



**T**he purpose of the **VOLUSIA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY (VCMS)** is to bring into one organization the physicians of Volusia County, to promote the science and art of medicine, and to foster the common interest of our members and the general public.

The strength of this Society lies in its members and committees, who work for the general welfare of the practicing physician, the public, and the medical community as a whole. Established in 1902, with a handful of dedicated physicians, the VCMS has grown to more than 450 physicians and their families living and working in Volusia County.

General membership meetings are held several times per year (second Tuesday of the month), giving members an opportunity to share concerns and enjoy camaraderie with other members. Our Program Committee strives to bring you speakers whose topics cover a myriad of informational material. New members are formally accepted and introduced to the general membership at these meetings. These meetings also serve as a forum for discussion with local politicians. An annual Joint Meeting with the spouses, significant others, guests, along with occasional fund raisers, gives members a pleasant break from usual Society business.

The Society publishes a Pictorial Directory of Physicians on line which provides information on all members including office addresses, telephone numbers, medical specialties and other pertinent biographical data. In addition, the Directory serves as a source of important community information, providing names of area hospitals, health-related organizations and other important resource numbers.



We offer a free community service available to all county residents seeking the services of a physician or in need of information about health programs in our area. We provide a variety of background information on our members such as educational training, foreign languages spoken, board certification and hospital affiliation. Each caller is provided the names of at least three physicians by medical specialty and

geographic location. All VCMS members are eligible for our referral service. There is no charge to our members or callers. The Society office receives several thousand inquiries annually.

Applications for physician support staff are kept on file in the Society office. Members may receive copies of applications for nurses, lab technicians, medical assistants, receptionists, secretaries and bookkeepers upon request.

*The Stethoscope*, published quarterly, is written by physicians for physicians. This magazine strives to inform you about important health, practice management, legislative and community issues, and to provide a forum for physician opinions. You may also use this publication to announce new associates,

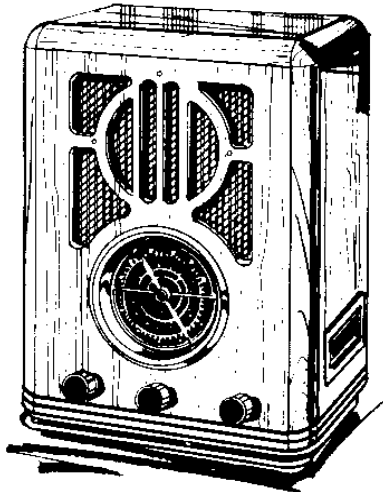
scientific achievements and special honors and awards. Any member is cordially invited to write an article for this publication or submit a photograph to be considered for the front cover.

**N**ewsBriefs is a weekly, one page newsletter that is designed especially to provide practice management information to you and your office staff. It is the intent of staff to make sure that you receive up-to-the-minute news in a timely fashion.

If you wish to distribute information and/or announcements to the general membership, you can purchase labels from the Society office for a minimal fee. Also, a VCMS roster is updated and distributed to the membership every six months.

Through the very active VCMS Legislative Committee, members have an active voice in county, state and federal legislative activities. The Society holds legislative candidates' forums so that members can communicate with area lawmakers. Society members lobby in Tallahassee, taking time away from their practice at their own expense. They are also asked to provide testimony on specific bills and serve as "Doctor of the Day" during Session. In coordination with the Florida Medical Association (FMA) and the American Medical Association (AMA), we are kept apprised on issues of concern to organized medicine and communicate those concerns to our members and elected officials and government representative at the appropriate levels. Through these efforts, we have a good record of securing passage of needed legislation and defeat or amendment of bills that would not have been in the best interest of medicine.

The VCMS reinforces the voice of its members with an ongoing, year-round public relations and communications program that extends to virtually all news media outlets in the area. This committee provides accurate and timely health information on a regular basis to explain the critical issues surrounding the complexities of modern medical care.



The Society's School Advisory Committee carries an ambitious series of community events throughout the year. These include: judging of local science fair winners, scoliosis screenings, Sports Symposium for Coaches, Health Awareness Days for local middle and high schools, and physician volunteer speakers to the Volusia County School System.

The "WNDB" *Ask the Doctor Program* began in 1985 and airs every Thursday morning from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The Society provides speakers on a wide range of topics and the community response has been outstanding. The VCMS won first place in the radio category of the 1992 FMA medical communications awards contest for this educational and informative program. The request form for speakers is sent to every member during the month of June.

The Young Physicians Committee was established in order to promote the interests and needs of the county's physicians aged 40 and under and those over 40 who are in their first five years of practice. In Volusia County, this committee is trying to provide a means for new physicians in the community to meet and network with other new physicians.

**T**he Society takes its role seriously as mediator of complaints involving patients and physicians. The Mediation Committee and the Society staff work diligently in their investigation and attempt to resolve conflicts, misunderstandings, communication difficulties, billing problems, etc., before they escalate into legal action. Your colleagues volunteer their time and energies to provide this invaluable service to the physician membership and the community.

A relationship is maintained with the Volusia County Bar Association. The Society seeks to resolve differences between attorneys and physicians to promote better understanding between the two professions.



The Public Health Committee provides physicians with opportunities to interact with the Community and to be involved in developing county and state health policy.

Informational seminars are given on risk management, HIV/AIDS, domestic violence, office policy, Medicare updates, and almost any subject matter of interest to the membership. The society makes a concerted effort to meet the needs of all its members in every specialty. We make every attempt for you to obtain as many CME credits locally as possible.

We have District Representatives from the Greater Daytona/Ormond area as well as West Volusia and New Smyrna Beach who bring your voice and your concerns to the Executive Committee. Our Medical Economics and Environmental Committees keep you abreast of rapidly changing developments and the Physician Recovery Network is there for you should a crisis arise.

The Emergency Medical Services Committee presented a disaster preparedness plan survey to the membership in order that the FMA and the VCMS could establish a database of physician volunteers who are willing and able to respond to major disasters within the state of Florida.

The VCMS, the FMA and the AMA share the responsibility of representing you at local, state and national levels, and each provides you with numerous services and benefits. These are but a few of the many arms of an integrated, grassroots, viable, working medical organization.

Revised: 1/11