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Alcor News Bulletin

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New, Comprehensive Standby Policy

Currently, any member wishing to have a standby launched prior to the pronouncement of legal death is required to provide additional funding for team deployment. Comprehensive Member Standby (CMS, previously known as "Universal Standby") will eliminate this need by providing US and Canada-based members with guaranteed standby services as part of this new plan. This includes an around-the-clock standby team to prepare for the case, to provide for patient stabilization upon pronouncement, and to transport the patient to the Alcor facility (via ground or commercial air). Separate funding will not be required.

The cost to each member to implement the CMS policy is a modest \$10.00 per month added to the monthly dues per adult member. For minors (18 and under) and fulltime students (under 25), the monthly fee is waived. This \$10.00 per month will give members standby coverage worth \$35,000 or more, a

fee that would otherwise have to be paid as the need arose, usually in a time of great stress for the patient and patient's family. CMS will become effective as of January 1, 2005, and the new fees will appear on your normal billing statement.

Provision has also been made for those wishing to avoid possible transit delays in the use of commercial carriers. As will be seen in the complete CMS plan, a member may choose to reserve a privately-chartered aircraft, for an additional annual fee of \$500.00. There have been situations, however, where chartered aircraft would not have enhanced the quality of transport, so the member may reasonably choose to waive this option. Even if chartered service is selected and paid for, there have been cases where it was not appropriate to use, because ground transport or commercial aircraft was faster, given the number of fuel stops a smaller craft has to make. Enrollment in the charter aircraft portion of this plan will be limited to the month of January of each year, and there is a 180-day waiting period before a new enrollee may utilize the service.

Included with the standby policy change is an increase in suspension minimums effective January 1, 2005. On that date the new neuro suspension minimum will be \$80,000 and the whole-body suspension minimum will be \$150,000. (Present minimums are \$50,000 for neuro and \$120,000 for whole-body.) These new suspension minimums do not affect existing members unless they change the type of suspension they want (for example, switching from neuro to whole-body or vice versa). Otherwise, the higher minimums will only apply to new members.

The membership will receive complete details about the new Comprehensive Standby policy in a special Alcor News that will be sent next week. In addition, ongoing updates will be made to the Alcor website at <http://www.alcor.org/BecomeMember/standby.html>, to keep the membership fully informed of late breaking information. Specific questions can be directed to [MR/TJ]

Legislative Update

To date Alcor members have raised over \$30,000 for a slate of candidates facing reelection this November, as well as participated in several rallies, fundraising events, and campaigning activities. None of these important activities were sponsored by Alcor itself but were sponsored and supported, again, by individual members. [JW]

Public Relations

Alcor posted a press release announcing that we intend to comply with a court ruling to provide the document of gift to the relatives of Ted Williams. Alcor fully intends to do so upon receipt of a final judgment signed by the court.

This legal technicality will enable Alcor to release the documentation without violating patient confidentiality. Alcor is eager to comply with the orders of the court and to expedite compliance with the court's order; the necessary final judgment paperwork was filed by Alcor in favor of the plaintiffs for the court's signature. However, the attorney for the plaintiffs has filed a protest indicating they do not want a final judgment even though they are entitled to one! Go figure.

Needless to say, we have not released the document of gift and will not do so until we receive the final judgment signed by the court since we still consider ourselves under the restriction of our confidentiality agreement. [JW]

Transport Vehicle

Development of the new vehicle has progressed nicely in the past few weeks. We've completed the preparation needed to install the flooring. Builder's Purchasing in Scottsdale will provide installation of the Medintech® flooring we've selected. The contractor is on another job, but we hope to obtain an estimate from them by next week.

We've found a cabinet maker to build the necessary spaces for storing transport equipment in the vehicle. Our cabinets will be custom-built, because we have significant space constraints. We need every inch of space to ensure we have enough room to store the equipment, perform the procedures, and transport patients and personnel safely. Once complete, we should have nearly four times the storage space required by a transport kit. Of course, housing the equipment in a vehicle instead of densely packed Pelican cases will allow greater flexibility and redundancy, plus significantly improved access to supplies.

All of the structural modifications needed to complete the design have been drafted. I've compiled the list of additional equipment we'd like to see installed, including what is needed to process samples for gauging the success of blood washouts.

With the addition of custom cabinets to the design, we're pushing our \$25,000 budget to its limits, but I still believe we'll be able to come in under that, once all expenses are totaled. The cabinets could also delay the estimated completion time by a month, to the end of January 2005. [TJ]

2005 Conference

We intend to hold another conference in 2005 and have been considering our options for dates and locations. One of the contenders for venue is the Arizona Science Center in Phoenix. Joe Waynick and I went to the Science Center to meet with President Sheila Grinell. This meeting was arranged by Cheryl Walsh, who also attended. During this meeting, we discussed the possibility of holding our next

conference in their auditorium, and it seems the Science Center would be ideal for the anticipated number of attendees, with room for expansion. Though we have yet to decide formally on conference locations or dates, we know we have at least one local alternative that would appeal strongly to our membership, especially if entrance to the many exhibits were included as part of the registration. However, attendees will be required to provide for their own local transportation and book their own hotel rooms.

The second possibility for the 2005 conference is a "CryoCruise." Having the conference aboard a cruise ship has the advantage of simplifying a great many of the logistical details for Alcor and attendees alike. In addition, there will be plenty of activities before, between, and after lectures and breakout sessions. Food and accommodations will also be included at no additional cost. [TJ]

Transport Team Recruitment and Training

The southern California recruitment meeting for the transport team was a well-attended event held September 26 at the home of Dave Keckich. More than thirty Alcor members were able to come, along with several prospective cryonicists and at least one member of Cryonics Institute. Over the course of the afternoon at least three people expressed interest in assisting the local team, though more may have contacted the local coordinators by now. Preparations are underway for holding their introductory training session later this month.

We're looking for a new host for the northern California recruiting party scheduled on October 29, as the original host is now going to be out of town. Details will follow as the situation develops, but once we obtain a new location, we'll do an email and postal mailing to invite the local members. [TJ]

Pet Population Grows Once More

On October first we added another pet to our patient population, bringing our current companion animal total to 26. This was a cat with neuro arrangements, euthanized because of cancer, and promptly delivered in dry ice to Alcor. Preparation starting from the frozen state was routine, including cephalic isolation and a cooldown of about 60 hours' duration. Our kitty now takes a long, quiet nap in liquid nitrogen, while technology improves

Pet patient totals were previously over-reported by two. I learned that two pets had been removed from our care some years ago, so my count of companion animals required adjusting. [TJ]

Cryonics Magazine

The March / April issue of Cryonics magazine was finally mailed to members. The May / June issue has been printed and is ready for mailing. Mailing will occur by the second week of October. The balance of the 2004 issues will go out monthly to get back on track. Your patience is greatly appreciated while we work out our production schedule. [JW]

Membership Statistics

On September 30, 2004 Alcor had 687 members on its Emergency Responsibility List. Eight memberships were approved during this month, no memberships were reinstated, no memberships were cancelled and no members were cryopreserved. Overall, there was a net gain of eight members this month.

At the end of this month Alcor had 116 applicants for membership. With a month-end total of 117 last month, there was a net loss of one applicant with seven incoming applicants being added. [JC]

Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 6, 2004 at 11:00 AM (MST).

Board meetings are held on the first Saturday of the month at the Alcor facility (7895 East Acoma Drive in Scottsdale, AZ). Members and the public are encouraged to attend.

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End of Alcor News bulletin #31 dated October 8, 2004.
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