

President's Forum

"GET INVOLVED,
BE ACTIVE!"

If you want to have an impact and influence the direction of the NCBA, then I would like to challenge you to become INVOLVED and an ACTIVE participant this year. I also want you to start thinking about running for the NCBA Board of Directors. If you are hesitant, let me dismiss some common myths about those who can run for the Board. I do not work for an ISO or a manufacturer. I am not a department or regional manager. I do not have a four year business or clinical engineering degree. There is no secret agenda to recruit specific types of people, except those who are willing to put some time and effort into fulfilling the mission of the NCBA: education.

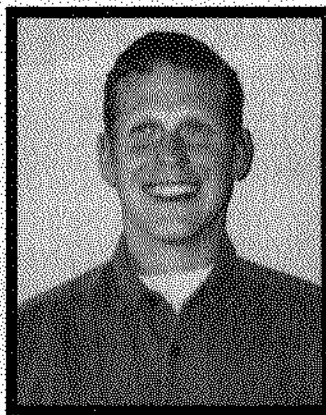
We need new people with fresh ideas and energy. If there have been times when you desired to be an active participant but didn't know how, here is your chance to become active. We need people to write newsletter articles; setup and organize stand alone seminars; clean and organize our storage room; organize and run the symposium golf tournament, call manufacturers to provide classes or booths at the sym-

posium; help prepare and stuff member and vendor packets; help getting people nominated; assist getting people nominated for professional of the year; help us start preparing for future symposium hotel sites for the years 2003 and beyond. Plus, a lot more!

If you have been disappointed and frustrated with the NCBA in the past, then I invite you to become ACTIVE. Divert your energy into something positive by becoming INVOLVED!

Call me at (336)-832-7911 or e-mail me at: chris.dissinger@mosescsone.com. I will make sure that you will be put on the right committee and that you can get INVOLVED!

Chris Dissinger, CBET
President, NCBA



Year 2000.....News Media Hype?

Biomedical's View of Y2K Reality

By: Jan S. Measley

Since July 11, 1997, the Year 2000 has become a gigantic topic in the Biomedical Department at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. That was the department's first official involvement with the hospital's Y2K project. As of that date, the Biomedical Department accepted the task of testing all in-house medical equipment (and other facilities since) and the responsibility of assuring administration and the customers of PCMH that the hospital would be as Y2K compliant as possible January 1, 2000 at 00:01. That acceptance began a very long, time consuming, detail oriented, inundated documentation filled, continuous process. Although there is a need for preparedness and awareness, these efforts are sometimes blinded by all the AY2K news media and article hype. Frustration is heightened due to numerous articles and special TV documentaries that paint such a world ending picture. Even though time and personnel are needed to test and document results, both could be lessened if we were not constantly defending test results and disproving rumors. Year 2000 articles that slightly exaggerate the cost of a surgical heart/lung by-pass machine (\$3 million dollars) may also have the tendency to stretch the

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Calendar of Events

- CBET Certification Review - April 20-30, 1999
- Caldwell CC SBA Golf Benefit - May 1, 1999
- Fundamentals of Servicing Imaging Systems Aug. 30 - Sep 3, 1999

1999 Board of Directors
1999 NCBA Officers

President:

Chris Dissinger, CBET
Moses Cone Health Systems
336-832-7911 - Business
336-832-7076 - Fax

Vice-President:

Cheryl Spencer, CBET
Onslow Memorial Hospital
910-577-2824 - Business
910-577-2566 - Fax

Treasurer:

James A. Tripp, Jr., CBET
N.C. Baptist Hospital
336-716-6799 - Business
336-716-6121 - Fax

Membership Secretary:

Diane F. Smith, CBET
Alamance Regional Medical Ctr.
336-538-7760 - Business
336-538-7722 - Fax

Recording Secretary:

Sonny Richards, CBET
FirstHealth Moore Reg. Hospital
910-215-1298 - Business
910-215-4382 - Fax

Editor:

Howard Wigle
N.C. Baptist Hospital
336-716-3437 - Business
336-716-9395 - Fax

Ex-Officio:

Ray Laxton
Duke University Medical Ctr.

