

Interoffice Memo

Date : January 17, 2003
To : Marilyn Van Sant, and the NJAHU Board
From : John A. Kalosy, HIA, NJ Sales CHMO, 526
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Subject : January Legislative Report

The South Jersey Chapter is having their annual Legislative Meeting on Tuesday January 28th, 2003. The meeting will be held at the Enterprise Center at BCC on Route 38 in Mount Laurel, NJ. Breakfast will begin at 8am and the panel will start at 8:30 am the program will conclude no later than 10am. We are shooting for the last week in April for the "Storming The Statehouse" event down in Trenton, NJ.

Some important upcoming dates to remember:

February 7, 2003: Cap Con Early-Bird Registration Deadline
February 21, 2003: Hotel Reservations Cut-Off Date for Cap Con
March 23-25, 2003: Capitol Conference

- The HIAPAC currently has a total of \$3,460.00 in pledges and donations. Our goal is \$7,500 per year in lobbying costs. We received an additional pledge of \$400 from the North Jersey Chapter for the HIAPAC! This will bring the Northern Jersey Chapters contribution this fiscal year to \$2,900.00. If each member donated a mere \$25 per year we would be able to continue our lobbying efforts every year without interruption.
- The Capitol Conference appointment calendar is quickly filling up.
- Several bills were scheduled for Hearings on January 9, 2003 but all three were postponed. Jim Stenger, Russ Bent, Paul Bent and I attended all three hearings since we were down there to increase our visibility to the Legislators.
- The three bills we were interested in were:
 - A1890 -Oppose- this bill reclassifies hospital beds to increase payments to the NJ Hospitals - \$250 million per year price tag to the private payer System
 - A3137 -Support with Amendments- this bill establishes the Mandate Advisory Commission to review bills for the Legislature to determine cost and impact on the market
 - S2174 -Support- this bill attempts to reform the legal, insurance industry and patient safety. Provisions of the bill include: a reduction of the statute of limitations for birth injuries, establishment of a pretrial screening procedure to weed out frivolous suits, strengthens expert witness requirements, requires

carriers to offer deductibles, a provision prohibiting carriers from increasing a doctors premiums unless a case results in a judgement and creation of an emergency subsidy program for high risk practitioners.

- I have been working with Russ Bent on the filing of ELEC form L-2 2002 which lists payments made to legislators in our lobbying effort. The deadline for filing is 2.15.2003.
- I contacted Rick Alampi on 1.10.2003 to start the filing of ELEC forms for the HIAPAC. Since no money had been disbursed in 2003 the filing should be rather simple.
- **Federal Issues**
 - Members returned to Washington to convene the new Congress on January 7, 2003. Senator Bill Frist (R-TN), the Senate's sole physician, is now the Senate majority leader. The NAHU has had an excellent relationship with Senator Frist.