



CAOG

May 2009

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NEWSLETTER

Central Association
of Obstetricians and
Gynecologists

Message from the President

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Topics of Interest:

- Call for Discussants (insert enclosed)
- Recruit a new CAOG member today for registration rebate
- Unpaid dues kindly requested ASAP
- PTO Fund Donations Solicited
- Hawaii Program and Registration Form enclosed – sign up now

What a fantastic year this has been for the Central. The Grand Wailea Resort is superb in every way and a record number of abstracts were received by the program committee. Chairman David Lewis deserves kudos for his work in year one of a three year term. Since the Program Committee and Board of Directors must select oral presentations and awards on the basis of abstracts rather than full final manuscripts I encourage every author to spend extra time and effort polishing each submission. Impress the judges! **Make hotel reservations today:**

October 25 – 28, 2009 (Sun.-Wed.)

As I think about the future of medical meetings it is clear that the complex relationship with industry is evolving rapidly. Pharmaceutical funding is under great scrutiny and is already being curtailed. Registration fees may need to cover most costs. Less expensive venues seem to be a logical solution yet counterintuitive as it may seem, spectacular locations draw more attendees. The recent CAOG meeting survey supports this viewpoint among our members. While traditional medical meetings may seem less necessary

to younger physicians, the CAOG seems to defy this trend. I'd like to believe our focus on collegiality, original research and old fashioned friendship has much to do with meeting success.

Despite the recession which may be easing, there is no doubt that the future of health care is now looming large on the horizon. Any major changes to the current system will affect all our members, professionally and personally. I urge everyone to stay alert and be actively engaged in the health care debate. You will have to live with the outcome. Physicians are still the key to high quality health care and patients need our advocacy more than ever.



Dennis J. Lutz, M.D.

Dennis Lutz, M.D., President CAOG

<p>Officers Dennis J. Lutz, MD, President Howard T. Strassner, Jr., MD, Vice President Christine H. Comstock, MD, President Elect I Gayle L. Olson, MD, President Elect II Kirk D. Ramin, MD, Secretary-Treasurer David F. Lewis, MD, Assistant Sec.-Treas. Bryan D. Cowan, MD, Past President</p>	<p>Trustees James R. Dolan, MD (2006-2009) Nancy E. Fay, MD (2006-2009) Stephen Fortunato, MD (2007-2010) J. Coffy Pieternele, MD (2007-2010) Diana S. Curran, MD (2008-2011) Carl V. Smith, MD (2008-2011)</p>	<p>Executive Director Rochelle Hickel P.O. Box 3010 Minot, ND 58702 (O) 701-838-8323 (F) 701-852-8733 rhickel@caog.org</p>
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The "Windy City"

Interim Board Meeting Report – Chicago, IL

The Interim Meeting of the Officers and Trustees of the CAOG was held at the Drake Hotel in Chicago, Illinois on May 2, 2009. The Drake Hotel was the site of the very successful 2007 CAOG Annual Meeting and is a top prospect for an encore performance in the future. The 2009 Annual Meeting in Maui, Hawaii is on track to be especially outstanding. The Board of Directors will invite 20 papers for oral presentation and approximately 50 abstracts have been offered poster presentations. Additional poster awards have been added bringing the total of all meeting awards to 11 for 2009.

The longstanding relationship of the CAOG with *The American Journal of*

Obstetrics and Gynecology (Elsevier) was discussed at length. Six CAOG officers also attended the affiliate society meeting with Elsevier and the *AJOG* editors in Chicago. The CAOG has a great citation rate and we are working hard to improve our publication rate. The solution remains more abstracts and manuscripts of the highest quality.

The financial condition of the CAOG has improved substantially in the four years since COMPS was contracted to provide management. While the investment portfolio suffered a 27.6% loss during the 2008 recession, the market is improving. Most importantly the CAOG has a three year reserve, half in cash.

Time is running out to process 2009 new member applications.



Save money too!

New Members Needed

The vitality and future of the CAOG requires new members. If you know someone who should be considered for CAOG membership, either active or adjunct, please encourage them to send in an application. Application forms were mailed with the February Newsletter and are also available online. The deadline is July 3, 2009 for receipt of completed applications in the CAOG office.

