



# Network New York The Alliance Voice

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

Summer, 2015

News from the Tri-  
President - Page 1

79<sup>th</sup> AMSSNY Annual  
Meeting-Page 2

AMA Alliance  
Annual Meeting  
Page 2-3

Fall Conference-Page 3

Legislation-Pages 3-4

MSSNYPAC -Page 4

Health News-Page 4-5

Alliance News-Page 5

News from Around the State  
Pages – 5-6

Calendar –Page 6

MALS – Page 8

## Category of Links

<http://www.mssny.org>  
click on About MSSNY  
then member section link  
and then onto the Alliance  
<http://www.mssny.org/mssnyip.cfm?c=i&nm=Alliance>

Contact Us  
[krohrer@mssny.org](mailto:krohrer@mssny.org)

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



## News from the Tri-President, Joan Cincotta

For the second year in a row, I assumed the roll of Tri- President on May 1<sup>st</sup> and will carry out the duties until August 31<sup>st</sup>. On September 1<sup>st</sup>, Lynn Pyke (Onondaga) will take over and fulfill her duties until December 31<sup>st</sup>. Following Lynn will be Beth Perenyi (Broome) who will complete the year on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016. At our Annual Meeting in April, 2016, we will evaluate how this system of governance has worked for our organization.

Since being installed, I have attended the Spring Luncheon for Onondaga County and installed their Governing Board. I participated in the MSSNY Executive Council meeting via teleconference on June 18th. I attended the AMA Alliance Annual Meeting in Chicago June 6-8. And I chaired AMSSNY’s Long Range Planning meeting on July 28.

Please watch for information on MSSNY Advocacy Day on March 8, 2016. Mark your calendar and try to attend. Throughout the year you will be receiving via email updates on legislative issues. We ask you to please make your voices heard and respond to the notices asking you to contact your legislators and support medical legislation. There is a legislative update in issues of the VOICE so please take time to read it and act on it.

The AMAA is setting up a list of members who have personal relationships with legislators – VIPS: Very Influential Physician Spouses. If you have a personal relationship with a legislator in your county, state or even national, AMAA would like your name and that of the legislator(s). A VIPS form can be completed on line at [www.amaalliance.org](http://www.amaalliance.org).

At the AMAA meeting in Chicago, membership was once again a topic of priority. Using social media to attract new members was again stressed as our best tool of recruitment. Our AMSSNY web site needs updating and needs to be monitored periodically to keep it current. If you would like to help with this (all of this can be done from your home), please contact Kathy Rohrer or one of this year’s presidents. Another suggestion was to bring physician spouses together from adjoining counties into one Alliance. This has been done in other parts of the country and it has worked well. Increasing our membership is a *must!* Let’s do whatever it takes to accomplish this!

Our Fall Conference will be held at the Glen Sanders Mansion in Scotia, NY on Sunday, October 18 and Monday, October 19. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Speakers for the Conference are currently being sought and the business of our State Alliance will be discussed. Your input is very important to the continued operations of our organization so we ask you to please attend this very important meeting.

My deepest gratitude to Beth Perenyi for continuing to put together *The VOICE* and to Lynn Pyke for putting the Alliance’s *News of New York* together for each issue. And most importantly, to Kathy Rohrer for keeping all of this straight!

## 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

The Alliance 's 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting was held April 30 and May 1 at the Hilton at City Center in Saratoga Springs, NY in conjunction with MSSNY's House of Delegates meeting. After concluding the business portion of the meeting, Julie Newman, 2014-2015 AMA Alliance President-Elect, provided information on modern membership and the mission driven volunteer:

- What makes the organization unique and what can you deliver that no one else can? Join for the resources and support designed specifically for you. No one understands the challenges and rewards of today's physician families better than the Alliance.
- Think about what needs to be done rather than specific committees. Match opportunities with demographics.
- Develop activities that do not require face to face meeting.
- Take advantage of technology – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram
- Develop small manageable tasks that can be done at the volunteer's convenience.
- Stop asking why they are not joining us and ask why are we not joining them?

Ms. Newman also installed the 2015-16 officers. The county alliances shared their projects and news. A President's Luncheon was held for the outgoing and incoming presidents as well as all past presidents. Raffles netted \$2290 to support Physicians Home, the Belle Tanenhaus Leadership Fund and AHEI (Alliance Health Educational Initiative) Fund. Following the conclusion of the meeting, the Alliance co-sponsored the annual Walk for Health.



