

THE BULLETIN



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A Message from the Director

The sole purpose of the Society is to provide grants to its members, surviving dependent spouses, children and parents. In the past few years, medical related expenses have become the largest single factor in grant needs. Typically, this is an expense that isn't covered by insurance or Medicare.

With the advent of the Affordable Care Act in 2014, we expect that requests for medical related expenses will be even greater. In the first quarter, the Society provided \$ 10,000 in additional funds to chapters needing help for grants which couldn't be covered by chapter funds. It is almost certain that this will happen more in the future.

The Board is following the alarming trend in medical costs. It understands the need and stands ready to assist its membership to the fullest extent possible.

Hurricanes and Insurance Coverage

We have experienced requests for help with storm related expenses following last year's devastating hurricanes in the Gulf Coast and on the East Coast. Members are being challenged to cover the higher cost of insurance. It's clear that if a policy holder cannot pay the premiums, insurance coverage will be terminated. Once this happens, the chance of getting another carrier to provide coverage in these coastal areas is extremely difficult.

The Society has helped in Gulf Coast communities where members could not cover the expense of insurance premiums. Let your chapter know if you are facing the loss of coverage on your home. The Society stands ready to help on all documented situations.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Society's purpose is to provide financial aid quickly and confidentially to and for the benefit of a member or a deceased member's surviving eligible dependent that is in need of financial assistance in the face of misfortune or emergency.

Communications Initiative

The Society is currently considering a communications proposal designed to reach a broader audience of members and retirees. Most of our communications today take place through chapter meetings, our newsletter and the web site. Many of our members don't have access to computers, so reaching them is a real challenge. The idea is to develop a simple information folder which can be handed out at meetings or possibly mailed directly to members. Details are being worked out now. Look for more on this important initiative in future editions of The Bulletin. Our thanks to Karen Bruder, Robin Johnson and Donna Wenzel for the idea.

Society Finances

As of February 28, the market value of Society investments stood at \$3,781,120. The Society has clearly benefitted from the improving stock market. At this level, the Board remains confident that we will be able to meet the needs of its members in the years to come. Of course judicious management of our finances is mandatory. The Society's only sources of income are from investments and member contributions.

The Society's investment strategy is to maintain a 50-50 split between equity and bond funds in order to balance growth with the need for liquidity.

For those of you who can, consider making a contribution to the Society. Or, consider making a provision in your will. As a 501(c)4 organization, these are not tax-deductible contributions, but you would be helping fellow members in need.

Executive Director Visits Chapters

In January, ED Paul Langenus visited the Pensacola, Mobile and Moss Point chapters. A presentation was made to the Pensacola Chapter and meetings were held with officers at Mobile and Moss Point. Our thanks to Chapter Chairmen, Janet Webb at Pensacola, FL, Joe Hossley at Mobile, AL, and Thurman McNeese and Harold Frost at Moss Point, MS.

Having a meeting? Langenus and Board members welcome participating at chapter meetings. Personal presentations have proven over time the most effective means of reaching members. Give us some notice, and we'll make every effort to attend your meeting.

QCS Web Site

Further improvements in content and clarity are being made on our web site, IPQCS.com. Led by Board member, Marianne Duvall, Board member biographies have been updated, the White Paper has been added as has the membership enrollment card. Recent efforts include adding the Chapter Semi-Annual Financial Report and Audit Report forms. The plan is to make the web site interactive. This will facilitate ease of entry and allow faster, more accurate data, and save time. Look for more web site improvements in future editions.

Want To Help?

You may know that the Society is manned by volunteers. All members of the Society's Board of Directors, as well as the people who govern chapter affairs, do so voluntarily. They devote hours of time working to improve operations and productivity and caring for those members in need. We want to thank and recognize all those who make it happen.

Would you like to help? You can join a chapter and agree to serve on a committee. You can help start a new chapter if there are sufficient potential members. Or you can help by bringing a member in need to the attention of your chapter. Help a fellow member this year – you'll feel great that you did.

Society Board Meets

The Board had its quarterly meeting on Friday, March 22 in Memphis. It was a productive meeting which covered a new concept to improve our outreach with retired members and provide current employees with information when they reach 25 years of service. Also discussed was current finances and closing the books for 2012. Two new chapters are in the works: Springfield, OR and Franklin, VA. Also, see the article "Communications Initiative". Look for more on this soon.

Post *The Bulletin*

For those of you receiving *The Bulletin* via email, we have a request to make. If you have a Quarter Century member friend who is not receiving our newsletter, tell them about it. Or better yet, send it to them. We'd be happy to add their names to the distribution list.

For those of you working in sales offices, converting plants or mills, why not post the newsletter on bulletin boards at your facilities. This is a great way to spread the word on the Society and its mission. Thanks for helping!

2013 Distribution of Funds

We are working on closing the books for 2012 and will be mailing checks to those chapters who have met the requirements to receive funds. This includes having submitted all financial reports in a complete, accurate and timely manner.

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