



## President's Forum

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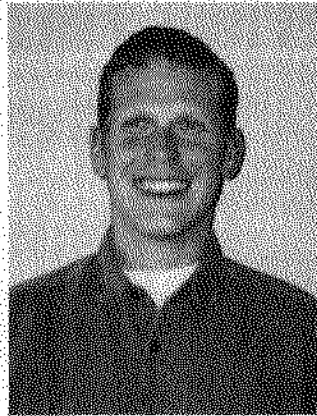
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### Calendar of Events

- Fundamentals of Servicing Imaging Systems  
Aug. 30 - Sep 3, 1999

**W**e have some great individuals on the NCBA Board of Directors. Everyone of them has put much time and effort to make sure the association runs smoothly. I would like to extend a special thanks to Howard Wagle, Howard's wife, Janis, Lane Rushing and Jan Measley for taking on the responsibility of the NCBA Newsletter. Besides the symposium, one of the main contacts you have with the NCBA is the newsletter. It is an important means of communicating information and educational opportunities. Please take time out of your busy schedule to thank these individuals.

Recently, the Virginia Biomedical Association (V.B.A.) invited me to visit with their Board of Directors and members at their winter symposium at Wintergreen, Virginia. They gave me a warm reception and I enjoyed meeting their board and individual members. It was interesting to find their organization struggling with some of the same basic issues that our association does. The V.B.A. wanted to explore the possibility of developing a future partnership with the NCBA. We discussed several ideas like coordinating stand alone seminars, placing educational opportu-



nities in each other's association's newsletter, giving each other's members a discount on stand alone seminars, or possibly combining our symposiums into a regional symposium. For the present we have decided to share information about educational classes in each other's newsletter only. Benefits of such a venture could result in more educational opportunities for the membership of both associations. Also, it could be more economical with other organizations participating. One of the drawbacks could be that these other organizations would become tired and frustrated with always coming to North Carolina. These are just thoughts and ideas only. I would like to hear comments from the membership concerning how you feel about developing relationships and partnerships with other regional biomedical associations. Would you like to see a regional symposium where other associations meet, other than the NCBA?

Another issue I would like to receive response from the membership is about our Website. Ray Laxton and Glenn Scales have volunteered their services. Both gentlemen have put long hours in developing our Website located at Duke Hospital, which is at no charge to the NCBA. I would like to ask you, the membership, to please take the time to thank both Ray and Glenn for all the hard work and long hours that they have put into developing this site. The Website is very labor intensive to maintain, and lately has not been updated as frequently as it should be. With the information on the Website frequently outdated, it has given those who view the site misinformation on events and educational opportunities. The board is currently looking into the possibility of having the Website

Continued on page 5

**1999 Board of Directors**  
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336-538-7722 - Fax

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910-215-4382 - Fax

**Editor:**

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N.C. Baptist Hospital  
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336-716-9395 - Fax

**Ex-Officio:**

Ray Laxton  
Duke University Medical Ctr.  
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919-681-7361 - Fax

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252-247-1625 - Fax

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800-442-1142 x 2368 - Business  
800-772-3340 - Fax

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**1999 Standing Committees**

\*Denotes Chairperson

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Measley, Sonny Richards

**Scholarship Committee:**

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Ray Laxton

**Hotel Coordination:**

\* Helen Jones, Cheryl L. Spence,  
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**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 :  
spencer@internet.net  
James A. Tripp, Jr:  
cbetJIMscifiMAN@webtv.net  
Howard Wigle:  
wigle@mindspring.com

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 it to Newsletter Committee Chairman Lane Rushing.

