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# Quarterly News

VOLUMN 5, ISSUE 5

Spring 2009

## Mission Statement:

**To improve end-of-life care for people of all cultures and communities in the Tarrant Area.**

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### Board Members:

**Fr. Carl Szura**

President

**Nancy Ritts**

Vice President, CE

**Jamie Jewell**

Secretary

**Carlos Duran**

Treasurer

**Kendra Belfi,**

Past President

**Doug Pierce**

**Tonya Arning**

**Joan Reynolds**

**Cindy Cowan**

Administrative Mgr

### President's Column:

The month of November is a time of remembering. For many Christians we remember those faithful friends and family who have passed on into eternity. For citizens of the United States we remember the veterans who gave their lives in service to our wonderful country. We also remember what our democracy is all about—the right and privilege to elect those who will govern our nation. But most of all November is a month in which we take a few moments out of our national enterprise to raise our minds and hearts to the Almighty and give thanks for the abundant blessing bestowed upon our nation and people. This eighth year of the second millennium will be no different. Countless persons will make the trek to the homes of family or friends to celebrate and give thanks. Yes, we will celebrate even though the skies are darkened with impending financial crisis across the land. For we Americans remember our roots as a people who fled one crisis after another in other lands to find a homeland and new life in another land of bright promise and opportunity.

I would be remiss if I neglected to offer my thanks as President of CQEC to our loyal and faithful volunteers who have helped plan and manage our various functions and programs this past year. You truly are a blessing upon us. I am thankful for our financial contributors whose philanthropic generosity is the fuel for our efforts in bringing our mission to life. I am thankful for Father David Cardona and Doctor Kendra Belfi whose vision of an agency to support end-of-life education materialized in the Tarrant Area Partnership for End-of-Life Care (TAPEC) which eventually morphed into the Coalition for Quality End-of-Life Care (CQEC). Father David led the efforts of TAPEC, and Doctor Belfi became the first president of CQEC. Together they led a team of faithful board members who have made CQEC a premier organization for the education of professionals and laity alike on important issues in the field of end-of-life care. To all of you, Thank you and may the blessings of the Almighty come upon you.

And for those reading this newsletter for the first time and are enticed by our efforts, I invite you to come join us. We need your minds, hearts and hands. If time is a constraint on you now, at least consider supporting us through a financial contribution to CQEC. Any amount will be gratefully and thankfully received, and you will have made the first step in working with CQEC. In the mean time, may you have a safe and blessed Thanksgiving Day.

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**CQEC**

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## Upcoming Events in 2009 ~ Mark Your Calendar

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**April 29, 2009:** HFA Teleconference. "Diversity and End-of-Life Care". This program will focus on ways of understanding the impact of cultural diversity at the end of life.

**New Location:** the Riley Center, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary - 1700 West Fuller Ave. - Fort Worth. Time 12:30 – 3:00 pm. For more information email [cqec.info@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cqec.info@sbcglobal.net) for a flyer.

### Meet a Board Member: Doug Pierce, BBA

Doug has been employed in hospice for over 15 years, 11 of which have been with American Hospice, as Volunteer Coordinator and Community Education liaison. He is actively involved in presenting hospice and End-of-Life Care programs to numerous area-wide community, church, and professional groups and has trained hundreds of hospice volunteers. Doug is a recipient of the 2006 Texas Partnership for End-of-Life Care (TxPEC) Champions Award. This statewide award is given annually each year to honor those individuals who have made significant contributions toward end-of-life and palliative care issues in Texas. He received American Hospice's President's Award in 2005 for 'his exceptional performance and accomplishments with the company and within the community'. He is actively involved in both local and state End-of-Life Care programs, including:

- Coalition for Quality End-of-Life Care, Inc. [formerly Tarrant Area Partnership for End-of-Life Care (TAPEC)]: Board of Director member and founding member;
- Ethics Consortium of Tarrant County Medical Society; Program Coordinator for two previous major events;
- Texas & New Mexico Hospice Organization Annual Convention & Ethics Committee Member;
- Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association, Tarrant County; Board Member;
- Tarrant Area Gerontology Society (TAGS); 2007 & 2008 Summer Forum Committee Member;
- Facilitator for: Respecting Choices Advance Care Planning; American Cancer Society's "I Can Cope" and "Life After Loss";
- Guardianship Services Tarrant County; 2008 Planning Committee member for annual volunteer appreciation event.

Doug has been married to Cynthia for 38+ years and has 2 adult daughters, Amy and Elizabeth.

Hobbies: **Staying Alive!!!** Following quintuple coronary artery bypass surgery ( I didn't know I had that many arteries) in 2006 he has been **very active** at the Eastside Y's exercise equipment and **very conscious** about his diet. His goal: Grow back new arteries and never have to go through this operation again!!

Education: BBA: Texas Wesleyan University, Fort Worth, TX. My true education came through life lessons taught to me 1st through 20+ years working in the finance field and the last 15+ years in the hospice field.

**Tax Deductible Contributions to  
Coalition for Quality End of Life Care may be sent to:  
P.O. Box 164052, Fort Worth, TX 76161-4052**