919-681-2525 - Business
919-681-7361 - Fax

1999 AT-LARGE
Board of Directors

Obie D. Godley, CBET
Pitt County Memorial Hospital
252-816-4251 - Business
252-816-6527 - Fax

Randall Meyers, CBET
Carteret General Hospital
252-247-1484 - Business
252-247-1625 - Fax

Lane Rushing
Physio-Control Corp.
800-442-1142 x 2368 - Business
800-772-3340 - Fax

Mark Sonntag
Moses Cone Health Systems
336-832-8031 - Business
336-832-8194 - Fax

1999 Standing Committees

*Denotes Chairperson

Rules and Bylaws

* Chris Dissinger, Randall Meyers

Nominating Committee:

* Sonny Richards, Lane Rushing,
Helen Jones

Finance Committee:

* Jim Tripp, Randall Myers, Cheryl
L. Spencer

Membership Committee:

* Diane F. Smith, Glenn Scales

Education Committee:

* Cheryl L. Spencer, Jim Tripp, Obie
D. Godley,

1999 Special Committees

Newsletter Committee:

* Lane Rushing, Howard Wigle, Jan
Measley, Sonny Richards

Scholarship Committee:

* Lane Rushing, Jim Tripp

Vendor Coordination:

* Mark P. Sonntag, Diane F. Smith,
Ray Laxton

Hotel Coordination:

* Helen Jones, Cheryl L. Spencer,
Mark P. Sonntag

Public Relations:

* Mark Sonntag, Cheryl L. Spencer,
Jim Tripp

Internet Committee:

* Ray Laxton, Glenn Scales,
Diane F. Smith, Mark P. Sonntag

Professional of the Year:

* Ray Laxton, Obie D. Godley

Archives Committee:

* Glenn Scales

1999 Board of Directors E-Mail
Addresses

Chris Dissinger :
chris.dissinger@mosescone.com
Obie Godley:
ogodley@pcmh.com
Ray Laxton:
laxto001@mc.duke.edu
Randall Meyers:
rjmeyers@hotmail.com
Sonny Richards:
poppeth@hotmail.com
Lane Rushing:
rl_rushin@aol.com
Diane F. Smith:
smitdian@armc.com
Mark P. Sonntag:
mark.sonntag@mosescone.com
Cheryl Spencer :

NCBA News is an information service of the North Carolina Biomedical Association (NCBA). It has a distribution of about 500 and is published six (6) times per year. Articles and ads are due on or before the first day of even months. The newsletter is mailed on or about the first day of the odd months.

While the NCBA makes every effort to assure that its content is accurate, articles are the products of individual authors and the NCBA is not responsible for the content.

NCBA News intends to disseminate information and ideas to its subscribers. While the NCBA News accurately reflects the source of the articles, the content is of variable quality and validity. The Newsletter Committee will attempt to verify all articles, but neither the Editor nor the NCBA is responsible for information.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!! Articles of interest to our readers are constantly needed and sometimes in short supply. If you have written any articles that may be of interest to our readers, submit

Year 2000

Continued from Page 1

remaining information in the Y2K article. Organizations and news personnel that seem to only want "Abig headlines" and "Afrightening reports" tend to slow down the process for the people actually responsible for testing the equipment. From the beginning of our Y2K process we developed a reporting process to administration, but with ever-increasing news media coverage, our reports have tripled. Reports have become more frequent and defensive. This is legitimate, taking into consideration all the Y2K publicity. People have a tendency to rely on what they read, hear in the community, and see on TV as total fact, when in actuality it is not always totally true. Even though there is a need to ensure that all types of equipment will function properly at the clock striking hour of midnight on December 31, 1999 and to thoroughly document test results, there is a great deal of unnecessary emotional and financial worry. The financial worry becomes more apparent as days go by. Constant watch dog tactics are utilized to prevent unnecessary Y2K