Hawaii Meeting Rebate

For each new active member application you endorse, receive a \$100 rebate from your Maui registration fee to a maximum of \$500 !!!
(That equals 5 new members each)

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

IN MEMORIAM

Irvin H. Blumfield, MD
Longboat Key, FL

Charles R. Fish, MD
Rochester, MN

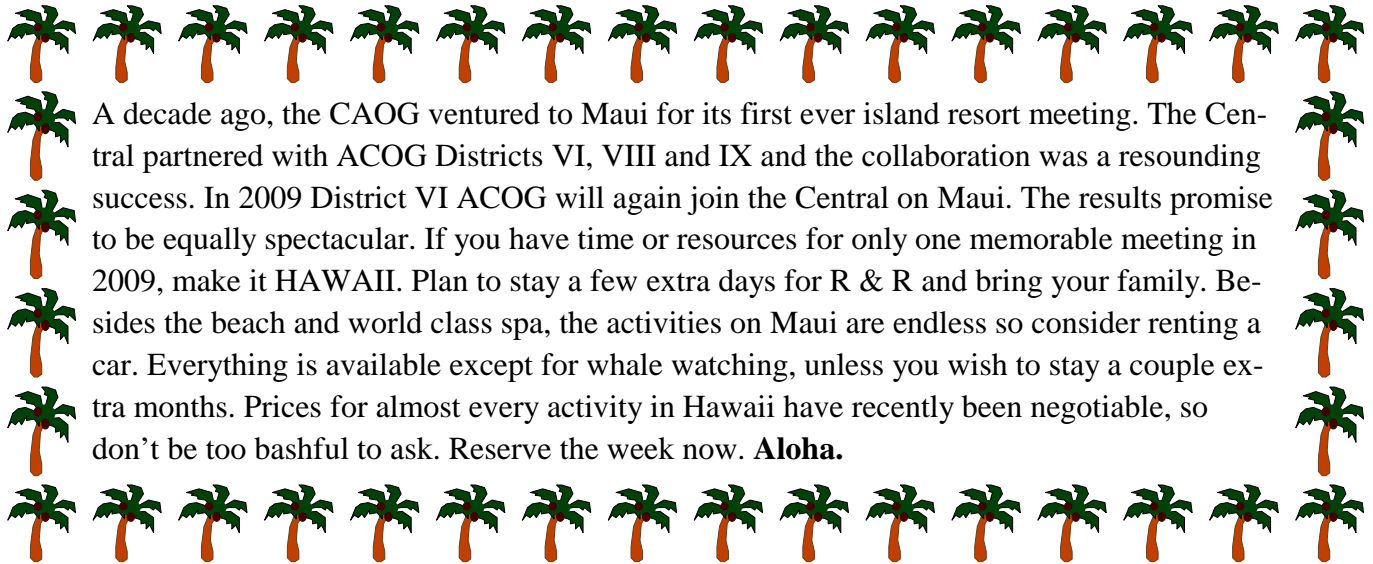
John M. Malone, Jr., MD
Detroit, MI

Please promptly notify the CAOG office of any member deaths so they can be shared.

Provisional Members

Reminder: All provisional active members must attend one of the two Annual Meetings following their election to complete the application process and receive their membership certificate.

CAOG, ACOG and Hawaii



A decade ago, the CAOG ventured to Maui for its first ever island resort meeting. The Central partnered with ACOG Districts VI, VIII and IX and the collaboration was a resounding success. In 2009 District VI ACOG will again join the Central on Maui. The results promise to be equally spectacular. If you have time or resources for only one memorable meeting in 2009, make it HAWAII. Plan to stay a few extra days for R & R and bring your family. Besides the beach and world class spa, the activities on Maui are endless so consider renting a car. Everything is available except for whale watching, unless you wish to stay a couple extra months. Prices for almost every activity in Hawaii have recently been negotiable, so don't be too bashful to ask. Reserve the week now. **Aloha.**

PTO "Endowment" Fund Update

In 1994 the CAOG established the PTO Fund (Presidents-Trustees-Officers) and solicited voluntary contributions from all past presidents, past board members and past officers to supplement the operating funds. As noted in past Newsletters, this endowment fund needs to grow to augment current and future CAOG Award stipends.

Contributions continue to be solicited and donors will be recognized in both the quarterly Newsletter and the Annual Scientific Program (a **\$500.00 contribution would be most appreciated**).

Thanks to these 2009 early bird supporters:

Edward R. Carter, M.D.
Christine Comstock, M.D.
Bryan D. Cowan, M.D.
Stephen Cruikshank, M.D.
Diana S. Curran, M.D.
James R. Dolan, M.D.
Nancy E. Fay, M.D.
Stephen J. Fortunato, M.D.
Norman F. Gant, Jr., M.D.
Melvin V. Gerbie, M.D.
Edwin Humphrey, III, M.D.

