



Network New York The Alliance Voice

Published by The Alliance with the Medical Society of the State of New York

September, 2017

Mission: “to support our physicians and promote health in our communities

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Contact Us

krohrer@mssny.org

Dear Members:

I hope you have all enjoyed summer and are looking forward to Fall. We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful state. Our county Alliances are busy with programming and fundraising for their scholarship funds. They continue to support medical education and health related careers.

SAVE (Stop America’s Violence Everywhere) Day will be held on Wednesday October 11th this year. I encourage you all to bring awareness in your community on that day. This initiative was begun in the mid-90s by both the AMA and the AMA Alliance to bring awareness to domestic violence, including child abuse and bullying.

The format for our Fall Conference has changed this year. We will be holding a WebEx Webinar Conference on October 16th at 10am. This will be a great opportunity for those of you who have been unable to attend the Conference in the past to join in. Login details will follow in the coming weeks. We welcome your participation and input!

Legislative advocacy continues to be an important contribution by Alliance members. Please send letters and make calls concerning pending legislation. While legislative information will be included in these newsletters, visit the Grassroots section at www.mssny.org and www.ama-assn.org for more information.

We will have a future meeting to discuss our plans for our annual meeting which will be held in Buffalo on March 22nd and 23rd, 2018. Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

We send our thoughts and prayers to those affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

Take care, Helena

81st Annual Meeting

The Alliance held their 81st Annual Meeting on April 20 and 21st at the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown, NY in conjunction with MSSNY's House of Delegates meeting. A fundraising raffle was held Thursday evening to benefit the AMA Foundation, the Belle Tanenhaus Leadership Fund, Physicians Home and the AMAA Health Education Initiative (AHEI). Past AMSSNY President, Bonnie Liebers inaugurated the new officers. Tri-Presidents Barbara Ellman and Valerie Semeran emphasized the importance of membership and finding new ways to connect with potential members.



L to R: Barbara Ramsdell, Bonnie Liebers, Beth Perenyi, Barbara Ellman, Corrie Verde, Valerie Semeran, Executive Director, Kathy Rohrer, Nuise Bhitiyakul and Jeannie Hammoud



L to R: Barbara Ellman and Valerie Semeran after their inauguration.

AMAA Annual Meeting

The 95th AMA Alliance Annual Meeting, "Journey to Success" was held in Chicago from June 10-13, 2017. The weekend started with members attending the AMA House of Delegates to hear the address by outgoing AMAA President, Rosemary Xavier. The annual meeting consisted of business meetings and wonderful speakers including: Warren Holleman on Physician Burnout, Robert Nelson on Building Relevancy and Value, Mark Levine on "Bringing Out the Leader in You" and an AMA update by outgoing president, Dr. Andrew Gurman. It wasn't all business! There was a fundraising party for AHEI, Blues Bash, and a welcome party for incoming president, Kim Moser, "Blue Jean, Boots & Bluegrass." Awards were presented:

- 2017 Health Awareness Promotion Award for Fundraising to Clark County Medical Society Alliance (NV)
- 2017 Health Awareness Promotion Award for SAVE-"Hands Are Not for Hitting" to Chattanooga/Hamilton County Medical Alliance (TN)
- 2017 Social Media Award to Los Angeles County Medical Alliance (CA)
- 2017 Social Media Award for Community Outreach and Fundraising to Clark County Medical Society Alliance
- 2017 Special Service Award to Dallas County Medical Society Alliance on their 100th year anniversary

The theme of Kim Moser's inaugural address was connectedness. "Connectedness, understanding and a sense of community are the keys to what makes the Alliance valuable." She also advised us to Keep Calm and Build Alliances!

Fall Conference

A NEW FORMAT FOR THE ALLIANCE FALL CONFERENCE! In an effort to include more of our Alliance members, the Fall Conference will be held via teleconference/webcast this year. This will allow you to participate from the comfort of your home or office. The teleconference/webcast will be held on Monday, October 16 from 10 am to 12 noon. Please mark your calendars and save time for your Alliance. Details concerning this call will be available shortly and will be e-mailed to all Alliance members. Please contact Kathy Rohrer, Alliance Executive Director at 1-516-488-6100 x396 or e-mail her at krohrer@mssny.org, if you have any questions.