### Job Opportunities

BMET position available. Requirements: Associate Degree in Biomed Electronics Technology or equivalency. Experience: Generalist - Min. 2 Years / Radiology Qualified Preferred. Interested candidates please send resume to: FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital, P.O. Box 3000, Pinehurst, NC 27374. Attn: Sonny Richards, Phone (910) 215-1298 Fax (910) 215-4382

NC Baptist Hospital, Winston-Salem, NC Phone (336) 716-3437  
Seeking experienced BMET II with AA Degree in Biomed Technology with 3-5 years experience. Send resume to: Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center  
Human Resource Department  
Medical Center Boulevard  
Winston-Salem, NC 27157  
Attn: Fran Griffin

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 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 News Advertising

NCBA News is accepting advertising that relates to biomedical equipment and of interest to our readers. Suggested subjects are: Positions Desired, Position Available, Biomedical Equipment Wanted or For Sale (New or Used), or Announcements of Educational Opportunities or Service Schools in the area.

Adam Broussard's pet project, The BMET Shop (<http://www.flash.net/~addman/bmet> or [www.flash.net/~addman/bmet](http://www.flash.net/~addman/bmet)), is a web site that deserves to be on every BMET's bookmark list. Although the site was created in 1997, I only recently discovered it via a reference in the November/December, 1998, issue of Journal of Clinical Engineering. An inveterate web surfer, I am always looking for sites to make my job easier. Not only does Broussard's site fill the bill, it also offers a little humor for what can sometimes be a dry business.

The icons offered are Biomed Links, Internet Links, Articles and Opinions, Biomed News, News Groups, and Jokes and Stories. The home page states, "We are now boasting one of the largest Biomedical Link sources on the net ... (with) 500+ links to OEM'S, government, organizations, and more." The links include parts suppliers, medical reference, publications, standards, chat lines, and job listings. The North Carolina Biomedical Association's link is featured. Broussard invites users to add their own links, so with time, the site may well become The Largest Biomedical Link.

The Internet Links offer over 40 sites under the headings Internet Searches, Useful Internet Tools, Graphics, Shareware, and Other Goodies. Broussard has amassed such a collection of link sites that it makes you wonder when he had time to develop his career to the BMET II status (his resume is also available at this site!).

Advertising is open to all individuals, hospitals, and companies. The decision to carry a particular ad or classified will be the decision of the Editor with the support of the NCBA Board. Camera ready copies of actual size ads required. Corporate Members please remember what free advertisement your membership allows. Please contact the Newsletter Editor for other pricing.

**\*\*Prepayment of all advertising is required.\*\***

### WEBWISE: The BMET Shop

By Jackie L. Seamon

Community General Hospital  
Thomasville, NC

Articles and Opinions, Biomed News, and News Groups are important sources of current information in our field. Topics such as EMI, Y2K, and policies and procedures are presented, along with updates on clinical procedures and OEM news. The Temple University link is particularly useful with Tech Tips and colorful Reference Charts and Diagrams. Broussard utilizes many resources such as magazines, vendor news releases, FDA, JCAHO and other regulatory agencies and medical association reports. It's nice to know that someone else takes all that time to read (and read, and read, and read) and summarize this information so I can pick and choose what pertains to me.

The Jokes and Stories section will have others in your shop wondering what you are giggling about. Broussard has appropriately designated each joke with a legend summarizing the contents so that the faint of heart are not offended. A little of this hospital humor ("You Might Work in an ER if..." "Memo on Hospital Cutbacks", "HMO FAQ's") can go a long way toward brightening a day when your eyes are crossing from reading too many schematics.

The continued success of The BMET Shop will undoubtedly be enhanced by the fact that Broussard solicits input for all facets of his site from the visitors. The BMET Shop, if used diligently, can now become an important part of every BMET's tool kit.

### Classified Advertising

Except "Position Wanted" notice by members (one ad per year-- limit 50 words--no charge) the following ads apply:

(Per 75 words)	Member	Not
Individual	\$5	\$7
Institute	\$15	\$25
Corporation	\$20	\$30



## CHARTING A COURSE TO THE FUTURE

Shelbra Jackson

**Y**ear 2000 will soon be upon us. We as BMET's must prepare ourselves for the future. No, I'm not speaking about Y2K. I am speaking about you, and me and all the other Biomedical Equipment Technicians out there who need to start thinking about how to best position ourselves to take advantage of the many opportunities the new Millennium will bring.

