



# ***MSSNY Council***

## **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

**Thursday Morning, September 28, 2023 9:00 am**

### **MSSNY Officers in Attendance**

Paul A. Pipia, MD, President  
David Jakubowicz, MD, Vice-President  
Howard Huang, MD, Secretary  
Bernadette Riley, DO, Assistant Secretary  
William Latreille, MD, Speaker

Jerome Cohen, MD, President-Elect  
Mark Adams, MD, Treasurer  
Frank Dowling, MD, Assistant Treasurer  
L. Carlos Zapata, MD, Vice-Speaker

### **Councilors**

Niraj Acharya, MD  
Gregory Pinto, MD  
Robert Kimball, MD  
Hemant Kalia, MD  
Daniel Gold, MD  
Daniel Choi, MD  
Suresh Sharma, MD  
Realba Rodriguez, MD  
Anna Heffron, MD

Scot Glasberg, MD  
Celeste Johns, MD  
Mark R. Jajkowski, MD  
David Podwall, MD  
Penny Stern, MD  
Anna Heffron, MD  
Charles Lopresto, DO

### **Board Members in Attendance**

Robert Frankel, MD, Chair  
Arthur Fougner, MD  
Charles Rothberg, MD

Sana Bloch, MD  
Bonnie Litvack, MD

### **Executive Vice President**

Troy Oechsner

### **County Federation Representative**

Stavroula Savelidis

### **Empire State Foundation**

Leah McCormack, MD

### **MLMIC**

John Lombardo, MD

### **MSSNY Staff**

Moe Auster  
Pat Clancy  
Heather Lopez  
Julie Vecchione  
Valerie Cammiso  
Michael Reyes  
John Vecchio  
Robyn Cangemi

### **General Counsel**

Jay Silverman, Esq.

**A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

President Paul A. Pipia, MD called the meeting to order. Dr. Howard Huang conducted roll call.

**B. MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes of the Council:

- Meeting held on June 22, 2023
- Special Meeting on July 27, 2023

Dr. Pipia made a motion to approve the minutes on June 22, 2023. The motion was **approved**.

Regarding minutes for the Special Meeting of Council on July 27, 2023, Dr. Pipia noted that he had Troy prepare a statement summarizing the verbal report on the Empire Foundation Committee. The Committee consisted of Drs. Pipia, Lee, Podwall, Fogarty, and Murray. According to Dr. Pipia, Committee members unanimously approved the recommendation to approve the changes to the Empire Foundation Bylaws proposed by the Foundation Board. Although Dr. Pipia's report to the Council about the Committee's work and recommendation was given verbally at the last Council meeting, Dr. Pipia would like to add it now as a final report that will go as an addendum to the minutes from July 27, 2023.

Dr. Litvack asked Jay Silverman whether a member of the Board of Trustees could be excluded from any meetings of the Council. He answered "no" inasmuch as Trustees sit with the Council with voice but no vote per the bylaws. A further discussion ensued posing the more specific question as to the appropriateness of excluding Trustees and limiting attendance to voting Council members when a Council meeting goes into Executive Session. Dr. Pipia asked to table this discussion until the end of the meeting. The motion was **approved**.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from July 27, 2023 with the addendum submitted by Dr. Pipia. The motion was **approved**.

**C. NEW BUSINESS**

1) **President's Report** – Paul A. Pipia, MD

a. ***Wrongful Death Action***

Dr. Pipia said that MSSNY has placed a number of editorials in lots of newspapers. Dr. Pipia, Troy, Moe and Dr. Mehta spoke with the Governor's Office as well. Also, Dr. Pipia did a piece with NBC News Now.

