important that we continue to have a lobbyist to stay informed and alert us in advance of potential activity relating to Radiology before it occurs. We need to have our input and influence made in the hallways, in the legislative offices, and in the workshops before it becomes a bill and before it reaches the floor. There may be those who would say that we can't afford a lobbyist and more involvement, but actually, it would be more costly in the long run to our practices not to have one. Just one adverse bill

could cost each radiologist every year in the entire state more than what we now contribute collectively toward one lobbyist.

There may be some who might say we're not doing enough. We would encourage those to become active. The FRS needs everyone to be involved financially and also through their physical efforts. A few radiologists this year have spent many hours working on these issues, but we need the help of the entire membership on these crucial matters.

Most radiologists may not be aware that the work of the FRS on most of these legislative items began back in October with meetings in Orlando in October 1991, meetings in Jacksonville in January 1992, and meetings in Tampa on several occasions. The legislative items were addressed in the Capital in Tallahassee from February through June on a daily basis by Bruce Culpepper and Nancy Stewart (FRS Lobbyists), the Legislative Committee, Dr. Roy Maloy, and various members of the FRS's Board. We also had the services of Tom Greeson, legal counsel for ACR, and Gary Price, lobbyist for ACR, who spent a week in Tallahassee. Larry Muroff, M.D., gave several well-delivered speeches and answered questions from the Health Care Committee chaired by Representative Elaine Bloom. Other radiologists who contributed this

HCFA May Refine Fee Schedule

The Health Care Financing Administration held a five-day meeting in May to identify and discuss inaccuracies in the Medicare physician fee schedule. Participants were Medicare carrier directors and representatives from physician specialty groups.

In the meeting, held May 18-22 in Baltimore, MD, the relative values for 913 CPT codes were analyzed in a series of 24 separate sessions. The analysis to identify inaccurate relative values was conducted by separate panels. The panels reviewed the comments HCFA received from physician groups on inaccuracies in the values that were in the final HCFA rule issued last fall.

"The process used for these panels was different (not a consensus) from what has been used before and was separate from the American Medical Association Relative Value Update Committee Process," said Neal Templeton of Birmingham, AL, Chairman of the American College of Radiology Commission on Economics.

The results of the individual panels will be discussed and finalized in July. Refinements identified by the panels will be published in the Federal Register in September or October and will be effective January, 1993.

(Excerpt from June 1992 ACR Bulletin)

FRS Winter Meeting

Keep your calendar open! The 1993 FRS Winter Meeting, "Clinical MRI," is scheduled to be held January 30-February 6, 1993, in Vail, Colorado. A brochure announcing the course will be sent to you shortly. In the interim, if you require further information, please contact the Committee on Educational Symposia at 800-338-5901.

FMA Resolution on Interpretation of Radiologic Diagnostic Studies

A resolution asking the FMA to encourage hospital medical staffs to not require an independent interpretation of a radiologic diagnostic study when the interpretation does not contribute to the management of the case was discussed at the 1992 FMA Annual Meeting. The Reference Committee heard much testimony against the proposal and recommended against the adoption of the resolution, primarily due to efforts of FRS President, Richard Cavanagh.

The FMA House of Delegates accepted the recommendation of the Reference Committee and voted to defeat the resolution. Rumors are, however, that the sponsors of the resolution intend to try again.

Thanks to the Florida Radiology Business Managers' Association (RBMA)

Many thanks to Elaine Sarbeck, 1992-93 President of Florida RBMA, and to the members of the RBMA who have contributed their time and efforts during the 1992 legislative session.

On the last day of the last session (June 30, 1992), the FRS Executive Director's Office was notified of a temporary restraining order regarding the designated health services fee schedule contained in the Patient's Self-Referral Act. The fee schedule was to take affect on July 1st.

