



# CAOG

August 2010

www.caog.org

# NEWSLETTER

Central Association  
of Obstetricians and  
Gynecologists

*Meet us at the Venetian . . . .*

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**Sensuously Inviting**

The CAOG is again proud to combine its long standing reputation for great science with the Venetian Resort, Hotel and Casino, truly one of the top meeting venues in the world today. Seventeen of the 20 largest hotels in the world are in Las Vegas and the Venetian is the largest of all.

The magic of the Venetian is making large seem intimate, making gaming not seem dominant and making Nevada seem like Venice, Italy. Enjoy this opportunity to combine science, sensual and spectacular. Reserve these dates now: **October 27-30, 2010.**

Rekindle friendships and intellectual curiosity at a world class resort where every inch is richly furnished with unique Italian flair: imported marble, fine art, gourmet dining and your own private hideaways. The ambiance doesn't get any better. Each guest is encouraged to experience the soul of the Venetian from the Shoppes along the Grand Canal to the unique musicality and gourmet dining to the subdued gaming area.



When you feel the urge to explore Las Vegas outside the Venetian, there is an assortment of equally amazing hotels along the world famous Las Vegas "strip." The enclosed map can guide you to the Bellagio, Caesars Palace, New York-New York, Treasure Island, Mirage, Wynn Las Vegas the recently opened Aria or the Fashion Show Mall. Free outdoor shows featuring an erupting volcano, pirates sinking ships and dancing fountains are repeated every evening along the strip. There's simply no other place in the world like Las Vegas (nor should there be according to some)! Share all this with the CAOG.

**Special points of interest:**

- Las Vegas meeting information
- New member ballot insert: active members
- Committee interest survey insert (active)
- Update your E-mail and address
- Unpaid dues kindly requested STAT

**Officers**

Christine H. Comstock, MD, President  
Barbara V. Parilla, MD, Vice President  
Gayle L. Olson, MD, President Elect I  
John W. Calkins, MD, President Elect II  
Kirk D. Ramin, MD, Secretary-Treasurer  
David F. Lewis, MD, Ass't Secretary-Treas.  
Dennis J. Lutz, MD, Past President

**Board of Trustees**

Stephen Fortunato, MD (2007-2010)  
J. Coffy Pieternelle, MD (2007-2010)  
Diana S. Curran, MD (2008-2011)  
Carl V. Smith, MD (2008-2011)  
Harriette L. Hampton, MD (2009-2012)  
Stephen R. Locher, MD (2009-2012)

**Executive Director**

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## Message from the President. . .



**Christine Comstock & Bob Lorenz**

Our Annual CAOG meeting at the Venetian Resort, Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada is fast approaching. Those dates again are **October 27-30, 2010**. Be sure to attend. It is going to be an exceptional venue and scientific meeting. You won't want to miss it. If you haven't been to Las Vegas recently, the changes will astound you. There truly is something for everyone, not just gambling.

The scientific program revolves around original research oral and poster presentations. The CAOG strives to give every member ample opportunity to present in a public, peer reviewed forum while exposing them to the professional satisfaction of collating and sharing scientific work. Invited guest talks will complement the original research.

Dr. Barry Franklin, a past president of the American Academy of Sports Medicine will address exercise and preventive cardiac care. With so many international natural disasters and medical needs, Dr. Mark Dowdle will share his high altitude work in Peru. New information on vaccinations by Dr.

Bernie Gonik, screening for non genital skin cancer by ever popular Dr. Ted Rosen and the challenge of sleep deficits in pregnancy by Dr. Francesca Facco should interest all OB-Gyn's. Finally Dr. Tristi Muir will help sort out newer approaches to urinary incontinence while Dr. James Presthus will focus on patient safety as more gyn procedures move to the office.

In addition to the exciting scientific program my husband Bob Lorenz, also a CAOG member, has arranged a Thursday morning special tour at Madame Toussauds Wax Museum at the Venetian for spouses and guests. At noon everyone is invited to lunch where Dr William Rayburn, Chair of OB-Gyn at the Univ. of New Mexico will address future workforce issues in our specialty. Bill has done both research and a fellowship in this area and the projected physician shortage has become a pivotal concern in Health Care Reform planning.