Legislation

Federal:

ACA Reform

As you know, debate is still continuing on the Affordable Care Act and a possible replacement. The House version is estimated to leave 23 million without health care insurance and added risk for those with pre-existing conditions to receive care. The Senate came close to passing what has been called the "skinny bill" or "partial ACA repeal." The Congressional Budget Office estimated that 16 million fewer people would have health insurance by the end of the decade. Provisions of this bill would have included:

- Repeal of the individual mandate by zeroing out the penalty beginning after December 31, 2015.

- Repeal of the employer mandate by zeroing out the penalties, but only from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2024.
- Extend the moratorium on the medical device tax from December 31, 2017 to December 31, 2020.
- Increase for three years (2018 to 2020) the maximum contribution limit to health care savings accounts (HSA) to the amount of the deductible and out-of-pocket limitations.
- Defund Planned Parenthood for one year (and expands the one-year defunding to certain other providers that provide abortions if they receive more than \$1 million in federal and state funding).
- Sunset the funding for the Prevention and Public Health Fund after FY 2018.
- Provide \$422 million in additional funding for the Community Health Center Program in 2017.
- Amend section 1332 of the ACA (Waiver for State Innovation) by: authorizing and appropriating \$2 billion for states that submit or implement state innovation waivers; requiring HHS to approve a 1332 waiver if the secretary determine that the application meets the benefit comprehensiveness, cost sharing, enrollment, and budget neutrality guardrail requirements; requiring a waiver determination within 45 days (instead of 180 days); and extending waivers from 5 to 8 years with unlimited renewals for 8-year periods that may not be cancelled by the secretary.

The Graham-Cassidy Amendment to the American Health Care Act (AHCA) was recently unveiled in the Senate. If passed, millions of Americans could lose their health insurance coverage, further destabilizing the health insurance marketplace and undermining the health care safety net provided by Medicaid. This amendment also jeopardizes important insurance reforms such as guaranteed issue and the ban on pre-existing condition exclusions.

Your advocacy is needed. The AMA has launched new features at www.PatientsBeforePolitics.org, including shareable patient profiles that show how the AHCA could affect specific patient populations and an advocate resources page to better inform you with in-depth analysis and data related to the larger health system reform debate. Please contact your Senators now and tell them to vote no on this amendment by logging onto:

<https://www.voterve.net/BroadcastLinks/ODjYQN0RldhsHLfss8X0Dg>

Medical Liability Reform Bill

The US House of Representatives passed legislation to expand patient access to care by reducing the exorbitant cost of medical liability insurance. Among other provisions, the bill contains a provision that would limit to \$250,000 the amount of non-economic damages that could be awarded in cases where the patient is enrolled in a Government-subsidized program like Medicare, Medicaid or an Exchange plan. It would also define federal standards for attorney contingency fees, statutes of limitations, certificates of merit and prohibiting apologies from being introduced into evidence. The Senate has not considered a similar bill.

New York State

The New York State Legislature passed Lavern's Law in the final hours of the session over the objections of MSSNY, the specialty societies, the hospital industry and MLMIC. S.6800/A.8516 expands the medical liability statute of limitations for cases involving "alleged negligent failure to diagnose a malignant tumor or cancer." The bill would permit lawsuits 2.5 years from the "date of discovery" of such alleged negligence, up to an outside limit of 7 years. The bill does not just apply to treatment that occurs after the proposed effective date of the bill, but has a very significant retroactive impact for which the insurance companies have not reserved premium dollars. The legislature could have solved Lavern's medical liability 'problem' by simply extending the shortened statute against public hospitals to 30 months (like in non-public hospitals). Instead, they unreasonably extended the statute to date of discovery. It is uncertain whether the bill has been delivered to the Governor and then he will have up to 10 days to sign it. Write or call the Governor at 1-518-474-8390 and ask him to veto the bill and urge that legislation be enacted that provides for comprehensive medical liability reform.