Ms. Sarbeck and the members of the RBMA assisted this office and the FRS by establishing a "telephone tree" whereby each member she called was requested to call at least five other members, etc. until we were assured all offices were notified by telephone. Written notification, of course, followed. Without their help, many offices may have implemented new fee schedules unnecessarily on July 1st.

Thank you RBMA!!

Miami; L. W. Martin, Sebring; H. B. McEuen, Jacksonville; Cyril J. Marshall, Sanford; J. N. Moore, Ocala; F. J. Payton, Miami Beach; J. A. Pines, Orlando; Gerard Raap, Miami; W. McL. Shaw, Jacksonville; Walter Weed, Orlando; and Howard V. Weems, Sebring.

The Society has met twice each year, the spring meeting held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Florida Medical Association. At that time business sessions have been held, and officers have been elected for the coming year. Also, a fall meeting has been held regularly at some convenient place.

The original plan of having informal round table discussions, reviewing interesting roentgenograms supplied by the members and discussing methods and results of radiation therapy has been followed. The practice has contributed greatly to the development of the Society into a body of high ranking roentgenologists which compares most favorably with similar state organizations.

At the business sessions we have discussed our problems in practice and have appointed committees to work with the national organizations, the state association and the American Medical Association. We have helped to build up the standards of our work until we are now recognized as physicians and consultants in our line, as are

the practitioners in other branches of medicine and surgery, and not merely as technicians to be disregarded and shoved around by the other specialties.

It is fitting at this time, just after the fiftieth anniversary of the discovery of the roentgen ray by Wilhelm Konrad von Roentgen, to review the work and progress of the Society, and we are happy to find that we have made steady advancement. Eleven new members have been added. There are now 2 honorary members, 1 member has resigned, and 1 is on the inactive list. Four associate members also have been added.

We are grieved because of the loss by death of 6 of the chapter members: Drs. Robert Baldwin, Tampa; Cyril J. Marshall, Sanford; James M. Hoffman, Pensacola; J. A. Herring, St. Petersburg; Charles D. Cleghorn, Miami; and bundy Allen, Tampa. At the present time we have 25 active members, 1 inactive member, 2 honorary members and 4 associate members.

Since the war has ended, a number of physicians have located in Florida to practice Roentgenology. We welcome them to our state and give them a hearty invitation to join the Society so that we may all work together to make and keep our organization the best in the brotherhood of roentgen societies. To this task we

pledge our wholehearted support.

100 E. Central Avenue.

Read before the Fifteenth Annual Spring Meeting of the Florida Radiological Society, Jacksonville, April 21, 1946.

Printed in the Journal of the Florida Medical Association, Volume XXXIII, Number 3, September 1946.

Dr. del Regato Wins Award

Juan A. del Regato, M.D., has received the Distinguished Service Award from the Florida Radiological Society at the Spring 1995 meeting in St. Petersburg, Florida, May 20, 1995. Dr. del Regato was commended for his contributions to Diagnostic and Therapeutic Radiology, specifically for leadership in his specialty of Radiation Oncology. Dr. del Regato has led in treatment techniques, equipment design, the education of his peers, and in the education of the community regarding cancer and its treatment by Radiology.

Origins of the Florida Radiological Society

The first organization of Florida physicians interested in x-ray was started by the efforts of Dr. Thomas S. Carrington, Staff Radiologist of the Veterans' Administration Facility at Lake City, Florida. He issued an invitation to all roentgenologists in the state to meet at his hospital on December 4, 1930. At that meeting, it was decided to form a permanent organization and they voted to meet in Orlando on May 11, 1931, in connection with the Florida Medical Association meeting. Sixteen physicians were present at this first meeting of the Florida Radiological Society. They elected Dr. L. H. Cunningham, of Jacksonville, as President. Each physician contributed \$1.00 to defray expenses of the new organization.

The events of these meetings are recalled by Dr. J. A. Pines and read in a paper presented before the Fifteenth Annual Spring meeting of the Florida Radiological Society held in Jacksonville, Florida April 21, 1946.