Thursday attendees at the AMSSNY Annual Meeting

## AMAA Annual Meeting

The 2015 AMAA Annual Meeting, "Your FingerprINt," was held at the Hyatt Magnificent Mile Hotel, Chicago, on June 6-9 with the business meetings interspersed with workshops and speakers. The keynote speaker, Laurie Guest, provided a humorous presentation on life strategies, "Reinventing Yourself in the Espresso Lane." She emphasized:

Your check book and calendar should show your priorities.

Have a GUTSY approach - Genuine interest in other people; use a person's name; talk less and listen more; smile and be aware of body language; and get others to say yes

Take time for a personal retreat,

Forsake the mistake (share your own mistake stories and be a leader that others can bring their mistakes).

Jeff Corless presented "Digital Fingerprint" suggesting ways to manage this fingerprint including building your own digital skills, deciding how you want your brand to be reflected online, managing your currently active accounts, and using simple tools. He emphasized that one should be constantly driving the content and warned that modifying your fingerprint takes time. Peggy Hoffman presented "Jumping into Local Connections" that discussed characteristics of working with millennials:

- Must emphasize what's important, and how it has a measurable impact either to them or the community.
- Realize they are of the moment so they make decisions last minute
- Want skill based volunteering and are lifelong learners
- Join causes not organizations
- Annoyed by poor websites
- Suggested virtual or micro projects have the most appeal.

Dr. Wah, AMA President and R. Barkley Payne, AMA Foundation Executive Director provided updates along with Cynthia Brown, AMA Vice-President, Government Affairs; Dr. Randolph J. Gould, Chair, AMA

Council on Legislation; and Daniel Blaney-Koen, AMA Senior Legislative Attorney. Dr. Wahl indicated that the AMA is focusing on improving patient health outcomes, improving physician satisfaction particularly practice sustainability and potential payment models, and accelerating medical education. He mentioned the SAVEGME.org website indicating that 1000 graduates could not find residency programs.

Other issues of concern are the IPAD, ICD-10 and Meaningful Use. Specific legislation mentioned included:

-H.R. 1117, the "Creating Access to Residency Education Act of 2015 (CARE Act)

-H.R.2124/S1148 Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act

-S.2196 Good Samaritan Health Professionals

-H.R. 921/S.689 Sports Medicine Licensure Clarity Act

-H.R.1190/S.141 Repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board

-H.R. 1650 Medicare Patient Empowerment Act

It was noted that 95% of candidates that AMPAC supported were elected. 15 physicians were elected bringing the number of physicians serving in Congress to 17.

During the business meeting, President Sarah Sanders mentioned that the biggest challenge continues to be to grow leadership. This year, new membership categories were adopted including a couples memberships for active practice thru retirement of \$80 (\$50 individual), early practice of 1-3 years of \$50 (\$35 individual), and medical school thru residency of \$15 (\$10 individual). Also, new membership awards were established for members involved more than 5 years (outstanding member) and less than 5 years (outstanding sparks member) who has provided mentoring and leadership and supports membership. She also mentioned that October, 2015 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SAVE. AHEI funding allows grants to 4 projects chosen from the 19 submitted for a total of \$5,000. Two \$10,000 scholarships were also presented by the Alliance Grassroots Honors Fund. HAP Awards winners were Greenville, SC for *Beauty Reinterpreted: Changing How You See and Mecklenburg Alliance for Community Health Classroom*. LEAP Awards were presented to Kent County Medical Society Alliance for their Immunization Conference (1<sup>st</sup> place) and to Nueces County Medical Society Alliance for *Boots on the Ground*. The Belle Chenault Award was presented to Kim Moser who worked tirelessly in two campaigns and also served as the first non-physician chair of KYPAC.

Julie Newman was installed by AMA President, Dr. Robert Wah. Julie's inaugural address focused on F words that described her Alliance experience including fabulous, flexible, fitness, foundation, friends fulfillment family, finance and future. She challenged each attendee to recruit four people for the next three years to obtain 1500 new members and summoned us to go Forward to the Future.



President Sarah Sanders and officers at the podium at the Annual Meeting.

The final speaker was Kim Blackham to speak on medical marriages. She offered real time suggestions for learning to thrive in a medical marriage. You can follow her online at [www.kimblackham.com](http://www.kimblackham.com).