MSSNYPAC - The Political Voice for NY Physicians

Supporting MSSNYPAC with a financial contribution is an important investment. If you are not a member, please considering joining along with your spouse. MSSNYPAC is a separate, segregated fund, established by MSSNY to engage in campaign activities in New York State. It accepts contributions from New York physicians, residents, students and Alliance members to achieve political recognition for physicians. A well-funded MSSNYPAC can support the candidates who truly understand the concerns of physicians trying to assure their patients receive the best possible care. It targets support for elected state and federal officials and candidates who advance physicians' goals and strengthens physicians' voice in governmental affairs.

The PAC's structure is an Executive Committee and subcommittees for federal and state elections. Please consider joining MSSNY PAC to support advocacy efforts. Please join to help to assure that physicians have a meaningful seat at the table as health care policy is developed. The Alliance contribution is \$100. Contact Kathy Rohrer (krohrer@mssny.org) for an application.

Health News

NYS Provider & Health Plan Look-Up

The New York State Department of Health, together with the NY State of Health, launched the [NYS Provider & Health Plan](#)

Look-Up, an online tool that consumers can use to research those health insurance plans with which a physician (and other health care practitioners) participates. It also lists practice locations for each physician.

US Surgeon General

Indiana State Health Commissioner Jerome Adams, MD, MPH, has been appointed Surgeon General of the US. Trained as an anesthesiologist, Adams has been outspoken about the risks of prescription opioid painkillers and the need to address the opioid epidemic. MSSNY President Charles N. Rothberg, MD, stated, “Dr. Adams has a proven track record to make public health a priority despite political hurdles. Dr. Adams is in touch with the public needs.”

Opioids

The amount of opioids prescribed in the United States decreased each year between 2010 and 2015 according to a Vital Signs Report. The amount of opioids prescribed per capita fell from a peak of 782 morphine milligram equivalents in 2010 to 640 MME in 2015, but remains about three times higher than in 1999 and varies widely by county, with some counties prescribing six times as much as others. Between 2010 and 2015, MME per capita decreased in half of US counties and increased in 23% of counties.

Also, “among people who had overdosed on heroin, the filling of opioid prescriptions fell by 3.5 percent, while medication-assisted treatment increased by only 3.6 percent,” following their hospitalizations. The study covered “more than 6,000 people who survived an overdose from an opioid”. The study’s lead author, Julie Donahue, said, “Forty percent of those with a heroin overdose and 60 percent of those with a prescription opioid overdose filled a prescription in the six months after overdose for the very kind of medication that contributed to the overdose in the first place”.

CTE IN Football Players

A study of some 200 donated brains from American football players shows a generally increasing prevalence of chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) in the higher levels of play. The deceased donors’ football exposure ranged from two players with only pre-high school experience (neither of whom had CTE) to 111 with National Football League experience (99% of whom had CTE). All cases of CTE had shown mood, behavioral, or cognitive symptoms, according to interviews with family members, whereas motor symptoms were common mostly in severe cases. Also common in severe cases was the accumulation of neurodegenerative proteins, such as amyloid-beta.

Obesity

The Trust for America’s Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation released a report based on statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that showed one in three American adults and one in six children to be obese. The data compiled from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, relies on self-reported weight data, “so it likely underestimates true rates.” Despite state obesity statistics leveling off, the data indicates that the nation is “at risk of poor health” if programs to address obesity lose funding.

DSRIP

New York Medicaid Director Jason Helgeson recently announced the progress that New York’s Medicaid Delivery System Reform Incentive Program (DSRIP) has made, noting that New York had closed its second year with a 14.9% reduction in Potentially Preventable Readmissions and an 11.8% reduction in Potentially Preventable ER Visits. The report also noted that, if the current Reduction rates are maintained, New York will achieve its goal of a 25% reduction in avoidable hospital use by DSRIP Year 5.

Health Insurance

Individual health insurance premium rates will increase 14.5%, and small group premiums will increase 9.3%, according to New York Financial Services Superintendent Maria Vullo. The press release further noted that “Underlying medical costs continue to be the main drivers of premium rate increases, reflecting a nationwide trend. For the 2018 individual rates announced today, drug costs account for the largest share (26 percent) of all medical costs, with specialty drug costs increasing about 49 percent. Inpatient hospital costs account for the second largest share of medical expenses (19 percent), followed by physician specialty services (12 percent) and diagnostic testing/lab/x-ray (10 percent)”.