(following is by J. A. Pines, M.D., Orlando)

Dr. Thomas S. Carrington, Staff Roentgenologist of the Veterans' Administration Facility at Lake City sent an invitation to all the roentgenologists of Florida to meet at the hospital as his guests on Dec. 4, 1930. Those present spent an

interesting and profitable day in a round table discussion of rare and unusual roentgenograms exhibited by Dr. Carrington. A vote of thanks was given the hosts and the hospital for their hospitality.

It was decided at this meeting to form a permanent organization of the roentgenologists of Florida, and we voted to meet in Orlando on May 11, 1931, for this purpose in connection with the annual meeting of the Florida Medical Association. We therefore met at 10 a.m. on that date in the San Juan Hotel. Dr. J. C. Marshall of Sanford was selected as temporary chairman. Several of the physicians had brought along a number of interesting roentgenograms, and we spent the morning and part of the afternoon in a round table discussion of them.

At the afternoon session Dr. Bundy Allen of Tampa, President of the Radiological Society of North America, read a most interesting paper entitled "Roentgen Progress," giving the history of roentgenology from the date of discovery on Nov. 8, 1895 up to that time. He urged us to form a permanent organization here in Florida.

The meeting was then turned into a business session, and the following physicians were elected to effect organization: President, Dr. L. H. Cunningham, Jacksonville; Vice President, Dr. O. O. Feaster, St. Petersburg; and Secretary-

Treasurer, Dr. F. K. Herpel, West Palm Beach. Sixteen physicians were present at this meeting, and each contributed \$1 toward defraying expenses in connection with organization. Those attending were Drs. O. O. Feaster, J. A. Herring, C. J. Marshall, H. O. Brown, J. A. Pines, Thomas S. Carrington, F. J. Payton, L. W. Cunningham, Howard V. Weems, J. H. Lucinian, J. N. Moore, J. W. Jones, E. M. Hendricks, W. Mcl. Shaw, Bundy Allen and F. K. Herpel.

These physicians formed the nucleus of our society. The officers selected were instructed to perfect the organization and write a constitution and bylaws for presentation at the next meeting, to be held Nov. 14, 1931 at St. Anthony's Hospital in St. Petersburg. Dr. L. W. Cunningham, President, presided at the November meeting. The constitution and bylaws were read and adopted, and the organization was completed with the following charter members: Drs. Bundy Allen, Tampa; Robert E. Baldwin, Tampa; H. O. Brown, Tampa; Thomas S. Carrington, Lake City; Charles D. Cleghorn, Miami; L. W. Cunningham, Jacksonville; J. Maxey Dell, Gainesville; Joshua C. Dickinson, Tampa; O. O. Feaster, St. Petersburg; Elliot M. Hendricks, Fort Lauderdale; Frederick K. Herpel, West Palm Beach; J. A. Herring, St. Petersburg; James S. Hoffman, Pensacola; J. W. Jones, Fort Meyers; Joseph H. Lucinian,

(Legislative Committee Cont'd)

year to the legislative activity include Michael M. Raskin, M.D., J.D. (the 1991-92 FRS President), Tom Hawkins, M.D. (Past President of FRS), Kurt Mori, M.D. (President-Elect of FRS), Alan Porter, M.D., Greg Arterburn, M.D., Norm Anderson, M.D., and many others. A special thanks should go to these people who gave voluntarily their time and effort. An extra special thanks should go to Roy Maloy, D.P.A., our Executive Director.

Our concern, hard work, and involvement in the trenches did not just occur the week before the legislative session ended in June as some may think, but was on-going from the beginning of February, to the end of June. It would be impossible to outline all the occurrences, all the ups and downs, all the disappointments, all the heartaches, and all the frustrations which occurred during the legislative sessions.

