Welcome New Members
Cesar Contreras
Douglas 'Doug' Freese
Robert 'Bob' Hill

Membership Profile
Active Members 71
Lapsed Members 107
Potential Members 17
Honorary Members 23
Associate Members 1

See How YOU can change the Numbers on Page 2

What Prescription Drugs Really Cost!
Submitted by Tom Rivers

I received this from a friend, and as I always do, I checked it at the Urban Legends site (www.snopes.com) and IT'S TRUE! If you'd like to check it at Snopes, click on the link and type "Costco" in the search engine there. I think this was the second link in the list that came up.

There are also more links to dig deeper into the subject.

So you feel a little guilty about getting your medications in Mexico? DON'T! We are being ripped off by a bunch of thieves who just happen to own pharmacies. Apparently, Costco is really the best place in this country to buy your medications. As Snopes will tell you, you do not have to be a member – just tell them you are there to use the pharmacy and they must admit you.

(see Drugs Page 2)

Members Become Homeless!!!

Before you become too alarmed, it was totally by choice, and actually a once-in-a-lifetime unexpected opportunity.

You know the McCanns', Gordon and Barbara, the charter members who always showed up at the reunion with several different types of wine—wine from their very own winery; well, as it turned out, they were residing on a very coveted spread of property.

It began over four months ago near their 40th wedding anniversary, when they were approached with an offer to sell their mountain property. Perfectly happy there, they had not even entertained the thought of selling at any time before the offer.

The unsolicited offer was so great it was accepted.

This set Gordon and Barb off to record a new—traveling—chapter in their already full and adventuresome life. Congratulations on both your 40th and your new adventure.
Let's Change The
MEMBERSHIP PROFILE
To
More ACTIVE Less LAPSED

Each member can review the Membership Directory, then:
- Contact a Lapsed member & Encourage them to renew.
- Contact a 6th WS member you don't see on the list & encourage him or her to Join or . . .
- Provide their information to MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

OWSAA DECALS
For your Auto Window!!!
How many of you members would order
If they were made Available???
Please Respond ASAP

The PATCH
Is Available For Purchase At
$2.50 Each

Correction
In the last Newsletter, we listed members who attended the 2003 reunion. The following members were omitted:
Chuck and Carmell Morris and Emmie's wife, Diane Workman.
We apologize for this oversight.
The 6th Dimension

DRUGS
(Continued from Page 2)

Did you ever wonder how much it costs a drug company for the active ingredient in prescription medications? Some people think it must cost a lot since many drugs sell for more than $2.00 per tablet. We did a search of offshore chemical synthesizers that supply the active ingredients found in drugs approved by the FDA. As we have revealed in past issues of Life Extension, a significant percentage of drugs sold in the United States contain active ingredients made in other countries.

In our independent investigation of how much profit drug companies really make, we obtained the actual price of active ingredients used in some of the most popular drugs sold in America. The chart below speaks for itself.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DRUG BRAND NAME</th>
<th>CONSUMER PRICE 100 TABS</th>
<th>GENERAL ACTIVE INGREDIENTS' COST</th>
<th>% MARKUP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Celebrex</td>
<td>100 mg $130.27</td>
<td>$0.60</td>
<td>21.712%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claritin</td>
<td>10 mg $215.17</td>
<td>$0.71</td>
<td>30.306%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keflex</td>
<td>250 mg $157.39</td>
<td>$1.89</td>
<td>8.372%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lipitor</td>
<td>20 mg $272.37</td>
<td>$5.80</td>
<td>4.696%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norvasc</td>
<td>10 mg $160.23</td>
<td>$0.14</td>
<td>134.431%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paxil</td>
<td>20 mg $220.27</td>
<td>$7.60</td>
<td>3.696%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevacid</td>
<td>30 mg $44.77</td>
<td>$1.01</td>
<td>34.136%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prilosec</td>
<td>20 mg $360.97</td>
<td>$0.62</td>
<td>69.417%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prozac</td>
<td>20 mg $247.47</td>
<td>$0.11</td>
<td>224.973%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenormin</td>
<td>50 mg $104.47</td>
<td>$0.13</td>
<td>80.362%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vasotec</td>
<td>10 mg $102.37</td>
<td>$0.20</td>
<td>51.105%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zanex</td>
<td>1 mg $136.79</td>
<td>$0.02</td>
<td>4569.958%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zestril</td>
<td>20 mg $89.89</td>
<td>$3.20</td>
<td>2.809%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zithromax</td>
<td>600 mg $1,482.19</td>
<td>$18.78</td>
<td>7.892%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zocor</td>
<td>40 mg $350.27</td>
<td>$3.63</td>
<td>4.059%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoloft</td>
<td>50 mg $205.67</td>
<td>$1.75</td>
<td>11.821%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since the cost of prescription drugs is so outrageous, I thought everyone I knew should know about this. Please read the following and pass it on. It pays to shop around. This helps to solve the mystery as to why they can afford to put a Walgreens on ever corner. On Monday night, Steve Wilson, an investigative reporter for channel 7 News in Detroit, did a story on generic drug price gouging by pharmacies. He found in his investigation, that some of these generic drugs were marked up as much as 3,000% or more. Yes, that's not a typo..... three thousand percent!

