

EAST CENTRAL REGION, ACPE

INDIANA, KENTUCKY, MICHIGAN, OHIO & PITTSBURGH, PA.

July 2000

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Frankly Speaking

A Small Grief

My wife and I stood on opposite sides of the stainless steel table with moist eyes, each with one hand on the tiny, sleek body between us. With my other hand I held the oxygen mask gently in place over Wally's nose and mouth. He didn't fight it--he was too exhausted to fight anything now. Dr. Lawson, holding the lethal syringe in her hand, looked to us silently for permission to proceed. When we nodded our approval, she deftly slipped the fine needle into a vein in his leg. The response, as she had prepared us, was instantaneous. This friend, who had shared our home and our hearts for eight short years, stopped on a dime, and was gone.

That was over a month ago, as I sit writing this, my heart still feels the stab of that pain when I reflect on his death. On the surface of things, it seems contradictory to me that I can work in a place where "real tragedies" are a daily occurrence, and still find the death of a little dog--scarcely eight pounds of creature--to be such a tough loss to take. "What is that loss," I reason, "compared to the awful industrial accidents, homicides, suicides, and auto accidents that kill and maim young and old with impunity?"

There is no mercy for anyone: Tragedy strikes the old, the young, the innocent, the guilty, the responsible and the irresponsible. In light of all this, what is the big deal about one miniature pincer that

gets cancer and dies in respiratory distress at a doggie age of fifty-something?

Perhaps it began to be a little clearer to me a day later when I lost my wallet. I was reminded that every loss carries with it a significant emotional component. Although my wallet was found a few days later, I was struck by how even this "inconvenient" loss in my life held a certain power to disrupt my well-being in addition to involving a lot of tedious work, canceling credit cards and acquiring new licenses and membership cards.

I was reminded that, just as "beauty is in the eye of the beholder," so "grief is in the interpretation of the one suffering the loss." There is, deep inside our being, a device that measures and tracks our sense of well-being. It records any increase in that sense that is caused by "getting" something, and any decrease in that sense caused by "losing" something--anything. For example, our sense of well-being can be enhanced by a small thing such as a complement, or by a big thing, like getting certified, or attaining a Ph. D. Likewise, our sense of well-being can be decreased by a small thing, like an angry exchange with a loved one or colleague, or by something major, like the death of a family member or friend. Any loss, big or small will upset that homeostasis, or sense of well-being, and when it does, we have an emotional response to that change--grief.

I don't know if Wally was an extraordinary dog or not, but he was special to us. He was gentle, affectionate, patient and demonstrative. He craved human contact, and liked nothing better than a quiet evening with people around. Although it sounds like a contradiction, other animal lovers will understand when I say that he, "humanized the environment," of our home. Wally came to us at a time when our home was in transition- our two sons were moving out, going to school getting started on their own lives away from us. It was not an easy time. There was some involvement with the law, and some strain on relationships. One son was moved out completely,

the other still came and went from our home, but was basically absent. We were nervous and anxious when we didn't know where he was, and uncomfortable when he came home, silent and uncommunicative. Into this highly charged atmosphere came a tiny black and brown dog, who quickly endeared himself to all of us. He became the focus of mutual affection from everyone. When we could not show affection to each other, we could experience it from Wally--and as we witnessed each other relating warmly with the dog, we knew that those warm feelings, that caring, that we could not express directly to each other, was still there. Perhaps this is a part of the reason we loved him so dearly.

Well, things are a lot better these days among the humans in the family--life has stabilized for all of us, and we do better at being communicative, kind and considerate with each other directly. But I still remember with gratitude the role that Wally played in "gluing" us together in those hard days. Maybe that was his job, and, having finished it, he could move on. But as he has gone, he has left me wiser, if a bit damaged. I am not so brash as to take for granted that humanity is the crowning achievement of creation, nor am I any longer a believer that all the creatures of the world are here simply for our use and benefit. I believe that they have worth and value quite apart from the "use" we make of them, and are marvelous creations of God in their own right.

I have a colleague who calls her pets (cats, in her case) her "fur children," which on many days, she prefers to "skin children." My wife thinks of a dog as a "spirit in a hound-suit." While I teasingly argue with this definition, I know in many ways she is right. Wally was certainly possessed of a personality that was superior to that of many humans. His generosity, patience, and unconditional love produced a sweet disposition. How can that not be spirit?

Over the millennia of human history people have tried to define what makes humans different from "other animals." Everything from the ability to spit, to the opposable thumb, to the capacity to anticipate or regret, have been cited as defining differences. All of these may be true, but they do not keep our fur children from getting into our hearts.

So I say a fond farewell to you, Wally. You have been a wonderful friend and companion. I will miss your soft brown eyes and your sleek coat, your trim little body and the eager twitch with which you welcomed me home at night. Your little paws didn't make very big prints, and your eight pounds couldn't press those paw prints very deep, but the tracks you left on my heart will not go away. Thank you for showing us all something about being "human."