This certainly has been a difficult and frustrating year in the radiological world in the Florida Legislature. However, we need to anticipate many more difficult years ahead and channel our frustrations and energy into a constructive and effective direction through the FRS with our united support. The stakes have never been higher for Radiologists, our patients and the care we deliver. Unity has never been more important.

Plan Ahead - - -

4th Annual
**Advances in Mid and Low Field
Magnetic Resonance Imaging**
September 10-13, 1992
The Westin St. Francis
San Francisco, California
Physicians, Scientists,
Company Representatives \$495
Residents, Fellows, Military \$395
Nurses, Technologists \$395

6th Annual
Bill Bradley - David Stark
**Practical Magnetic Resonance
Imaging**
October 8-11, 1992
Buena Vista Palace
Disney World/EPCOT Center, Florida
Physicians, Scientists,
Company Representatives \$495
Residents, Fellows, Military \$375
Nurses, Technologists \$375
Category I CME Credit
ASRT ECE Credit

7th Annual
**Economics of Diagnostic Imaging
1992: National Symposium**
October 29-November 1, 1992
Hyatt Regency Washington
Washington, D.C.
Physicians, Scientists,
Company Representatives \$575
Residents, Fellows, Military \$575
Nurses, Technologists \$575
Category I CME Credit
ASRT ECE Credit

Clinical MRI (FRS Winter Meeting)
January 30-February 6, 1993
Vail, Colorado

For further information, contact:
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Tampa, Florida 33682-7241
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813-874-7107 (FAX)

Medicare Gains More Participating Docs

For the first time since the Medicare program started in the mid-1960's, more than half of all physicians have enrolled as "participating physicians." According to figures released by the Health Care Financing Administration, 52 percent of physicians who designated their Medicare status are participating in the program from January 1 through December 31, 1992, a 12 percent jump from last year.

Radiologists ranked third among specialty groups with a 68 percent participation rate, a 10 percent rise over 1991. Only doctors specializing in nephrology, 76 percent, and cardiovascular disease, 72 percent, ranked ahead of radiology.

On a state-by-state basis, Alabama physicians topped the list with an over 83 percent participation rate in 1992. Idaho participated at the lowest level, 22.9 percent.

(Excerpt from June 1992 ACR Bulletin)

FOR SALE

**1992 Annual Spring Meeting
T-Shirts
Special \$10
Medium Size Only
Call (904) 422-1664
Only 8 Shirts Left**

Simpler Times
by Charles Williams, M.D.

Being Southern is a bunch of things. I've heard, learned, and read that being Southern includes humming hymns while shelling peas. "There is nothing different about Southerners - except for the way they think and feel and act. It is knowing where your people came from, how they got there, where they're buried, and who married who - or should've and didn't. It is taking food to a home where there has been a death, even if nobody's hungry or gonna be." I also believe it's sitting in the rocker barefooted on the front porch, drinking Kool-Aid, and talking about Aunt Pearl's colitis and spasm. We used the front porch to get our thinking done.

In rural South Georgia the life of a Southerner centered around the church and eating. I reckon it was 'cause there was nothing else to do. One of the biggest days was homecoming-and-dinner-on-the-ground day with

gospel singing. We would start a way ahead of time getting ready by hulling peas, skinning taters, and dressing chickens.

Finally the day arrived and it would be time to get all dressed up. Mother's and Daddy's religion got tested when it was time for me to put on that starched floured sack shirt which rubbed my neck. Mother would stand in front of the closet and ask, "Should I wear my new one, the blue one or the one I wore last Sun.?" I didn't understand 'cause it was always the same one. Dad would pull out his outfit which was the same one he got married in and went to funerals in. He looked at it like it was a life-time investment. It came back in style every 20 years.