Troy shared the Powerpoint of MSSNY's Outreach Efforts on Wrongful Death. It summarized what MSSNY has been doing including: social media posts, letters to the Governor, email blasts to members, articles in MSSNY Pulse and Insider, Physician calls to Governor Hocol, and more. Troy explained how this bill will

disproportionately damage underserved communities. Even if employed, your pay and workload will be affected, as well as the employer's ability to hire additional workers. Troy spoke of educating MSSNY physician members and the public, as well as the Keep Your Doctor in New York campaign. Troy urged Councilors to help with this fight, and described specific steps they can take, including letters and calls to the Governor requesting her veto, as well as engaging on social media and writing op eds. Troy also requested that Councilors each reach out to one or more of MSSNY's 20 plus member groups (which were listed in the PowerPoint slide). He said to coordinate with Zena Carey (on MSSNY's Government Relations staff). Thousands of letters have been generated so far but the hope is to get out over 3,600 additional letters in the coming weeks. Troy thanked Stav for help coordinating outreach to county medical societies, noting that each district has been assigned a day over the coming weeks to make calls and send letters.

b. ***Nominations TASK Force***

Dr. Pipia said that according to Resolution 211-214, they had to appoint people to a Nominations Task Force. He worked with Troy and Robyn to request names from the counties, but received only nine names back. One county submitted four names and another submitted someone not eligible. Dr. Pipia said he will give it more time.

In addition, in terms of candidate nominations for the HOD, Dr. Pipia noted that unfortunately the counties were not made fully aware of those who were not eligible for re-election. He said we will give this a bit more time as well.

c. ***Empire Foundation***

Dr. Pipia said that the Empire Foundation notified him that MSSNY (the member) could nominate people to their Board. He submitted the names of Corliss Varnum and Leanna Leang. He also said that he is not opposed to the nomination of Kira Geraci-Ciardullo, who is eligible for re-election. The next order of business is that they have to have a meeting once a year and it was suggested that this meeting be held at MSSNY's next Council meeting in November.

Dr. Pipia mentioned that Dr. Glasberg contacted a number of people and said that MSSNY needs a Conflict-of-Interest policy. According to Dr. Pipia, Dr. Glasberg submitted a draft policy and wanted it approved at this meeting. Dr. Pipia decided not to put it on this agenda but did refer it MSSNY's Legal Counsel, Jay Silverman for review. Jay Silverman did agree that MSSNY should have such a policy. Jay noted that he will review the draft and make sure it fits the needs of MSSNY. Dr. Pipia will bring it up at the next Council meeting.

d. ***MESF***

Dr. Pipia spoke with Dr. Rothberg about a meeting he attended at NYITCOM. Dr. Pipia promised they could submit to us two projects that will cost about \$10,000 each for review by the MESF. In addition, Dr. Gasalberti from Queens would like to submit to MESF an education process for the Workers Compensation Foundation to teach people how to go through that system.

e. **AMA Delegation**

Dr. Pipia said that there has not been an OPS Committee meeting in a while and suggested that there should be such a meeting. Dr. Pipia thinks there are two vacancies, including Dr. Berkun's position. He would like the OPS Committee to look into this.

f. **Non-Dues Revenue Update**

Dr. Pipia said that on Tuesday he received information that MSSNY had lost a significant number of members. Yesterday, the numbers he got from Dr. Jakubowicz seemed a little bit better. However, losing institutional members has been a drastic loss. Also, Dr. Pipia stated that people wonder why some get to pay smaller amounts than others. Thus, MSSNY needs non-dues revenue, Dr. Pipia added. He tasked the Non-Dues Revenue Committee, headed by Dr. Thomas Lee, with the goal of raising 5 million dollars. He said they can then share back with the individual counties (splitting evenly with them). He stated that if MSSNY continues to lose members, there won't be a society. He would like MSSNY staff to go to medical staff meetings to try and recruit members. Dr. Pipia would like to make a change to Gather Voices. Right now, they ask people if they would like to make comments. He would like MSSNY to appoint a specific doctor to talk about a specific topic (he feels it would be better if they try to script it). This way someone could talk about Wrongful Death, someone could talk about the different foundations, etc.

g. **IT Committee Update**

Dr. Pipia said that he has been very critical of Impexium but will try to take a step back. With IMIS, they had to build different pieces to make it work so he said they will probably have to do that with Impexium as well. However, it is urgent for Impexium to fix the dues collection issues.