Raymond H. Kaufman, M.D.
David F. Lewis, M.D.
Dennis J. Lutz, M.D.
John C. Morrison, M.D.
Gayle L. Olson, M.D.
J. Coffy Pieternele, M.D.
Kirk D. Ramin, M.D.
Joseph C. Scott, Jr., M.D.
Carl V. Smith, M.D.
Howard Strassner, Jr., M.D.

Future Meeting Sites – Survey Results

The membership has spoken. The top meeting sites, excluding those already scheduled, are:

- #1 – Napa, CA
- #2 – Scottsdale, AZ
- #3 – Chicago, IL
- #4 – Albuquerque, NM
- #5 – San Antonio, TX
- #6 – U.S. Virgin Islands
- #7 – Grand Cayman, BWI

2009	Maui, Hawaii (Grand Wailea Resort)
2010	Las Vegas, Nevada (Venetian Resort)
2011	Nassau, Bahamas (Atlantis Resort)



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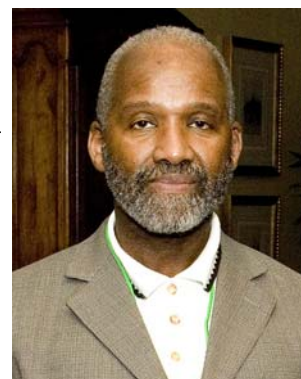
Women's Health Care Leaders

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.CAOG.ORG



Meet Your Vice President

Howard T. Strassner, Jr., M.D. was elected Vice President of the Central Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists for 2008-2009. Born and raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma Dr. Strassner first received his B.A. in Biochemistry from the University of Chicago and then his M.D. at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. He completed OB-Gyn residency at the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center/Sloan Hospital for Women in New York City and fellowship in maternal-fetal medicine at USC/Los Angeles County Medical Center in California. Following subspecialty training Dr. Strassner returned to Chicago where he has risen steadily through the faculty ranks at Rush Medical College/Rush University Medical Center and now serves as Professor and Chairman of the Department of OB-Gyn these past 8 years. Dr. Strassner is well published in the specialty and is both a respected researcher and a frequent invited lecturer in his subspecialty.



Howard Strassner, Jr., M.D.

The recipient of numerous honors and awards, Dr. Strassner was inducted into the Booker T. Washington High School Hall of Fame in Tulsa and received the Living Legend Award from the Life Center Church of God and Christ in Chicago. He is a member of the Society of Maternal Fetal Medicine and the current secretary of District VI American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Suffice it to say that his list of organization memberships and institutional committee contributions is extensive and impressive. Howard was elected to CAOG membership in 1989 and has attended every annual meeting since that date. His support of the CAOG has been unwavering and his contribution of time and talent to the Board of Directors is most appreciated.

CAOG Management Report



Rochelle Hickel
Executive Director

The CAOG office is now in overdrive to make the 2009 Annual Meeting in Hawaii one of the best ever. The Grand Wailea Resort offers a wide variety of amenities and the island cuisine is fantastic! You can chill on the beach, relax at the spa or enjoy Maui to the max. The only problem is you'll need more days for golfing, snorkeling, touring, biking, hiking or Pacific Ocean cruising.

Currently we are trying to collect the last of the 2009 dues and a few owing from 2008. The deadline for new member applications – both active and adjunct – is fast approaching (July 3rd) so please submit these to me promptly to qualify for your active new member registration rebate. The membership committee will be meeting later that month.

Please continue to send updates for e-mails, telephone numbers and addresses on a timely basis. Don't forget to check our website for the latest information as well.

This issue of the CAOG Newsletter contains the Annual Meeting Information, Call for Discussants, Preliminary Program and Registration Form. Maui has something for everyone and the Grand Wailea is truly world class. If you need help with suggestions for October, please let me know.

The Program Committee received a record 74 abstracts and selected the top 20 for oral presentation and nearly 50 for poster presentation. All the presenters have been notified. Poster presenters will again be offered the option to submit a manuscript to *AJOG* for consideration of publication as a part of the CAOG Transactions. We sincerely encourage all program participants to take advantage of this opportunity.

Our office continues to field a wide variety of questions and comments we receive on a daily basis. Although we don't always know the answers right away, we have learned where to find most of them promptly. We appreciate your ongoing support and CAOG enthusiasm.

Rochelle Hickel, Executive Director

**Adjunct members who
are now ABOG certified
are required to apply for
active membership today.**