*Collegially
Frank*

Board of Representatives Meeting Spring 2000 – May 3-7

Meeting held in Arlington, Virginia
Summary for East Central Region

James Stapleford was in the position as President and presided over the meeting for the first time. At this meeting we met both before and after the conference which was a new way of trying to respond to all the needs for decision making from the board.

We heard and received the following reports: regional reports, President's report, history committee, Executive Director, Interim Executive Director, Clinical Member report, REM report, Faith Group Advisory Council, Seminary Reps, COMISS, Webmaster, Disaster Response, Report from CAPPE 2000 conference, Journal of Pastoral Care, and others.

Interim Director's Final report: Stu conveyed appreciation to many including Nancy Parker and the staff, reported on Executive Director (ED) transition, fiscal realities, US Department of Education, and Inter-organizational relationships. He included a statement that we need to live within our means that we are not succeeding in this. He also strongly supported our choice for ED in Teresa Snorton and felt that we had made a good choice. He views Teresa as very capable and doing very well in the ED position. The transition has gone well.

ED Report: Teresa reported that her transition had gone better than expected. Her report centered around the five areas identified by the Personnel Committee's "Standards of Performance" evaluation. She has spent the bulk of her time evaluating, monitoring, and overseeing the function of the business office. The office is now fully staffed

and rearranged for more effective functioning. She has been working with the membership data software program, which has been a problem, issues around the web page, working on a new directory style, newsletter issues, and insurance coverage. She has begun developing working relationships with cognate groups and others and has worked to execute decisions of the Board, Commissions, and Committees. A lot of focus has been on the Strategic Planning process and preparation for the Annual Conference, and the Accreditation Task Force work on the response to the report from the DOE. She reported numerous problems with our travel agent, ATC and recommended seeking a new one. She also stated if we are going to continue the volunteer reader program that we need to expand our pool of readers, because it is too difficult to get readers. She also reported on personnel and duty changes.

Financial Report: We were \$26,101 over budget for 1999. The reasons were identified and we worked to adjust our spending by decreasing the budget by 10%, approved project 2000 and raised some fees. Project 2000 dealt with the deficits by asking for donations from the membership. The board spent a good chunk of time dealing with financial concerns and responding to budget needs.

Annual Conference: **The Board voted and passed to move the Annual Conference back to the fall for the year 2003.** Reasons for this change included a request from Arabella Young because of difficulty booking hotels, higher costs in the Spring (costs drop after end of October), the fall provides a longer time for booking a period of time for the conference, attendance has actually dropped somewhat since we moved to the spring, original intent of meeting with cognate groups has not materialized as anticipated.

New Members: Wake Forest Divinity School in Winston-Salem, NC was accepted as a new seminary membership in ACPE.

Fall Board Meeting: Fall meeting of the Board will be held in Nashville, TN November 8-13. This meeting incorporates three purposes: a meeting on the Pastoral White Paper with other boards from other cognate groups, joint meeting with boards of APC and NACC, and our fall business meeting. We struggled with cost issues and worked

to manage the time to the best of our ability, but also to do the business needed.

Inter Organization Relationships: CPSP issues were a topic of discussion. CPSP became a member of COMISS. Problems were identified in that many CPSP members are also members of ACPE, which seems to be creating a conflict of interest. CPSP does not have a clear and separate identity from ACPE and uses standards and other formats used by ACPE. Students are confused at times and it is not clearly explained to them that CPSP is not ACPE and that the student will not receive credit for CPE through ACPE. We worked at trying once again to resolve and deal with some of these issues. It was decided to establish a task force, to engage in some dialogue and to hear a report at our next meeting.

Commission and Committee Reports:

- *Personnel Committee:* The board approved an employee evaluation tool and the Personnel Employee Manual that had been updated. Three members of the Personnel Committee visited the National office a few weeks after Teresa began, to welcome her and to establish relationship connections. They have also had a few conference calls and two meetings to update the employee evaluation process, deal with policies and the employee manual. Thanks to Paula Teague, the chair, the committee has attended to much important business around policy and procedure.
- *Standards:* Changes suggested by the Standards Commission were adopted. New ones were suggested for study in 2001. Outcomes for supervisory CPE were established for study. An annual meeting for the Chairs of commissions was suggested.
- *Accreditation:* We received their report and had some dialogue. There were no motions for approval. We supported and received the new Accreditation Manual. Issues about DOE were raised and discussed.
- *Certification:* Report heard and received. No actions. Issues reported on were supervisory training progress, minority certification, NACC supervisors, and certifying foreign-based Associate

supervisors. Revised manual was approved. A continuing education form was approved.