expenditures. Most companies and manufacturers have been very supportive with necessary upgrades while others are trying to make all they can by charging outrageously for AY2K related upgrades. The cost for one non-life support system upgrade was \$10,000, seem a little much? After a phone call, this upgrade be-

company, after we had received their compliance statement, contacted us and offered their "Y2K upgrade deal". Needless to say, once the company was made aware of this overlap, they again confirmed their system was compliant and apologized for any inconvenience. It seems more and more during this Y2K process, Roger Dawson's "Power of Negotiation" speech is being utilized and put to the test, Biomedical and Clinical Engineering Departments are already prone to have heartfelt concern about our equipment operating correctly. Technicians, by nature, take equipment responsibilities and saving money seriously, not just one night out of a century, but everyday it is our job and always has been. The Y2K endeavor continues to add a new dimension to our job responsibilities that at times is difficult and frustrating. Each day there is the continuous need to perform Year 2000 equipment related tasks while down playing the misunderstood "everything is going to fail" Y2K excitement.

Even though we have experienced some needed Y2K upgrades, no hard or complete failures have been detected. The biggest problem encountered, possibly for everyone, is finding the time needed for such a large project. Nearing completion of all in-house testing and manufacturer correspondence, we anticipate closure by the middle of 1999. We are fortunate that our hospital is very supportive of our Y2K needs which makes this

task bearable. As Biomedical Equipment Technicians at PCMH: Are we concerned? Yes. Will we test our coffee pots? NO! Encouragement to all readers, those who have already begun their Year 2000 process and *especially* to those who have not

HELP WANTED

Need a volunteer to take responsibility as the NCBA Golf Coordinator. NCBA Golf Tournament will be held at Stoney Creek Golf Club on October 27, 1999 at 1:00 P.M.

Please contact Mark Sonntag at 336-832-8031.

Membership Update

First of all, I'd like to say "there's a new kid on the block". I have just accepted the position of Membership Secretary beginning in January and am still feeling my way around. Thanks to Glenn Scales, I have everything needed to do the job, but just learning what to do!... Foremost, let me tell you how to address questions or changes in your membership information. You may contact me, Diane Smith, at Alamance Regional Medical Center, Clinical Engineering Department at 336-538-7760 or by e-mail at smitdian@arme.com. Please, let me know if there are any changes that need to be made to your name or mailing address, so that you will continue to receive your NCBA mailings. If you know of someone that should be getting the mailings and is not, if you will let me know, then we will try to find out why.

Since the last membership update, we have had 7 renewals, giving us a total membership count of 425, which includes 272 individuals, 129 corporate, 9 students, 3 associates, and 12 honorary members.

NCBA ASSET SUMMARY

This is a very basic overview of our current financial status. As can be seen, we do have a surplus in assets. This is related to a decision, made in 1990 by the then current NCBA Board of Directors, to set aside assets to cover a failed symposium. It was and is still considered a wise and prudent decision. The idea is to cover the NCBA financially for the possibility of a failed symposium, which we almost witnessed this past year due to Hurricane

Bonnie. Several organizations and hospitals needed their staff present to deal with situations created by the storm. This required the NCBA to refund their registration payment for non-attendance. If the storm had caused major absenteeism in our membership, the NCBA would still have been liable to pay the Koury Center for their services and facilities. If we did not have funds set aside to cover such an event, we could easily find our treasury empty

and no monetary means to function for the coming year. The current Board of Directors voted at their annual planning to place another \$20,000 into a CD to earn interest for the NCBA Treasury. This would give the NCBA a reserve of over \$40,000 plus interest to cover any symposium failure. If you have any questions about the NCBA finances, please contact me at 336-716-6799 or by e-mail at cbetJIM@webtv.net.