Then it would be time to listen to the preacher talk about fire and brimstone. He made you sweat even in the winter time. His mouth would move faster than a cotton gin at pickin' time. He told us how bad those Philistines were and how we

could expect punishment. I learned early that I wanted no part of wrongdoing but it was hard knowing whether to get dipped in the creek or sprinkled on the head. The water dispute was confusing. A lot depended on which way the Bible was leaning on any given day. Then too there were too many denominations. Some said that Methodists were Baptists who like to drink but were too poor to be Presbyterians. I reckon that's so. The only thing I was real sure of was that the Methodists had better hay rides than the Baptists.

The church service seemed to last a long time. Reckin' the preacher would just forget that we were there to eat. Finally, the last hymn was sung and the last prayer said and the men folks would take to the yard, smokin', tellin' jokes, talkin' 'bout the weather, their crops, and Lord knows what else. There was mixin' and minglin' and the women would rush to the eatin' grounds with their homemade dresses swooshing

***ACR Meeting
American College
of Radiology
Annual Meeting
Sept. 13-16, 1992
Phoenix, Arizona***

***FRS Fall Meeting
Economics of
Diagnostic Imaging
1992: National
Symposium
Oct. 29-Nov. 1, 1992
Washington, DC***

***FRS Annual Spring
Meeting
Memorial Day
Weekend
May 29-30, 1993
Marriott's Orlando World
Center
Orlando, Florida***

(Simpler Times Cont'd)

against each other with an aroma of "toilet water" in the air. They were busier than a bee in a tar bucket.

The food would be strung out all over the man-made tables of chicken wire strung over fence posts with table clothes. Then out of the piles of casserole dishes, pie plates, cake pans and stacks of covered things, came the scrumptious smell of food, reminding everyone why we were there. There were fried green tomatoes, greens and beans, cornbread, corn-pones, dumplings, spam, ham, barbecue goat, pickled peaches, pies, cakes, puddin', blackberry cobbler, corn on the cob with real melted butter running down between the kernels. I had never seen so much food. It jus' kept a pourin' in. There weren't a spare inch left on the tables. You'da think the Pope 'ad died.

The ladies of the church were good organizers. They had arranged the vegetables together the meats with the meats, and all the sweet things in a row. It was amazing how everything fell into place. We all gathered together, feeling a closeness as we stood in line, ready to heap our plates. I reached for a chicken leg and Mother said, "Just hold your taters." I didn't have no taters to hold. About then the preacher called on Uncle Roy to bless the food. Uncle Roy must

have misunderstood 'cause he blessed the sick, the poor, the crops, the people that was there, the people that was not there, our friends, our enemies, other things I can't think of and finally the food.

The women folks would stand back and see whose food got eaten first. Clyde Murphy got hold of Mother's buttermilk biscuits. He punched a hold in the top and poured in cane syrup. He later came over and told her that they were the best he's ever flopped a lip on and they were smackin' good. Mother smiled real big and said, "They're not nearly as good as they usually are."

Everything was good. It was fresh. Right off the stove, cooked from scratch. Nobody would bring a thing they ain't cooked or made with their own 2 hands except for Miss Rosa

who only had one hand. Nobody brought all that store-bought stuff. These people were good people. Hard working people. Honest people.

When it started gettin' pitch black dark, we were egghausted. Just about everybody started leaving. Them that wasn't, all pitched in and helped clean up. It was hard to keep the place lookin' decent with that stuff scattered ever-which-way. But we tried. This day had been a good day. A day you felt close to your neighbors, your friends, and your family. A day you were proud to be a Southerner. A day that you look back and miss and long for simpler times.

FRS Planned CME Meets the Needs of its Members

Last year, through its Committee on Educational Symposia, The Florida Radiological Society provided AIDS education videos and CME credit to its members free of charge as part of the services of the Society.

In order to accurately assess and meet the needs of our members, the Committee would ask that you inform us about your special educational needs.

Please check all that apply:

- Magnetic Resonance Imaging
- Ultrasound
- Mammography
- Socio Economics
- AIDS Education
- Risk Management
- Other:

Please mail the above information to:

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