Troy spoke about why a committee of staff (including County Medical Society representatives) and physicians (including Dr. Mehta) chose Impexium over nearly a dozen other member databases: easy to use, transparency for the counties, did not charge extra for more users, and more. Troy acknowledged implementation issues, and said that staff is working hard to iron out the kinks. He asked all at the meeting to please update their profiles on Impexium, as that is data they need for many reasons, and our old iMIS database had old (and often incorrect) information on members.

h. **Resolutions Referred to Council Update**

Dr. Pipia asked Dr. Zapata (Vice Speaker) to report on the below resolution numbers and the committees that they have been referred to based on their content (in parenthesis), as well as their currently scheduled meeting dates (in brackets). See below:

**4** – Revisions to MSSNY Mission (Bylaws Committee) [11/27-29]

**57** – Employed Physicians Bill of Rights (Employed Physicians Committee) [TBD]

**58** – Establishing Limits for Non-Compete Provisions (Legislative/Physician Advocacy) [10/17]

**61** – Equal Standard of Care for Patients (Legislative/Physician Advocacy) [10/17]

**101** – Universal Telehealth for VA (Legislative/Physician Advocacy) [10/17]

**111** – Expanding SOP for MAs (Scope of Practice) [TBD]

**116** – Moving Vehicles (Preventive Medicine) [10/12]

252 – Specialists Initial Assessment/Treatment (Bio-Ethics) [10/6]

**259** – State Enforcement of Self-Insured ERISA Plans (Legislative/Physician Advocacy) [10/17]

i. **Gold Card Legislation**

Moe Auster volunteered to articulate what is going on with this. He said that Dr. Glasberg brought up a good point: if one is regularly approved for a service, why should he or she have to be approved, if there is already a proven track record? Through Dr. Glasberg's Plastic Surgery Society, they have been regularly meeting on how to amend this bill. It will be amended to reflect the concerns. Moe did say that the push toward these Gold Card bills has pushed insurance companies to reduce prior authorization requirements, so there is a value in advocating for these. Dr. Pipia added that a number of members are being asked to release their medical records before the insurance company will pay. Two big violators are Empire and United Health Care. Heather Lopez stated that she is actively following up on this with DSF.

2) **Board of Trustees Report** – MSSNY's Board of Trustees Chair, Robert Frankel, MD, noted that a meeting of the MSSNY Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday Evening, September 27, 2023 at 7:00 PM. Dr. Frankel reported that the actions taken by the Board at that meeting are as follows:

1. *The Board approved the minutes of the June 21, 2023, July 14, 2023 and September 7, 2023 meetings.*
2. *The Board approved a per diem reimbursement of up to a maximum of \$2,000 per delegate or alternate, as well as for two students and two staff, for the AMA Interim Meeting in National Harbor, Maryland on November 10-14, 2023.*
3. *The Board approved a motion to explore (by obtaining advice from financial advisors and tax professionals) the concept of using some portion of the Building Fund (with a possible cap at least for the current year) to at least partially offset budget shortfalls by covering MSSNY costs, focusing on those costs related to the MSSNY office(s).*
4. *The Board approved MSSNY Counsel, Jay Silverman, Esq. and MSSNY Executive Vice President, Troy Oechsner, examining any originating documents related to MSSNY's Vanguard investment funds to determine any purpose or restrictions related to those funds.*
5. *The Board approved Jay Silverman examining compliance issues, including conflict of interest policies, to ensure MSSNY remains in conformance with applicable laws.*

- 3) **Secretary's Report** – Howard Huang, MD  
Dr. Huang presented the report of the recipients of the Nominations for Life Membership. Motion was made to approve all of those listed in the report. The motion was **approved**.
- 4) **MLMIC Update** - John Lombardo, MD  
John Lombardo said that MLMIC is focusing on the Grieving Families Act. You do not have to be a physician to write to the Governor. He asked all to encourage others to do so. The Governor has not yet requested a bill, so it looks like it will be late. This bill will negatively affect lots of people, not just physicians. One such group is members of the building industry. He asked all to please make the effort and keep fighting. The more the Governor hears from non-physician constituents, the broader the scope of the criticism. Many doctors may leave the state over this.