We look forward to greeting you all at the Welcome Reception Wednesday evening. The Exhibit Hall will be open and I encourage everyone to visit the industry representatives – we depend on their support now more than ever to put on a top notch meeting at a reasonable cost. Finally, you won't want to miss the traditional Gala Reception/Dinner Friday night with dancing to the golden oldies music of "Shake, Rattle and Roll." Even with all the educational opportunities there is plenty of time to relax, socialize and play while in Vegas.

In this last newsletter as President, I wish to thank everyone for your support. The "CAOG Family" really is wonderful!

## Meet Your CAOG Trustees

**Chris Comstock**



**Dr. J. Coffy Pieternelle**

**Stephen J. Fortunato, M.D.** is a New York native who migrated to Notre Dame for college, the University of Cincinnati for medical school and the University of New Mexico for OB-Gyn residency before completing his maternal-fetal medicine fellowship at the University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas. Subspecialty board certified, Dr. Fortunato spent many years in academic medicine before his current position with the Maternal-Fetal Group in Nashville, Tennessee. A member of numerous medical associations, Dr. Fortunato was elected to the CAOG in 1991. He has been a frequent presenter at annual meetings and the author of several Community Hospital Award papers. The recipient of numerous grant awards and personal honors, Steve is widely published in his subspecialty and has been in frequent demand for professional presentations. Dr. Fortunato's contributions to the Board of Directors these last three years have been exceptional, especially analyzing CAOG publication rates.



**Dr. Stephen J. Fortunato**

**J. Coffy Pieternelle, M.D.** grew up in the Caribbean before moving from St. Croix to attend college at Howard University in Washington, D.C. followed by medical school at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN. After completing OB-Gyn residency in Pontiac, Michigan he relocated to Beaumont, Texas where he is very actively involved in private practice with Southeast Texas OB-Gyn Associates. He was elected to the CAOG in 1999 and almost all his practice partners are also CAOG members. Dr. Pieternelle has been medical staff President, on the board of physician advisors and a member of the Board of Trustees for Christus Health, S.E. Texas Region. He belongs to most local and many national medical associations, including the American College of Physician Executives. Coffy is a long time board member for the Julie Rogers Gift of Life Prostate Cancer Screening Program as well as Spindletop Mental Health and Retardation, where he shares his career commitment to Downs Syndrome children. He was recently honored as an "exceptional father" and family role model in his community. His service to the Board of Directors these last three years has been enthusiastic and most appreciated.

## Las Vegas Fun Facts

- ◆ Nearly 40 million people visit Las Vegas yearly, 6 million to attend conventions alone. 87% also gamble on an average budget of \$559.
- ◆ When singer/songwriter Paul Anka first played Vegas he was too young to be allowed in the casino gaming area (he’s still performing today).
- ◆ Shrimp consumption in Las Vegas exceeds 60,000 pounds a day – higher than the rest of the country combined.
- ◆ The four hotels at the corner of Las Vegas Boulevard and Tropicana have more hotel rooms than all of San Francisco. (MGM Grand-Tropicana-New York-New York and Excalibur). Las Vegas has over 140,000 hotel rooms and is still building.
- ◆ The Stratosphere tower at 1,149 feet high is the tallest free standing observation tower in the U.S.
- ◆ Howard Hughes stayed at the Desert Inn for so long he was asked to leave. He bought the hotel.



Las Vegas Showgirl

## Member Attendance Honor Roll

Special recognition is extended to the following members who have currently attended five or more consecutive meetings. An asterisk (\*) denotes perfect attendance since election to membership. [The 2001 Annual Meeting was cancelled following 9/11.]

Joel R. DeKonig	27*	Gayle L. Olson	9*
Tom G. Sullivan	26*	J. Coffy Pieternelle	9*
Dennis J. Lutz	25*	Karolina Adam	9
Paul G. Tomich	23*	David F. Lewis	8*
Jeffrey N. Maurus	22*	William J. Todia	8*
Howard T. Strassner, Jr.	19*	Catherine S. Stika	8
Stephen R. Locher	16*	Barbara V. Parilla	7
Joseph M. Miller, Jr.	16	Robert L. Collins	6
Fran Popper	15*	James R. Dolan	6
Mark I. Evans	15	Michael P. Hopkins	6
Norman A. Ginsberg	14	Kirk D. Ramin	6
Bryan D. Cowan	12	Herbert F. Sandmire	6
Robert J. Sokol	12	Arthur D. Cromartie, Jr.	5
Neil I. Arnold	10	Diana S. Curran	5
John G. Gianopoulos	10	Joanie Y. Hare	5
A. Michael Drachler	9*	Robert J. Wester	5
Harriette L. Hampton	9*		