In a recent Merritt Hawkins survey, 56 percent of doctors were found to support single-payer healthcare. The results represent a big change from those of the same survey in 2008, where 58 percent of respondents opposed a single-payer system.

News from Around the State

Broome

We distributed \$7900 in scholarship money this year: \$2,000 to nursing students at Broome Community College, \$1,000 to the Broome County Medical Student Scholarship Fund, six \$500 health career awards, the \$400 Krizinofski award and three \$500 Mamlok Awards. Our fall luncheon is scheduled for October 26 at the Binghamton Country Club and our Holiday Dinner on

December 7 at PS Restaurant. We will fundraise again this fall for our scholarships by selling BonTon Community books, poinsettias and asking for donations to be listed on our Holiday Greeting Card.

Richmond

We are pleased to announce that we are giving scholarships to two medical students, one in first year and one in third year.

Onondaga

Our SAVE Day donation will again be given to the McMahon/Ryan Child Advocacy Center which serves over 500 children each year. SAVE Day will be celebrated nationally on Wednesday, October 11. This initiative was begun in the mid-90s by both the AMA and the AMA Alliance to bring awareness to domestic violence, including child abuse and bullying.

We will be selling tickets for our annual Basket Raffle at the OCMS Annual Dinner on November 9 and again at the Alliance Holiday Luncheon at the Genesee Grande Hotel on December 6. All are welcome to attend! The Alliance Day Project will be held in conjunction with the Luncheon and the beneficiary of gifts and cash will be Jowonio. Our annual Holiday Greeting will feature art work by a local physician accompanied by the listing of physician names and a greeting directed toward colleagues, friends and patients. Both the basket raffle and the holiday greeting raise funds for our scholarship fund.

Upcoming events include our Doctor's Day Celebration on March 28, 2018, and our Spring Luncheon on June 6, 2018.

Schenectady

We are celebrating our 80th anniversary year and are pleased to point out that our Community Health Education Committee remains the strongest part of our Alliance! Our first meeting of the year will be held on September 26 at Stella's Pasta Bar in Fo' Castle Country Store in Burnt Hills. Among our programming to be discussed will be our luncheon /fashion show chaired by Marie Gorman. All are invited to attend our luncheon fashion show, Aren't We...The Cat's Meow, to be held on December 6 at the Glen Sanders Mansion in Scotia to benefit our Philanthropic Fund. The fashion show, silent auction and raffle will raise funds for the Wildwood School and Schenectady Day Nursery. We continue to participate in the Baby Basic Education Course and donate baby board books, receiving blankets, onesies and knitted caps.

Our Memorial Fund is able to distribute five to ten thousand dollars per semester to students at the School of Nursing at Ellis Medicine and will continue this level of support until funds are depleted.

Planning Calendar

AMSSNY Fall Webcast/Teleconference
MSSNY Physician Advocacy Day, Albany, NY
AMSSNY Annual Meeting, Buffalo, NY
AMA Alliance Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL

October 16, 2017
March 7, 2018
March 22-23, 2018
June 10-12, 2018



Member-At-Large Membership

The Alliance is doing important works within our state and across our country, taking an active voice in medical legislation and a meaningful role in health issues. The Alliance needs YOUR support in order to continue with these efforts. Though you may not have the time or inclination to become involved presently, payment of your dues will help those who are already actively engaged. If you desire to become involved, members-at-large have the opportunity to serve on the board and can be delegates to our convention. Alliance members continue to work on projects concerned with violence, internet safety, bullying, peaceful conflict resolution, awareness for the need of organ and tissue donation, health literacy, smoking cessation, the growing problem of obesity- especially in children, and many other health and legislative issues.

JOIN US NOW

If you are already a member... THANK YOU...

Don't forget to renew. Please Print Information

Name: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____ County: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Payments of dues for county, state and national should be made directly to your county alliance (if unsure if your county Alliance is active, call 1-800-523-4405). If your County does not have an active Alliance, you may become a Member-At-Large (MAL) by sending your State (\$35) and National (\$50) dues (Total of \$85). Senior/Widows (65+ and 20 years active service) State dues are \$17.50. (\$67.50 if State and National) Please make checks payable to AMSSNY-MALs and submit to:

AMSSNY-MAL
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