## Fall Conference-October 18 and 19 - Save the Date!

Planning is underway for our Fall Conference which will be held at the Glen Sanders Mansion, Scotia, New York on Sunday, October 18 and Monday, October 19. The Conference will begin with dinner on Sunday evening at 5:30 PM. Dynamic speakers are planned. Topics include: "In Her Shoes", a domestic violence program, financial planning and a presentation on social media. All attendees are encouraged to bring guests and spouses. Our Board of Directors will meet immediately following dinner. A group of rooms is again being reserved at \$119 with reservations due by September 26. Hotel reservations should be made directly with Laura Tardio, Event Planner at GSM. You can email her at [LauraB@mazzonehospitality.com](mailto:LauraB@mazzonehospitality.com) or call her at 518-688-2123. Look for the call to conference in early

September for more details and registration forms. Further information will also be available from Kathy Rohrer at [krohrer@mssny.org](mailto:krohrer@mssny.org)

## Legislation

### Federal

Advocacy is needed on multiple pieces of legislation that are now before Congress:

- **H.R. 1117 and H.R.2124/S.1148** are both pieces of legislation introduced to expand the number of residency slots. H.R.2124/S.1148 specifically increases the number of residency slots by 3,000 per year from 2017 through 2021 for a total of 15,000. It also calls for a National Health Care Workforce Commission to conduct a study of the physician workforce to identify physician specialty shortages. Both pieces of legislation were assigned to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **H.R. 2126** was introduced to postpone the implementation of ICD-10 codes. While MSSNY would be in favor of the delay, it was apparent that leaders of the House Energy and Commerce Committee wanted the codes implemented as planned without further delay. ICD-10 includes 68,000 codes which is a five-fold increase from the approximately 13,000 diagnosis codes currently in ICD-9. Implementation will not only affect physician claims submission; it will impact most business processes within a physician's practice (Verifying patient eligibility, obtaining pre-authorization for services, documentation of the patient's visit, research activities, public health reporting, and quality reporting.) An agreement has been made between CMS and the AMA and four Medical Society Presidents (California, Florida, New York and Texas) to assist in the transition to ICD-10. CMS will provide easy to use tools, a new ICD-10 Ombudsman, and added flexibility in the claims, audit and quality reporting process. It also granted a one year grace period for physicians to avoid financial penalties to allow physicians to continue providing quality care to their patients without undue disruption.
- **H.R. 2568** (The Fair Medical Audits Act of 2015) establishes incentives for RACs to make more accurate audit findings and increase educational efforts to help physicians avoid common mistakes. Currently, recovery audit contractors or "RACs" are paid on a contingency basis by Medicare to find overpayments to health care providers. This gives these contractors undue monetary incentives to audit doctors. The five regional firms contracted by the government are paid up to 12.5 percent of all claims they successfully identify as invalid. Referred to the House Ways and Means, and Energy and Commerce Committees.
- **H.R. 1190** (Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act of 2015) repeals sections of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act creating the Independent Payment Advisory Board charged with developing proposals to reduce the per capita rate of spending under Medicare. The legislation was passed by the House and is now in the Senate's Finance Committee.
- **H.R. 160** (Protect Medical Innovation Act of 2015) repeals the excise tax on medical device manufacturers and importers which was also enacted as part of the ACA. This legislation passed the House and is on the Senate Legislative Calendar.
- **H. R. 2050** (Middle Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act of 2015) repeals the so-called "Cadillac Tax" on comprehensive health insurance coverage another part of the Affordable Care Act. This excise tax on high-premium health insurance plans is scheduled to be implemented in 2018. It will be a 40% tax on health premiums above a threshold of \$10,200 a year for individuals and \$27,500 for families. Referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.
- **H.R. 1650** (Medicare Patient Empowerment Act) allows any Medicare beneficiary to enter into a contract with an eligible professional (regardless of whether a participating or non-participating physician or practitioner) for any item or service covered by Medicare. Allows such beneficiaries to submit a claim for Medicare payment in the amount that would otherwise apply, except that where the professional is considered to be non-participating, payment shall be paid as if the professional were participating. Referred to the Subcommittee on Health

### New York State

New York Legislature is not currently in session so there is no pending legislation. MSSNY had a productive advocacy session.

As part of the new state budget, your MSSNY lobbyists: (1) **secured** \$127.4 million in funding for the Excess Medical Liability program; (2) **defeated** accreditation and onerous new regulatory requirements for urgent care practices and practices which offer after-hour care; (3) **defeated** the retail clinic bill; (4) **defeated** proposals which would have imposed additional registration and reporting requirements on physician office based surgery practices; and (5) **secured** the elimination of fees physicians currently have to pay to initiate a Workers Compensation arbitration proceeding.

As the session concluded, MSSNY secured many more victories MSSNY lobbyists (1) **defeated** the date-of-discovery statute of limitations; (2) **defeated** a CME mandate for pain management, addiction and end-of-life care; (3) **defeated** scope-of-practice expansion by the podiatrists, dentists, optometrists and many other non-physician practitioners; (4) **participated** in a coalition which secured passage of legislation requiring school-based immunizations against the meningococcal disease for every person entering seventh grade and 12th grade; and (5) **again defeated** a last ditch effort by CVS Health to secure enactment of legislation to secure approval to establish corporate owned retail clinics statewide without establishment of public need as is normally required under the certificate of need provisions of current law.