So often, we blame the drug companies for the high cost of drugs, and usually rightfully so. But in this case, the fault clearly lies with the pharmacies themselves. For example, if you had to buy a prescription drug, and bought the name brand, you might pay $100 for 100 pills. The pharmacist might tell you that if you get the generic equivalent, they would only cost $60, making you think you are "saving" $40. What the pharmacist is not telling you is that those 100 generic pills may have only cost him $10.

At the end of the report, one of the anchors asked Mr. Wilson whether or not there were any pharmacies that did not adhere to this practice, and he said that Costco consistently charged little over their cost for the generic drugs.

I went to the Costco site, where you can look up any drug, and get its online price. It says that the in-store prices are consistent with the online prices. I was appalled. Just to give you one example from my own experience, I had to use the drug, Compazine, which helps prevent nausea in chemo patients. I used the generic equivalent, which cost $54.99 for 60 pills at CVS. I checked the price at Costco, and I could have bought 100 pills for $19.89. For 145 of my pain pills, I paid $72.57. I could have got 150 at Costco for $28.08. I would like to mention, that although Costco is a membership type store, you do NOT have to be a member to buy prescriptions there, as it is a federally regulated substance. You just tell them at the door that you wish to use the pharmacy, and they will let you in.

I am asking each of you to please help me by sending this to everyone you know.
The 6th Dimension

6th Weather Squadron (Mobile) Alumni Association

BOD Minutes
22 Nov 03
Tinker AFB Golf Clubhouse

Board Members Present:
Chuck Miller – Chair
Chuck Hewitt – Vice Chair
Carl Bishop – Treasurer
John Lassiter – Assistant Treasurer
Elmo Reddick – Secretary
Don Garbutt – Past Chair

Board Members Absent:
Ted Lungwitz – Member
Leonard Allen – Member
Rick Tasetano – Member
Jerry Hunt – Member
Chuck Morris – Member

Although the Agenda was emailed to each BOD member with email, a printed copy was available for distribution to all present.

Meeting was called to order 09:06 by the Chair.

Approval of the agenda: Motion to accept – John Lassiter and seconded by Chuck Hewitt.

Reading of 7/29/03 minutes by Elmo Reddick: Carl Bishop had a correction to the Treasurer’s Report; the sentence “The accrued funds as of Jun 30th ….” should read “The accrued and reserved funds as of Jun 30th ….” Motion by John Lassiter to accept as corrected and seconded by Chuck Hewitt.

Reports by Treasurer:

a. Financial update was given by Carl Bishop. We had reserved and accrued funds of $1902.

Old Business:

a. Patches received by Elmo—price offered to members is $2.50. Motion was made to accept by John Lassiter and seconded by Chuck Hewitt. Accepted by all.

b. Decal—a printed copy of an email from Ted Lungwitz was distributed in which Ted provided some information on sizes and prices. Don suggested we poll members in newsletter for interest in Decals. Decal was put on hold till Ted Lungwitz could find out more about it and we hear back from members. Motion was made by Elmo Reddick and seconded by Chuck Hewitt.

c. Membership committee progress

1. Letters mailed—invitations to renew membership packages were sent out by Shirley. Carl Bishop said Leonard Anderson and Donald Bronson were returned to our mail box; addresses were no good. Carl reported that Doug Freeze responded with Dues for two years. Carl sent an application to Bob Hill who was referred to him by John Lassiter. Also, he reported that Buck is working on New members while Shirley is working on Renewals.

2. Address correction—Alice Coffman—Ken sent a new address.

3. Potential new member(s)—Cesar Contreras, referred by Tom Rivers—Chuck Miller will send him an e-mail package.

New Business:

a. History—new ventures (Airmen’s History, Air Force Weather History) it was agreed to send contact info to Shirley and give her latitude to investigate 6WSAA’s participation in both these at her discretion.

John Lassiter made motion to accept and Chuck Hewitt seconded. Accepted by all.

b. Coin—Don Garbutt agreed to investigate a design, prices and availability and have info by the next meeting. He has contacts at a Trophy shop.

c. Newsletter—articles Chuck Morris and wife, Carmel, and Ernie Workman’s wife, Diana’s names were left off the newsletter attendance for the last reunion. Chuck Miller will include a correction in the next newsletter.

d. Mail out—Newsletter, one will be sent to Doug Freeze.

e. Next meeting—16 Apr 04 9:00am at the Base Golf Course.

Motion to adjourn by John Lassiter and Chuck Miller seconded. Accepted by all. Adjourned at 10:40.

Submitted by Elmo Reddick, Secretary, with added notes by Chuck Miller, Chair