If anything, the scope of our responsibility will continue to increase, particularly, as the staff of the facilities in which we work, recognize the technical resource capabilities available to them. As never before, our knowledge and ability will be put to the test. With increasing frequency we will find ourselves serving as members of standing committees involved with the product evaluation, and acquisition of equipment process. Facilities planning will require our expertise in the selection of equipment for new facilities, and renovation projects. Our ability as trainers will be recognized and utilized by the many multi-disciplinary groups we provide technical support to on a daily basis. With increasing regularity we will be asked to do more with less, and to demonstrate through performance, our support of the cost containment initiatives of our Administrative Directors. Needless to say, we'll finally find ourselves on the front end of the decision making process, rather than the tail end. We all know to well, what the consequences of not being informed or involved can entail. Hopefully some important lessons have been learned by all of us in the past, lessons that should make our lives as BMET's a whole lot more fulfilling as we enter the next Millennium.

As a Biomedical Service Department, we are the experts. Our expertise is demonstrated in many ways; from how we interact with the customer, to the quality of our work. In order for us to continue to meet the technological

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

*Biomedical, Imaging, Technology Management*

Ready to take the next step in your career? Because of our rapid growth, Premier Clinical Technology Services has openings nationwide for Biomedical Equipment Technicians, Imaging Service Engineers, and Technology Managers.

We are seeking skilled professionals for all biomedical and imaging equipment manufacturers including anesthesia, dialysis, sterilizers, respiratory therapy, MRI, linear accelerators, nuclear medicine, CT, cath labs, and conventional X-ray. An associate degree in biomedical equipment technology or equivalent is preferred.

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Charlotte, NC 28266-8800 or fax (704) 529-3344  
or e-mail to: [servicedesk@premierinc.com](mailto:servicedesk@premierinc.com)

Please visit our Web site @ [www.premierinc.com](http://www.premierinc.com).EOE

The logo for Premier, featuring the word "PREMIER" in a bold, serif font. Above the letter "I" is a stylized graphic element consisting of three vertical bars of varying heights, resembling a crown or a signal tower.

needs of the future, we must evaluate our current abilities, and make the necessary adjustments.

The opportunities that lie before us are enormous. Technology is changing everyday. Continuing education is essential in order for us to keep up with the latest technology. Therefore, we must take advantage of every educational opportunity available to us. There are several options available to us, as we prepare for the future. The North Carolina Biomedical Association offers BMET's numerous educational opportunities. The NCBA keeps us well informed of the changing market place and the latest technology. The NCBA offers prep classes for those who desire to receive their biomedical certification. Like myself, many of you may have given some thought to returning to college. If so, there's no time like the present to start working towards the realization of that goal. Many colleges will accept your two-year degree, and / or military experience, as credit towards a

four-year degree program. For those who have their baccalaureate degree, the next step is the Masters. Did you know that it's now possible to obtain a Masters degree through the Internet? Yes, it is a virtual reality.

Always take advantage of service schools offered to you. Some may ask why should we strive for these opportunities. My answer is simple, because of the fact that we are looked upon by those we support as being the experts in our field. It is our obligation to uphold the perceptions and trust placed in us by those we serve. We must never lose sight of the fact that "Education Is A Lifelong Experience," and a rewarding one as well.

We are now charting our course to the future. We don't plan to fail; we strive to win! By doing this we can provide excellent customer service in the year 2000 and beyond.

## President's Forum

Continued from page 1

## JCAHO AND Y2K

managed professionally. This would help us maintain the site with current and useful information, and give it a professional appearance. We are also checking into possibly having a chaperoned chat line with current topics or problems that members can discuss. It is also possible that we could have registration forms for classes, membership, and symposiums where all you need to do is fill out the form and it would automatically be sent to the responsible individuals.