- 5) **AMA Delegation Report** – Charles Rothberg, MD  
Dr. Rothberg said that the AMA Delegation Chairs have been working hard trying to onboard new members that were elected and will be serving in January.

The upcoming Interim Meeting will be from November 10-14 at the National Harbor near Washington, DC. Dr. Rothberg thanked the Board for approving the stipends.

- 6) **MSSNYPAC Report** – Thomas Lee, MD  
The Committee met earlier today. In terms of advocacy, their essential focus is on Wrongful Death. Raised \$100,000 which is good, but additional resources are needed to effectively advocate on behalf of their profession and their patients.

**Non-Dues Revenue Committee Report** – Thomas Lee, MD  
Met twice in the last couple of months. Dues and members have decreased and will no longer be offset by PPP and the Employee Retention Credit. The “bleeding” cannot be stopped without non-dues revenue. They generated 10 short-term goals and 3 long-term, which have been paired down to 6 short-term and 2-3 long-term. Areas and programs of focus include, physician practice claims appeal and audit consulting services, House of Delegate Sponsorships, CME Program Expansion, Life Member contribution and planned giving, etc. The Committee will be meeting again in October to finalize the recommendations to the Council and Board. He said that they need the support of the Council, Trustees, Committee and MSSNY Leaders, as well as counties in order to make this a success.

- 7) **County Federation Report** – Stavroula Savelidis  
The report is as submitted. Stav said that they have been working hard on Wrongful Death. There have been lots of phone calls and reaching out to other local specialty societies, the Chamber of Commerce, etc.
- 8) **Legislative & Physician Advocacy Committee** – Mark J. Adams, MD  
Dr. Adams said that they are working on the program for next year. They had a robust discussion of issues. Lots of ideas and thoughts will be taken back to MSSNY staff. He spoke of a survey that was passed around in reference to the various issues that have been identified.

## **D. REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

### **1. Office of the President – Paul A. Pipia, MD**

Dr. Pipia said that he has been trying to recruit members. When Huntington Hospital was approached, Dr. Nick Fetterman threw the proposal in the garbage. It turns out that Dr. Fetterman was once one of Dr. Pipia's classmates. Dr. Pipia asked him to take it out and he did. Huntington Hospital may now give MSSNY some members (as an Institutional Membership). Also, he said that the in-fighting within MSSNY leadership needs to stop. It will not get MSSNY one more member. In fact, it may make MSSNY lose members. He asked all to make an active effort, as he will too.

### **2. Office of the President-Elect - Jerome C. Cohen, MD**

Dr. Cohen attended the Wrongful Death Meeting at the Governor's Office. He felt that they were non-committal in their response. He asked all to please continue the efforts with the generation of letters – as simple as clicking a button on the MSSNY website. He also spoke of the retention of Basset for Otsego County. Some counties are not signing on, so members that want the discount have been advised to change their county (to the one they work in). Dr. Cohen informed the Council that there are still problems with this. There are other initiatives going on upstate with United Health Care and Guthrie. These local initiatives are to try to increase membership through the membership deals they have going on. Lastly, he said that the House Committee on Bylaws will be meeting sometime in November, after the AMA Interim Meeting to discuss the issues that are brought back.

### **3. Office of the Vice-President - David M. Jakubowicz, MD**

Dr. Jakubowicz was asked to participate in the New York Bio (a Biotechnology group). Step Therapy and prior authorization issues were discussed. MSSNY might have gained a member as a result, so he plans to continue participating in these types of events. He brought up the need for a Code of Conduct for meetings, that will ensure that everyone can have the opportunity to be heard and will be treated with respect. Dr. Pipia will add the Code of Conduct provided by Jakubowicz as another document for Legal Counsel Jay Silverman, Esq. to review.