NCBA Net Worth Report

02/01/1999

NCBA ASSETS

First Citizens Nat. Bank Checking Account	\$69,942.01
Eddie Whisnant Scholarship Fund Account	\$600.00
Norman (Red) Reeves Scholarship Fund Account	\$1,200.00
Certificate of Deposit	\$22,104.03
Capital Equipment Assets Page Scanner	\$222.59

NCBA Liabilities

Symposium Cost - 1999 Estimated Annual Cost	\$50,000 *
Newsletter Cost - 1999 Estimated Annual Cost	\$3,500 *
General Operating Cost - 1999 Estimated Annual Cost	\$3,000 *

* This estimate is based on previous symposium, newsletters printing and mailings and general operating cost. Symposium cost includes facilities, meals, speaker cost advertisement and mailing.

02/01/1999

Respectively Submitted:
Jim Tripp, Jr., NCBA Treasurer

NCBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The January 8-9 Board Meeting, held at Myrtle Beach, was called to order by Chris Dissinger. The minutes of the November meeting were reviewed and approved with corrections. The committee reports were presented as follows:

Treasurer's Report: Randy Myers report included a statement of NCBA Net Worth, Register, Bank Checking and Cash Flow Reports. As Randy will be relocating to Illinois, the responsibilities of this office were transferred to Jim Tripp.

Membership Report: Dianne Smith presented the annual Membership Summary Report for 1998.

Education Report: Cheryl stated she wants to book more seminars for the upcoming year. For the October Symposium, presentations by JCAHO, Marquette, and Critikon are in the planning stage.

Scholarship Report: Randy Myers stated he had not received any applications to date.

Rules and Bylaws: Ray Laxton indicated no changes to the Rules and Bylaws.

Newsletter Report: Howard Wigle presented this report with a tentative schedule for 1999. Lane Rushing will edit articles for publication and forward them to Howard. It was agreed to retain the services of Jan Measley as proof reader for the Newsletter. Howard indicated the importance of getting

the Newsletter back on schedule.

Nominating Report: Sonny Richards stated there had been no candidates for the Board. Methods on how to encourage Board Membership were discussed.

Symposium Planning: Helen Jones reported on hotel accommodations at the Koury Center.

Education Addendum: Randy Myers reported on the Windows "95" class. Other computer classes were discussed.

Vendor Relations: Mark Sonntag stated a fee has been added for late registration by vendors. This is to cover the cost of additional banners and booths.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Note: These Minutes Not Officially Approved By The Board.

NCBA EDUCATION COMMITTEE PRESENTS

“Y2K CRISIS MANAGEMENT”

Duke Medical Center, Durham, NC

June 1, 1999 (12:00 – 4:00 P.M.)

Dwain Shaw is a native Georgian, having graduated from the University of Georgia (B.F.A., 69) and Georgia Southern University (MS in Technology, 76). He retired from the United States Army as a Lieutenant Colonel with twenty-four years of service. His specialties included communications, logistics and automation, with assignments in Germany, Viet Nam, Saudi Arabia, Georgia, Texas and Washington, D.C.

Following his career in the military he joined the Medical College of Georgia in November 1992 as a Director of Information Services for the Information Services Division. At the Medical College he planned and implemented the campus area network (CAN) for all data and voice services, moving the campus from an acknowledged mid-70's level of technology into one of the most advanced networked information system architectures in the nation. While he continues his daily duties as a Director of Information Services, he is also heavily involved in other projects to include the Year 2000 spokesperson for the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), the Project Director for all information services in the new Children's Medical Center (CMC), which opened in December 1998, and the campus Year 2000 Project Director. He is also a charter member of the State's Information Technology Advisory Council. His time spent away from the Medical College will usually find him involved in fishing or renewing his passion for photography.