These features would be at an expense, of course. I would appreciate hearing your comments on both issues, regional partnerships and Website. Please e-mail me at: [chris.dissinger@mosescone.com](mailto:chris.dissinger@mosescone.com).

Cheryl Spencer has been working very hard lining up classes for this year's symposium during October 27-29. She will be having a Jeopardy game on Thursday morning instead of a keynote speaker, which has had very little participation the last several years. We thought that this would be something different, light, and fun! She does need help in developing topics and questions. If you would like to help in developing questions and topics please feel free to contact Cheryl Spencer at [spencer@ntemet.net](mailto:spencer@ntemet.net).

Chris Dissinger, CBET  
President, NCBA

The following information on what to expect from JCAHO Surveyors relative to Y2K is provided for those of you who may be facing a JCAHO Survey prior to the Year 2000. This information appeared in the March /April 1999 issue of the "Environment of Care Leader."

Surveys will check for Y2K awareness and preparation. Poor Y2K planning can mean type I recommendations.

Because of the possibility of technical, mechanical, and utility problems that may accompany the year 2000 (Y2K), it is imperative that all health care organizations develop backup processes and procedures to protect their patients, staff, and facilities. Joint commission surveyors have recently been instructed to look for awareness of and preparation for Y2K.

Standards where Y2K concerns regarding awareness and planning could be scored include those in the LD, IM, and EC chapters.

Surveyors cannot and will not evaluate the specific adequacy of an organization's compliance with Y2K issues, but an organization's planning for Y2K compliance will be discussed during 1999 routine biennial or triennial surveys, as well as random unannounced, for-cause, and other types of

surveys.

Organizations should identify and assess the implications of Y2K on operations, including computer systems, medical equipment, and utility systems, and determine whether organizations that provide supplies or services are addressing the Y2K issue.

If an organization's planning with respect to Y2K is minimal or nonexistent, the organization will receive type I recommendations.

Here's a look at how surveyors will assess your Y2K plans.

During the leadership interview, hospital leaders will need to explain potential problems and how they are addressed, say JCAHO officials. Here are a few things to consider:

- Be sure Y2K is a team effort. Staff should be empowered to work on critical issues.
- Be prepared to show documentation that confirms you have addressed medical equipment and utilities.

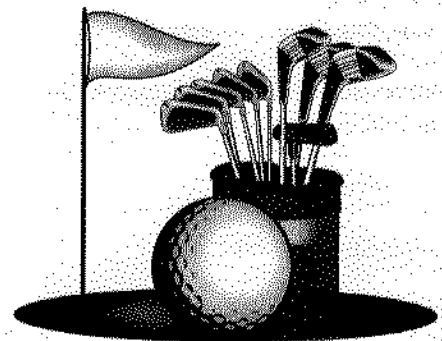
Consider crowd control. In the event of a city-wide power failure, your hospital might be the only warm place to go. Surveyors might want to see your plan.

Editor

## Get Ready! Get Set! Play Golf!

Can you imagine playing on the green? Having the ultimate golfing experience? Get Ready! Get Ready! Get Ready! The NCBA will be offering to you the ultimate golfing experience this year at the NCBA Symposium on October 27, 1999 at 1:00 P. M. More information will be posted at a later date. We look forward to seeing each of you this year.

Shelbra Jackson, NCBA Golf Coordinator



## The Virginia Biomedical Association

### A Brief History

(From the VBA Website)

For years many BMETs in Virginia had discussed a statewide Biomedical Association. Although there were several independent regional organizations in Virginia, a statewide organization was not established until 1994.

For the better part of 1993, Mary Frye Coker, Steve Haupt and Ryland Paxton performed the exhaustive research and background work needed to get started. On February 5<sup>th</sup>, 1994, an organizational meeting was held at the Wintergreen Resort, with the idea that a recreational setting would help create a more informal and interactive atmosphere. With encouragement and guidance from the North Carolina Biomedical Association and then NCBA President Greg Johnson, this meeting was a huge success and can be considered the beginning of the Virginia Biomedical Association.

