The Fifth District includes Cayuga, Chenango, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, and St. Lawrence counties.

Here in Jefferson County, there was a Public Rally on March 20, 2015 to support the local army base, Fort Drum, organized by Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization (FDRLO). The primary message of the rally was that the Army’s planned reduction of its force by 70,000 soldiers should not come from Fort Drum. Since the status of Fort Drum impacts our local medical community, as detailed below, the Medical Society of Jefferson County encouraged its members to lobby on behalf of Fort Drum. To show your support for the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum, please sign the petition at http://www.drum2025.com. More information about the impact of Fort Drum on the local economy can be found in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Fort Drum Impact statement, which you can access at: http://fdrlo.org/archives/EIS%20Reports/FY14EIB.pdf.

- $88,12 Million ñ Fort Drum Medical Services for FY2014; up $58.9 Million from the $29.22 Million reported for the FY2013.

- $36,677,534 – Total of the MEDDAC (Medical Department Activity) Civilian FY2014 payroll. The MEDDAC’s staff consists of approximately 840 military, civilian and contract personnel.

- $57,632,919 ñ The FY2014 In/Outpatient Services total for the local community

I attended the MSSNY Lobby Day on March 4, 2015. I arranged and had one on one meetings with State Assemblywoman Addie J. Russell and a staff member of State Senator Patty Ritchie. I also attended the Cayuga County Medical Society Meeting on February 25, 2015, the Oswego County Medical Society Meeting on March 18, 2015, and the Chenango and Madison County Medical Society meeting on April 1, 2015. I am also on the agenda along with Brenda Van Nest, MSSNY Upstate Outreach Representative, for the upcoming Carthage Hospital, Carthage, NY Medical Staff meeting upcoming April 22, 2015.

I attended the MSSNY Membership Committee Organized Medical Staff Section Subcommittee (OMSS) telephone conference on March 19, 2015. The reconvened MSSNY OMSS will meet on Friday afternoon May 1, 2015 at MSSNY 209th Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates. Please pass on the word about OMSS, and if you come across physicians interested in participating, please have them contact me or MSSNY Staff (Eunice Skelly or Sandy Bennett). Thank you to the MSSNY staff for their work contacting to the physician leaders of medical staffs and large groups who have institutional or group membership agreements with MSSNY, requesting nominations for positions on the upcoming, newly to be reinstated OMSS Governing Council. Eunice Skelly shared the following names of those thus far interested. The organizations contacted and names submitted so far, member organization followed by the nominee:

- Albany Medical College Faculty Practice:  Albany CMS President nominated Ferdinand Venditti, MD, President of AMC Faculty Practice Group

- Bassett Healthcare:  Vance Brown, MD, President and CEO asked Joseph Sellers, MD, to participate

- Brookhaven Hospital: Richard Ritter, MD, Medical Staff President, may be interested
• ENT and Allergy Associates: President Robert Green, MD, has nominated Virginia Feldman, MD

• Family Care Medical Group: David Page, MD, was president for 17 years. Now medical director of the group's Medicare Shared Services program ACO.

• Integrated Medical Professionals: Deepak Kapoor, MD, Chairman and CEO, indicated an intent to nominate someone

• JT Mather Hospital: Ahmad Bhatti, MD, Medical Staff President

• St. Charles Hospital: Stephen Coccaro, MD, Medical Staff President

• Northern Westchester Hospital: Marshal Peris, MD, Medical Staff President

• Mt. St. Mary's Hospital: Domonic Falsetti, MD, CMO has nominated Frank Laurri, MD

• Nirupama Anne, MD, Immediate Past President, Broome County Medical Society.

Jim Coulthart, EVP of the Onondaga County Medical Society (OCMS), reported on recent activities of the OCMS.

MATTERS OF NOTE
ONONDAGA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
March & April 2015

• The annual Onondaga County Medical Society Legislative Breakfast and Roundtable Discussion took place on Saturday, February 28th at the Onondaga County Medical Society offices building, 329 N. Salina St., Syracuse. Congressman John Katko had to stay in Washington late the previous night for the homeland security vote. Justin Sayles, Deputy Director, was present in his place. Present in person were the following elected officials: State Senators J. DeFrancisco & D. Valesky, Assembly people W. Magnarelli, A. Stirpe, S. Roberts, and G. Finch. Assemblyman W. Barclay was out of the area and was represented by Office Director Jennifer Cook. Engaged in conversation with these officials were 16 physicians representing OCMS. During the two hour meeting, President Dennis Nave chaired the discussion. Topics covered and discussed included: At the federal level - SGR, ACA, Devices Tax, Medicare reimbursement. At the state level - pending e-prescribing mandate, retail clinics, collective bargaining, out of network law, the search process for a new president for Upstate University, and public health matters.

• A small delegation led by President Nave braved difficult weather conditions to travel to Albany to represent OCMS at MSSNYâ€™s Capital Forum and Lobby Days on March 3 & 4.

• On April 1st there was a members-only viewing of Something the Lord Made, the inspiring story of pioneering cardiologist Dr. Alfred Blalock and his Afro-American assistant Mr. Vivien Thomas. Over thirty people attended this event at the 1940â€™ styled Palace Theater in Eastwood. There was a before-the-movie begins cash bar reception. The price of admission even included popcorn!
Members of the OCMS Delegation are making final preparations to attend the HOD, May 1-3, in Saratoga. Delegation Leader Dr. Jef Sneider will lead the 7 person delegation this year. Dr. Sneider is also working to make the OCMS Delegation a 100% MSNNY PAC delegation.

The first OCMS Clambake will take place on June 18th at the Spinning Wheel Restaurant in North Syracuse.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Huang, MD, Jefferson County, 5th District Councilor