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THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER by Sherry Arigo

We finally have all of our activities, shows and rallies planned for the entire year. I'm so glad that part of my job is done. I always worry about having enough volunteers for the shows and rallies. Fortunately this year some of our new members have stepped up to the plate. Pete and Nancy Klein and Charlie Parsons will be co-chairing the Sport Show and the Fuddruckers/Wachovia Shows. In fact, they have already taken some steps to promote the shows. Thanks to the three of them, they sure are brave souls!

John and I were talking to Bill at the Bonfish Grill and again this year we will be having our 16th club anniversary brunch at this restaurant. I don't know the details, but as soon as I get them I will pass them on. All I know so far is that the date is July 15th.

At our February meeting, Christine VonBocker, our charity coordinator, introduced Damon Bradley from AAMC to talk about all of the new facilities that will be going up at the hospital. He talked about the impact our club has had on the Infusion Center in the past and present years. They are very grateful for the donations we have made over the years, a total of \$25,000 to date. Damon talked about the needs of the Infusion Center for this year per our request. They would like to purchase two Dynamaps with the club's new contribution. They are like blood pressure cuffs but they monitor blood pressure, heart rate and oxygen levels in the blood. Patients are connected to these systems during treatment allowing the nurses to see other patients that need assistance beyond that of their period checks or "rounds". If a problem and/or level are off, the system beeps informing the nurse to attend to the situation. Currently, there are 6 systems. The goal would be to have 10, or one in each treatment room. The cost of one of these systems is between \$1500 and \$1800. We would like to purchase at least two of them depending on the money we make from our shows, rallies, silent auction and raffle. This will be our goal for 2007.

On a different note, we had our First Annual Bowling Party on February 18th. About 50 of our members attended, 40 bowled and the rest watched. Of course they all had legitimate excuses, like too weak to bowl, broken fingernails, bad back, and Rob Striegel strolled in with a bruised foot and on crutches. Boy, that was a real lame excuse!! Everyone had a blast and I could not believe how well some of our members bowled. Bill Phillips bowled a 190 game, Sue Davis bowled a 168 game, Sonny Brown had a high set of 450 and Sue Davis had a high set of 435. I'll bet they practiced all week, don't you think? Of course we had two members that couldn't bowl worth a darn in the first game. Barbara Novitsky bowled a ___ and Pete Klein bowled a ___. (I don't want to embarrass them with their scores, but let's put it like this..it costs more to fill the Corvette with gas than their scores). They each won a dunce hat for their wonderful performance. Pete looked so cute in his red and green elf hat with big ears and Barbara looked charming in her purple Diva nightcap. After that first game (they said that was just a warm up), they both did rather well for the next two games. Thanks Pete and Barbara for being such good sports! The winning team with the highest score was Team 2, the "Stingrays" that included Kathi Rattell, Peggy Eckhauser, Bill Phillips, John Arigo and Jim DeSarno. We enjoyed a nice dinner while we bowled, had our door prizes and 50/50 raffle and, of course, the wonderful 14 carrot gold plastic trophies were presented. I'm sure they will be proudly displayed upon the mantles.

Now as you read this, 10 of the members will be lying in the sun drinking a Bahama Mama on our Caribbean cruise. Don't say, "Oh, lucky them". You could have gone too! So I will see you at the meeting on March 13th looking all tan and rested. Bon Voyage!!

Get Ready, Get Set, Go Vette,
Sherry