Many of these legislative proposals will be introduced next year so your advocacy will again be needed.

## MSSNYPAC

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. It targets support for elected state and federal officials and candidates who advance physicians' goals and strengthens physicians' voice in governmental affairs. The New York Public Interest Research Group published a list of donors and the amount of contributions each made last year. For example, trial lawyers were listed as #7 and contributed \$578,710 while MSSNY was listed as #40 with contributions of \$213,024. MSSNYPAC needs our support!

The PAC's structure is an Executive Committee and subcommittees for federal and state elections. Please consider joining MSSNY PAC to support advocacy efforts. The Alliance contribution is \$100. Contact Kathy Rohrer ([krohrer@mssny.org](mailto:krohrer@mssny.org)) for an application.

## Health News

MSSNY supported legislation that would have included electronic cigarettes in the Clean Indoor Air Act. Unfortunately, this legislation did not pass. In support, Dr. Maldonado, MSSNY President, noted "E-cigarette use by young people has rapidly increased from 4.5 percent to 13.4 percent among high school students and from 1.1 percent to 3.9 percent among middle school students. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated there were 2.4 million youth e-cigarette users in 2014 after a significant decline in cigarette smoking. This bill would have prohibited the use of electronic cigarettes in public indoor areas and would have ensured that e-cigarettes vendors are registered with the New York State to allow compliance checks to ensure that the sale of e-cigarettes to minors does not occur. Current NYS law prohibits the sale of e-cigarettes to minors under the age of 18.

According to a May 14<sup>th</sup> CDC report, targeted public health intervention may have reversed a trend of prescription opioid deaths on Staten Island. Deaths from overdoses of prescription opioids on Staten Island decreased 29 percent between 2011 and 2013. The CDC reported that the drop also was due to the 2011 passage of the state's I-STOP law, aimed at monitoring drug prescriptions statewide. The report stated the reductions "followed 11 years of increases." The report further stated that the intense public information campaign, which involved advertising and outreach, "suggests that the community-specific initiatives might have been the key to the decreases in Staten Island without corresponding decreases citywide."

The Niagara Quality Health Coalition found that three upstate cities rank among the cheapest places in the nation for the amount that health insurers pay hospitals, doctors and other care providers in their network. Buffalo was the second most affordable city of 274 regions studied, Rochester ranked fourth and Syracuse was 19. While Honolulu was the most affordable city in the United States, other noted New York locations were the Bronx which rate third and Albany that ranked 83<sup>rd</sup>.

## Alliance News

The resolution supporting the need for protective head gear in the sport of girls' lacrosse was passed by the MSSNY House of Delegates in May thanks to the perseverance of Schenectady Alliance member and AMSSNY former Co-President, Cheryl Stier and the assistance of Barbara Ellman. The resolution was presented to the AMA House of Delegates and was also approved largely due to the support of Dr. Kennedy. The need for women's protective headgear was recently reinforced by an article in *Injury Epidemiology* that followed 8905 athletes in high school and college. They found the rate of concussion highest in football, then girl's lacrosse followed by men's lacrosse, and men's and women's soccer. It notes that addressing stick to head contact needs to be a priority in women's lacrosse. The article is available at: <http://www.injepijournal.com/content/pdf/s40621-015-0045-4.pdf>

The Alliance Health Education Initiative's mission of "Supporting Healthy Communities" has become a reality! The AHEI will give grants to health-related projects and programs of community agencies and Alliances throughout the country in the coming years. Keep AHEI grants in mind as you plan your health-related programs for the coming year. Work with your Alliance or other local organizations to develop projects based on your community's needs, then apply for an AHEI grant to help fund your project. Grant applications will be accepted

January 1- February 28, 2016, and grants will be awarded May 1, 2016. All information, including grant applications, is available on the AHEI website at [alliancehei.org](http://alliancehei.org)

*Physician Family* is now available in hard copy to AMA Alliance members, while the digital edition of *Physician Family* will continue to be available free to every physician family with access to the Internet at [www.physicianfamilymedia.org](http://www.physicianfamilymedia.org). In addition to the information-filled quarterly issues, *Physician Family* offers outstanding weekly content on the Blog which is accessed at: <http://www.physicianfamilymedia.org/blog>. It also has a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/PhysicianFamilyMedia>.