In the following months, several key members got down to the business of putting together a working organization. Mary Frye Coker organized the

first Annual Meeting, Mark Freeman began the newsletter, Frank Insley persuaded then Virginia Governor Allen to establish a "Biomedical Technicians Week" and Lis Carroll organized our first technical training class - four days on Hewlett-Packard Monitors. Numerous other people and companies also contributed their times and resources to the VBA, ensuring our success.

Finally after more than a year in planning, in August 1994, we had our first Annual Meeting with election of the Board of Directors and ratification of the bylaws. We also held a vendors symposium and training classes to round things out. We were on our way.

That first organizational meeting has evolved into an annual "Winter Meeting" which is made up of informal classes and discussion groups in a semi-retreat type of atmosphere. The "Annual Meeting", which is where the real VBA business gets done, provides a lively interaction between members, is fast paced and has been growing in

programs, attendance and vendor sponsorship each year.

1997 was a significant year for the VBA. At this time most of the founding members have rotated off the Board of Directors. After much debate, this is also the first time that the officers were elected outside the Board. This "changing of the guard" is representative of a healthy, growing organization and shows the willingness of the VBA members to step up and provide leadership.

In 1999, the future has never seemed brighter for the VBA. In addition to a new Board of Directors, we have been able to update our website, [www.vbiomed.org](http://www.vbiomed.org), plan and sponsor another successful Winter Retreat and we're in the planning stage of what we believe will be the best Annual Meeting this fall in Williamsburg.

Take time to visit our website and learn more about the VBA, our officers and future opportunities for your professional advancement.

### NCBA Treasurer's Report

3/30/99

#### NCBA ASSETS

First Citizens Nat. Bank Checking Account	\$49,084.72
Eddie Whistnant Scholarship Fund Account	600.00
Norman (RED) Reeves Scholarship Fund	1,200.00
First Citizens CD	22,104.03
CCB CD	20,000.00
Equipment (Scanner)	222.59
<b>Total of all Assets</b>	<b>\$93,211.34</b>

#### NCBA LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Symposium Bills	\$0.00
Newsletter Bills	\$0.00
Other Liabilities	\$0.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Equity</b>	<b>\$93,211.34</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>\$93,211.34</b>

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**Fundamentals of Servicing Diagnostic Imaging Systems - Level I**

**DITEC**

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

### Job Opportunity

#### BIOMEDICAL SERVICE CONSULTANT

##### RESPONSIBILITIES-Stage I (six- nine months)

- Respond to service calls at regional hospitals (same day). Inspect and trouble shoot equipment as needed. Interact with appropriate staff to review situation and intervention. Document service call in hospital log. Process order to MSI as needed. Telephone follow up.
- Conduct on-site preventative maintenance for video and fiberoptic endoscopes, light sources, video processors, etc. Assess and document scopes function. Check against manufacturers specs for proper performance ... image, angulation etc.
- Collect data on repair and maintenance histories on equipment. Use biomed (or other) departments computer system. Add repair histories to MSI spreadsheet.
- Attend local and regional association meetings.
- Complete short term-assignments for manager as needed.
- Provide "emergency" back up for manager as needed.

#### SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Be available for immediate telephone response and same day site visits
- Have dependable and economical vehicle
- Have daily access to e-mail, fax, and home computer.
- Be self directed and responsible for developing expertise in various technical and managerial skills. Attend periodic off-site training sessions

Contact: Mr. Bob Pellack of MedServ International by calling 919-844-994

# SCHEDULE OF NCBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS FOR 1999

July 16, 1999                      Time: 1:00 PM  
Alamance Regional Med Ctr, 1240 Huffman 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

October 27- 29, 1999  
NCBA Symposium  
Joseph Koury Convention Center, Greensboro, N.C.

W. Glenn Scaler  
Duke Univ. Medical Center  
8700 Kenilworth Dr  
Raleigh, NC 27613-1222

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>