NCBA EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS REGISTRATION FORM

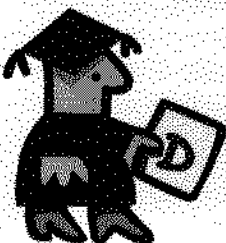
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	CBET	OTHER
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP +
PHONE	FAX	E-MAIL	
FACILITY	DEPT.		
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP +
MEMBER: YES	NO		
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 25, 1999		FEE \$20 (TO INCLUDE LUNCH AND BREAK)	

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO NCBA AND MAIL TO:

ONSLOW MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Attn: Cheryl Spencer, CBET
317 Western Blvd.
Jacksonville, NC 28546
910-577-2824

We cannot accept PO's or credit card payments

ARE YOU READY FOR THE YEAR 2000? IF NOT, YOU MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER ATTENDING THIS PRESENTATION ON Y2K CRISIS MANAGEMENT AT DUKE.



As of March 1st, you only have



days to change that "D" to an "A+"

NEW BOARD MEMBER PROFILE



Lane Rushing

Lane has been employed by Physio-Control Corporation since 1982 as a Field Service Representative. Presently, he is responsible for the eastern half of North Carolina and the Tidewater area of Virginia.

A Charter Member of the NCBA, Lane has had the honor of serving the NCBA as Past President and as a past member of the Board of Directors. Re-elected to the Board of Directors in 1998, Lane presently is serving as Chairperson of the Newsletter and Scholarship Committees.

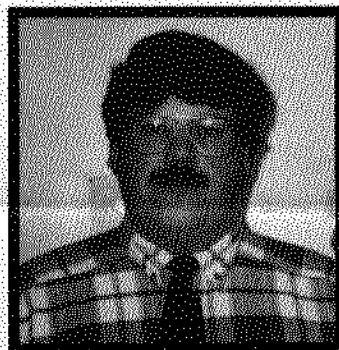


Diane Smith

After graduating from Alamance Community College with a AAS in Biomedical Equipment Technology in 1984, Diane accepted a position as a BMET at Alamance Hospital in Burlington, NC. In 1986, Diane was promoted to Director of Clinical Engineering at Alamance Regional Medical

Center. In this capacity, Diane manages a department of 9 technicians responsible for all clinical equipment including radiology and clinical laboratory.

A NCBA member since 1983 and certified by AAMI in 1986, Diane has previously served the NCBA as a Board Member, Committee Chairperson and hosted several educational seminars. Presently, Diane is serving as Membership Secretary for the present Board of Directors, and Chairperson of the Membership Committee. Besides her dedication to the NCBA, Diane served as Advisor to the Biomedical Equipment Technology program at Alamance Community College from 1984 until 1998.



James A. Tripp, Jr. (Jim)

A native of Kinston, NC, Jim Tripp started his career as a Biomed while enlisted in the US Army. Jim received his Basic Job Training in 1983 and Advanced Job Training in 1986 at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital as a Bio-Medical Equipment Technician. He has earned an AAS Degrees in Biomedical Equipment Maintenance Technology from Regis College and Electronics Engineering Technology from Craven Community College. In 1992, while employed as a BMET at Lenior Memorial Hospital in Kinston, Jim earned his AAMI certification. Presently Jim is employed as a Biomedical Equipment Specialist in the Respiratory Biomedical Department at WFU-Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, NC.

Elected to the NCBA Board of Directors in 1998, Jim has previously served the NCBA as a committee member on the Education and Public Relations Committees. In addition to his participation with the NCBA, Jim has work with the United Way, Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and the American Red Cross.

Job Opportunity

The Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital, a unit of the Moses Cone Health System, has an immediate opening for a BMET II position; entry level applicants will also be considered. Candidate must have a Biomedical Electronics Technology degree or military experience. Certification by ICC is a plus, as is surgery and anesthesia equipment experience. Interested candidates please send a resume to:

Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital
1200 N. Elm St Greensboro, N.C.
27401 Attn: Recruitment Department
Phone (336) 832-7911 Fax (336)
832-7076

NCBA CHAT ROOM



One of the items discussed during the January Board Retreat at Myrtle Beach was implementation of an NCBA Internet Chat Room. What better way to receive instant response to your most pressing questions and concerns. Your answers to two questions will help us decide how we should proceed. **Question #1** - Would you favor development of a Chat Room?