The AMA Alliance now has medical student and resident brochure available to download. To access the medical student brochure, go to <http://www.amaalliance.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/MedicalStudentBrochure.pdf>. The resident/fellow brochure is at: <http://www.amaalliance.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Resident-FellowBrochure12-7-14-.pdf>.

The AMA Alliance is continuing its State and County Leaders call. The call for state leaders is scheduled for the fourth Wednesday at noon and 7PM. The county leaders call is scheduled for the fourth Thursday at noon. You must RSVP to president @amaalliance.org. The call in number is 605-475-4000 with passcode 601730#

Welcome to our newest state member, Mellany Bagtas! Mellany is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ and is a Vice President and Wealth Management Advisor in the Poughkeepsie, NY office of Merrill Lynch. She is the lead partner of The Bagtas Lambert Group, a wealth management group that specializes in developing strategies to assist physicians, their families and their practices pursue short and long term financial goals. Mellany is married to David, an anesthesiologist. She will be the Sunday speaker at Fall Conference.

## News from Around the State

### Broome

Our Spring into Summer luncheon was held at Remliks on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. We provided \$1600 to Broome Community College for 4 nursing scholarships. We received 48 applications for our \$500 Health Career Awards and the \$400 Krizinofski Award. We distributed 6 Health Career Awards and the Krizinofski Award to students majoring in nursing, physical therapy and diagnostic sonography. We also voted to increase our donation to the Broome County Medical Student Scholarship Fund to \$1,000. We will send additional donations to Room to Heal, Mothers and Babies Perinatal Network and the Dr. Garabed A. Fattal Community Free Clinic.

### Onondaga

Our **Doctors' Day** celebration took place on Sunday, March 22 at a local restaurant. Each doctor was pinned with a red carnation upon his/her arrival. Hot and cold hors d'oeuvres were served followed by dinner at carving and pasta stations, and coffee & desserts and complementary wines. Each year, a physician is honored for his/her advocacy for the Alliance. Dr. Robert Pyke, husband of Lynn, was this year's winner.

Our annual **Think! Don't Drink! or Text!** campaign took place in April and May. Fifty area florists received 100 cards each to include in flower boxes at prom time.

This year's **Spring Luncheon** was held on Wednesday, May 15. Scholarship winners were announced and \$8,000 in scholarships was awarded. The OCMS contributed two \$1,000 named scholarships and a third \$1,000 named scholarship (from money donated by our members) was presented in the name of a recently deceased member, Betty Lourie. This year we returned to an old tradition of inviting the recipients to the luncheon. It was greatly enjoyed and we will continue to do this in the coming years. Members of the Governing Board were re-installed for 2015-2016. The guest speaker, from the CNY Heart Association, gave a presentation on Heart Health in Women.

A **Long Range Planning** meeting was held on June 10 and the decision to continue with all of our county's Alliance projects, programs and events was made and affirmed. We very much would like to see some "new blood" in our midst -- those members who have been keeping things active for many years are tiring out! **Please** offer your services and become active in our wonderful and worthy organization.

Joan Cincotta attended the **AMA Alliance Annual Meeting** in Chicago on June 7-9.

### Schenectady

The June meeting of the Schenectady Medical Alliance featured a presentation by speakers from the organizations that received our Philanthropic funds this year - S.T.E.P., Quest for Grace, and the Schenectady Day Nursery. They each described the mission and goals of their organizations and for what specifics they will be using the funds. We also presented an additional check to these organizations from monies collected throughout the year as a result of our fund raising raffles at each meeting. Following lunch, Bonnie conducted the installation of officers for 2015-16 and Joann Paulsen introduced and honored our past presidents, presenting them with a flower and a note of appreciation for their past leadership. Planning for our upcoming Luncheon and Fashion Show is on the agenda for September as well as distribution of scholarships to students at our local nursing school. High on our priority will be the selection of new Philanthropic recipients and sponsorships of our Luncheon & Fashion Show on December 2, 2015. We continue to work on recruiting new members and on our Health Projects in the community.



## Planning Calendar

AMSSNY Fall Conference, Scotia, NY

October 18, 19, 2015

MSSNY Advocacy Day

March 8, 2016

Annual Meeting, Westchester Marriott, Tarrytown, NY

April 14-15, 2016

Northeast Regional Meeting, Gettysburg, PA

April 15-17, 2016

AMAA Annual Meeting and Leadership Development, Chicago, IL

June 12-14, 2016

## 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 (\$25) and National (\$50) dues (Total of \$75). Senior/Widows (65+ and 20 years active service) State dues are \$12.50. (\$62.50 if State and National) Please make checks payable to AMSSNY-MALs and submit to:

AMSSNY-MAL  
865 Merrick Avenue  
Westbury, NY 11590-9007