**This Honor Roll is an appreciative salute to CAOG members who regularly attend annual meetings. Add to your current consecutive attendance record in 2010. Don't forget to sign the official green registration cards !**



**Slot machines were initially created as a diversion for women companions of male gamblers who were busy at the tables. Slot machines now account for at least 60% of a casino's earnings.**

## Bylaws Encourage Minimum Attendance

Provisional active members must attend one of the first two Annual Meetings following election to become a full Active Member. Active Members are encouraged to attend at least one Annual Meeting every three years. These are minimum attendance requirements. The CAOG encourages everyone to strive for annual participation. Make CAOG your priority.

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Women’s Health Care Leaders

WE’RE ON THE WEB!  
WWW.CAOG.ORG



## New Member Recruitment Essential to CAOG

Even as active members review the enclosed ballot for new members for 2010, continue to think of someone who might be good for the CAOG and vice versa. Please help us to grow!

Application forms for both active and adjunct members are available from the CAOG Office and both forms are on the web site. Because signatures of both applicants and endorsers are required, a hard copy must be mailed. The deadline for consideration at the 2011 Annual Meeting is **July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011**. Don’t miss the deadline by waiting until the last minute to apply.

A special thanks to the following CAOG members who have served as an endorser for one or more of the active and adjunct new membership applications this year. Plan to add your name to this list next year: we continuously need recruiting help.

- |                                   |                                       |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Thomas F. Arnold, M.D.</b>     | <b>Michael P. Hopkins, M.D.</b>       |
| <b>Mara J. Dinsmoor, M.D.</b>     | <b>David F. Lewis, M.D.</b>           |
| <b>John A. Garbaciak, M.D.</b>    | <b>Dennis J. Lutz, M.D.</b>           |
| <b>Thomas M. Gellhaus, M.D.</b>   | <b>E. F. “Pat” Magann, M.D.</b>       |
| <b>Harriette L. Hampton, M.D.</b> | <b>James N. Martin, Jr., M.D.</b>     |
| <b>Michael R. Halpern, M.D.</b>   | <b>Elliot H. Philipson, M.D.</b>      |
| <b>Richard S. Hansell, M.D.</b>   | <b>Robert W. Rebar, M.D.</b>          |
| <b>Roger W. Harms, M.D.</b>       | <b>Howard T. Strassner, Jr., M.D.</b> |
| <b>Maria F. Hayes, M.D.</b>       | <b>Amy E. Young, M.D.</b>             |
| <b>David G. Holdt, M.D.</b>       |                                       |

## CAOG Management Report



**Rochelle Hickel**  
Executive Director

I hope everyone liked the 2010 Edition of the CAOG Directory of Members mailed a couple months ago. I really encourage attendees to make reservations for a show or two while in Las Vegas. The selection is unequalled and the performances are **amazing**.

A special thanks to everyone who has been involved in the abstract/paper/poster process, including all the authors and discussants. There is much more final detail work to be done since the Annual Meeting is just two months away. Please introduce yourself to each new member (yellow ribbon name tag) you see in Las Vegas.

We are trying to collect the last of the unpaid dues for 2010 and a few still owing from 2009. If you are delinquent, please respond to the final dues notice you will receive about the same time as this newsletter. The CAOG needs your membership support. Thank you for prompt payment.

Finally, reserve your rooms for the Venetian Resort as soon as possible. We expect a sold out meeting. Las Vegas is always busy and attractively cooler in October. Make your plans now to avoid disappointment. Call me if you have any questions or run into problems. Thanks again.

Rochelle

## PTO “Endowment” Fund Recognition

As noted in previous newsletters, the endowment fund still needs vigorous growth to augment current and future CAOG Awards. Contributions are continuously being solicited and donors will be recognized in both the quarterly Newsletter and the Annual Scientific Program booklet. Any amount is sincerely appreciated. Recent contributors:

- |                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>David G. Anderson, M.D.</b> | <b>Paul T. Schnatz, M.D.</b>     |
| <b>John C. Morrison, M.D.</b>  | <b>Jerry J. St. Pierre, M.D.</b> |

**Adjunct members are encouraged to apply for active membership as soon as possible following ABOG certification.**