

# CSA District 10 Director Report

*Your Editor apologizes to the members of District 10 and your District Director, Daniel Cosca, for our error in failing to include his District Director's fall report to the CSA Board of Directors in the last issue of our Bulletin. The Bulletin's tradition of publishing all District Director reports is intended to keep district members abreast of recent events and developing situations within their area of the State. Below we are publishing this "missing" report that somehow was lost in "cyberspace." Again, our apologies to Dr. Cosca for our tardiness.*

**Daniel M. Cosca, M.D. –District 10** (San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties): The conflicts at Community Memorial Hospital in Ventura continue to make news, and involve an increasing number of people and entities. Since the last District 10 Interim Report, the CSA, CMA, and AMA became further enmeshed, legal actions were taken, funds for legal defense were raised and donated, letters and articles were written, and lives were further disrupted. An informative summary from the doctors' standpoint can be found at the website < [www.concernedventuraphysicians.org](http://www.concernedventuraphysicians.org) > . The anesthesiologists at the hospital appear to be trying to keep some order in their situation, even though the work volume has decreased, and surgical practice modes have changed significantly.

The other region of the District where activity is noted is the San Luis Obispo area, where Universal Health Services continues with the possible purchase of French and Arroyo Grande Hospitals. The matter is under review by the office of Attorney General Bill Lockyer. A public meeting has been scheduled on September 15<sup>th</sup> [2003] for commentary by those interested. A third surgicenter is due to open soon in the Arroyo Grande area, further changing the makeup of the surgical caseload there.

In Santa Maria, the anesthesia personnel situation has stabilized somewhat, but now there has been a sudden exodus of several obstetricians because of malpractice costs and retirements, leaving a significant burden on the remaining OB-GYN physicians. Besides the Ventura turbulence mentioned above, the 10<sup>th</sup> District is relatively quiet and stable at present.