Question #2 - Should access be restricted to NCBA Members or open to all?

E-mail your response to:

Wigle@mindspring.com

WE MAKE SURE YOU ARE THE BEST!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
DITEC '99 INDUSTRY CONFERENCE
JUNE 2-4, 1999
CLEVELAND, OHIO

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Advanced Concepts of Digital Imaging Maintenance - Level IV

Advanced Concepts of Fluoro Imaging Maintenance - Level III

Advanced Concepts of Rad Imaging Maintenance - Level II

Fundamentals of Servicing Diagnostic Imaging Systems - Level I

DITEC

State of Ohio Board of Proprietary Schools Registration 94-05-1398T

Editorial Comment

In his message to us this month, our President Chris Dissinger has challenged each of us to become active participants in the NCBA. A number of ways in which individual participation can be accomplished were offered for consideration; everything from extending a helping hand with the many tasks associated with putting on a symposium, to placing your name in the running for a seat on the Board of Directors. Chris also dispelled a number of myths falsely held by some of our members in reference to qualifications required for Board membership. There are really only two requirements; the first being an active member of the NCBA, and the second, exhibiting a genuine willingness to serve to the best of your ability, the interests of those we represent.

As the new editor of the NCBA News, I wanted to take this opportunity to support our President's "involvement initiative" by extending my own words

of encouragement to our members to actively involve themselves in their organization. As a member of the Board of Directors, I can assure you that your elected officials do not wish to operate in a closed environment. Many important decisions affecting the future of the NCBA have, and will continue to be made by this Board, and those that will follow it. The Board recognizes its obligation to keep the membership of the NCBA informed of all major issues and pending decisions before them. In so doing, it is the Board's expectation that an informed membership will reciprocate. Not only do we need feedback on current issues the Board may be facing, but also new insights on how to improve our organization.

For some, the end of this year will mark the beginning of a new millennium, whereas the remainder of us will have to wait an additional year. Which ever may be the case for you, I

was thinking that the millennial event would make a great topic for articles to be written by lots of our members. It is after all, a once in a lifetime occurrence. What a great opportunity to express your thoughts as to where you see the field of Biomedical Engineering heading. Are we on the brink of distinction, or threshold of opportunity? What special skills must we develop to meet the challenge of the 21st Century?

Are you ready? Will you be ready? As Biomedical Technicians, I can't think of one topic having greater significance to our future than the question of how do we prepare ourselves for next 5, 10 or 20 years. Won't you please share your thoughts with us on this very important subject? Please submit your articles to Lane Rushing at e-mail address: RLRushing@aol.com.

SCHEDULE OF NCBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS FOR 1999

March 12, 1999 Time: 1:00 PM
Onslow Memorial Hospital, 317 Western Boulevard, Jacksonville, NC 28546
Host - Cherly Spencer Phone: (910) 577-2824

May 7, 1999 Time: 1:00 PM
Baptist Med. Ctr, Medical Center Boulevard, Winston-Salem, NC 27157
Host - Howard Wigle Phone: (336) 717-3734

July 16, 1999 Time: 1:00 PM
Alamance Regional Med Ctr, 1240 Huffinan Mill Road, Burlington, NC 27215
Host - Diane Smith Phone: (336) 538-7760

September 10, 1999 Time: 1:00 PM
Joseph Koury convention Center, Greensboro, NC

RALEIGH NC 27613-1222
8700 KENILWORTH DR
DUKE UNIV. MEDICAL CENTER
W. GLENN SCALES
342 MIXED AADC 280

North Carolina Biomedical Association
6300-138 Creedmoor Road Suite 272
Raleigh, NC 27612-6730
Phone: (919) 688-6890
Website: <http://anesthesia.mc.duke.edu/ncba>

