

Letters to the CSA

November 29, 2005

To the Editor:

What a pleasure it was to read page 95 of the last *Bulletin*! At my age (almost 82), retired 100 percent plus for over four years, I read mostly with nostalgia, and appreciation, each of your *Bulletins*! Every time I read something written by Clyde Jones, it makes me feel especially proud that I had been one of his teachers at the United States Naval Hospital in San Diego four decades ago! This recent article almost brought tears to my eyes, thinking about Clyde. What a wonderful person this “Doctor Without Borders” is, as are his lovely wife Norma and their sons. This family will always be in our hearts.



Sincerely,

George I. Balas, M.D., Captain (MC) United States Navy, retired,
and the entire Balas Family

August 10, 2005

To the Editor:

I read with interest Gil Kinyon's “History of the *CSA Bulletin*” and am grateful for the sentence crediting my service to the *Bulletin* and to the CSA.

The article brought back many memories. I was asked to take over the *Bulletin* by Tom McIntosh because of rising letterpress printing costs and some dissatisfaction with the casual nature of prior publications. At that time I was

Editor’s Note: It should be noted that the letters published in this section represent the opinions of the individual authors, and no inference should be made as to the opinion of the California Society of Anesthesiologists or the editor. The views expressed here are not official policy of the CSA, and a letter’s publication does not imply agreement or disagreement with the author.

We are attempting to provide the membership with a forum to express their thoughts to other California anesthesiologists. We also make every attempt to publish the letters in their entirety and just as we receive them. Insofar as possible, related or opposing views will be published. If a letter deserves a reply, its publication may be delayed until the companion letter is available. Please remember, we do have deadlines and space limitations—thus, the publication of your letter may be delayed to the next issue for these reasons.

Letters to the CSA (cont'd)

secretary-treasurer of the CSA, but the executive secretary knew of my hobbies of typography and graphic arts, so I suspect he tipped Tom off that I might do the job.

I did indeed move the *Bulletin's* production to offset printing, first with Varityping composition, then with an IBM Composer. Eventually I did almost all of the composition myself and (now long time friend) Herman Garnier did the printing and binding. In those few years my comments concerning the economics and politics of anesthesia management then took the *Bulletin's* circulation from statewide-small to nationwide. I can honestly say that I was probably one of the very few anesthesiologists serving the CSA without one single iota of political ambition—a fact that often boggled the mind of my good friend Jim Rhee. I loved the job and learned much from doing it—my main motivation in accepting the task. It was a great pleasure.

I failed at several goals, one of them to eliminate the exploitation of nurse anesthetists and anesthesiologists by many of those in control of staff positions across America. I admit to Quixotic failings along other lines as well.

Thanks for printing Gil's article and thanks to all the editors for carrying on the good work.

Sincerely,
Robert E. Ploss, M.D.

Committee Appointments

Active and resident members who are interested in becoming more involved in the CSA and would like to start by serving on a committee need to contact Mark A. Singleton, M.D., President-Elect, at msingular@sprintmail.com or the CSA office at (800) 345-3691 or csa@csahq.org by February 28, 2006, indicating interest in the following divisions and committees:

Divisions:

- Educational Programs
- Legislative and Practice Affairs

Standing Committees:

- Committee on Bylaws
- Committee on Peer Review
- Committee on Finance and Administration
- Committee on Public and Professional Communications

Special Committees:

- Leadership Development
- Physicians Health and Well Being