- Ethics: Requested that Anne Underwood be employed to review our manuals from all commissions, to integrate them and to look for redundancy and inconsistencies. This was approved.
- RANC: Report of Inclusiveness for ACPE leadership included 92 % Euro-American, 8% REM, 6% Gay/Lesbian, 67% male, and 33 % female.
- Strategic Plan Committee: Goals, objectives, vision, and action plan was approved. This was presented at the annual meeting. We worked on identifying members for an implementation team to oversee the process.
- Steering Committee: Worked on a mission statement, goals for the groups, values for all groups were identified, and they are looking at possible models for collaboration. Reported on 3 meetings of the members of the Steering Committee appointed to continue the conversations about collaborations between AAPC, APC, ACPE, and NACC. A meeting of all boards is scheduled for November 2000.
- History Committee: Bob Leas from East Central Region was appointed as the new History Coordinator for a two-year term to take over from John Thomas. John is resigning due to retirement and longevity in this position. The history committee did a 75th anniversary historical celebration at the conference and did a tape for all supervisors. Retired and Active supervisors pledged nearly \$6,000 toward a goal of \$7,500 to provide a History booklet, a video, and a banner for the 2000 conference. Thanks to John Thomas for all his hard work to preserve our history.

Submitted by Jan Humphreys

CERTIFICATION NEWS

Carl Buxo met the Certification Commission for Associate status in Arlington, VA. Although he was not granted Associate status, he felt good about the way he met the committee and plans to be back again. Our prayers and best wishes are with you, Carl!!!

The new Certification Manual is not yet in existence. If you have been wondering if the 1997 manual is still in effect - it is!!! The plan is to publish the new manual in 2001.

Some of the issues the Certification Commission wrestled with during this past meeting included: whether and how to put a time limit on Candidacy; how to insure the competency of supervisors doing Supervisory training; whether or not to utilize the resources of APC to determine endorsement and M.Div. equivalency; and, the importance of taking Candidacy extension committees seriously.

Fall Meeting Deadlines

If you plan to meet the Regional Certification Committee at the fall meeting, the **application deadline is July 28**. This means that both your application form and your check should be in the hands of Mary Altenbaumer by that date. You can now apply on-line if you so choose. The application is then forwarded to Mary immediately, and you only need to send your check by snail mail.

After the schedule is set, you will receive a copy of the docket indicating the time of your meeting and who will be on your committee. Your materials are to be in the hands of your committee members no later than **August 28**.

Questions and/or concerns can be addressed to-Mary Altenbaumer, Regional Certification Chair, St. Vincent Hospital, Indianapolis, IN. Phone (317) 338-3168; Fax (317) 338-2987; or by e-mail mlaltenb@stvincent.org

Job Opportunities (also available at our web site)

- The Swedish Medical Center, a 368 bed Level II Trauma Center, of Englewood, CO. is inviting applications for a **CPE Director** to supervise the program of Pastoral Care and Education. The Swedish Medical System is part of the HealthOne

System of CO. The program commands strong support from the hospital. The Director will enjoy a high degree of autonomy and opportunities for basic, advanced and supervisory CPE students. The director will also supervise the pastoral care visitors who volunteer in the hospital, will organize support and develop pastoral care services at the medical center, collaborating and assisting in the development and implementation of the goals and mission. The position offers excellent benefits, competitive salary and relocation assistance. The ideal candidate will have a M. Div., from an accredited theological seminary; designation as a Certified CPE supervisor; ordination and endorsement by denomination. Spanish speaking candidates are encouraged to apply. Inquiries/Resumes to: Kelly Wilson, Human Resources, Swedish Medical Center, 501 E. Hampton Avenue, Englewood, CO. 80110. Fax (303) 788-6029; Telephone: (303) 788-4073 or Email: kelly.wilson@hcahealthcare.net

- The Hospice of the Bluegrass is seeking a full time **Hospice Chaplain** to provide spiritual care to patients, families and caregivers either directly or through coordination of care with other spiritual counselors. Must be a seminary graduate with a M. Div., ordained and in good denomination standing and have a KY driver's license. Two previous units of CPE is preferred. Contact: John Rudd, Chaplain Coordinator, Hospice of the Bluegrass, 2312 Alexandria Drive, Lexington, KY. 40504. Fax: (859) 223-0490 or Email: jrudd@hospicebg.com

Calendar of Events

- September 22-23, 2000 ECR Fall Meeting, St. Joseph, MI., The Boulevard Inn

Information for the next newsletter must be received in writing by July 25, 2000. Send to: Regional Business Office, 7672 Cottonwood Lane, Dexter, MI. 48130. Telephone: 1/800-336-5099; or lykbyl@aol.com

Officers of the Region

Frank Ciampa, Regional Director
 Mary Altenbaumer, Certification
 Kim Barnett, Clinical Members
 Lin Barnett, Board of Reps
 Alan Bowman, Chair
 Billie Brandon Beverly, Secretary
 D. Carl Buxo, REM
 Larry Gray, Treasurer
 Ted Hodge, Chair Elect
 Jan Humphreys, Board of Reps
 Robert Leas, History
 Jeannette Lucas, Standards
 John Peterson, Accreditation
 Larry Smith, Long Range Planning
 Henry Uy, Research
 Karl Van Harn, Nominations

Supervisory Education in the Region

Associate Supervisors

Walter Balk
 Elizabeth Price

Supervisory Education in the Region

Gail Bradford
 Barbara Bullock
 D. Carl Buxo
 Roy Dahl
 Daryl Hanson
 Gene Hausmann
 Frank Impicciche
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 Pat Shelden-Ward
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