### **4. Office of the Immediate Past President - Parag Mehta, MD**

Dr. Mehta was away and was unable to attend this meeting.

### **5. Office of the Treasurer - Mark Adams, MD**

Dr. Adams shared a statement of income and expenses. Dues were projected to be under budget by 8% but they are now down to minus 10%. On the brighter side, investments have gone up. Also, Troy and the MSSNY staff have done a great job at lowering expenses. MSSNY got "beat up" the worst in the area of IT and the migration from IMIS to Impexium. In addition, the cyber incident put the expense categories way over budget, but hopefully that was a one-time thing. Dr. Adams said that of course, lots of money and effort needs to go into membership. He mentioned a projected deficit of \$182,000 this year, but he said that he is optimistic that it won't be that bad.

Dr. Pipia was made aware that Dr. Glasberg wanted to review the full report of numbers. He said if Dr. Glasberg does not feel that this report is not enough, he should reach out to Dr. Frankel or Troy to see the full budget information.

6. **Office of the Speaker** – William Latreille, MD  
Report as submitted. Dr. Latreille noted that the HOD will take place at the Marriott in Uniondale from April 12-14, 2024. He also spoke of the Lake Placid meeting on January 27, 2024, a “beautiful venue” with a “special rate”.

Dr. Pipia stated that the Nominations Committee has been selected. The names are out and can be posted to the site. Dr. Pinto (one of his At-Large members) will be in charge of the group.

## **E. REPORTS OF COUNCILORS**

1. **Kings & Richmond Report** - Niraj Acharya, MD  
As submitted. Their President’s Dinner will be on 10/24/23. All are welcome to attend. It will be held at the Dyker’s Golf Club in Brooklyn, NY.
2. **Manhattan & Bronx Report** - Scot Glasberg, MD  
Dr. Glasberg was unavailable at the moment. Will take his report as submitted.
3. **Nassau County Report** - David Podwall, MD  
As submitted. Had a great meeting at NYIT. Will be meeting with two medical schools in the area. Their Membership event at the Cradle of Aviation Museum was a huge success. Nassau County’s new Health Commissioner was there to speak. Next week is their Virtual Legislative Breakfast. They are pushing for the vetoing of the Grieving Families Act on social media. As of this am, they have had over 13,000 views.
4. **Queens County Report** - Penny Stern, MD  
As submitted. Commended the efforts of their President, Dr. Lopresto for meeting with hospital staff societies in their borough. These efforts were to make known the benefits of MSSNY membership and MSSNY’s achievements on behalf of members. Also, just a week ago, the Medical Society of the County of Queens in conjunction with the Coalition of Asian American Independent Practices, sponsored a press conference related to the Grieving Families Act that got lots of attention nationally and internationally from the press.
5. **Suffolk County Report** - Daniel Choi, MD  
Significant Development: Serious conversations have been taking place with the CMO of Huntington Hospital to add them as a pretty large Institutional Membership for 2024. Also, they are in talks with MSSNY leadership on having MSSNY handle the billing for the Suffolk County Medical Society. In addition, there will be a research Symposium and a County Podcast coming up in 2024.
6. **Third District Branch Report** - Jose David, MD  
Dr. David was not in attendance.
7. **Fourth District Branch Report** - Gregory Pinto, MD  
As submitted. Due to very strong popular demand, Dr. Adolph Meyer had been asked to come back in 2 and a half weeks to give another presentation in Saratoga County. Dr. Pinto will make him aware of this.



8. **Fifth District Branch Report** - Robert Kimball, MD  
No written report. The 5th and 6th district branches will be getting together for their Annual Meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> in Syracuse to discuss potential resolutions. He spoke of Jefferson County, which is a large part of the 5<sup>th</sup> district. Samaritan Medical Center, which has covered employees' MSSNY dues has decided that they will not be doing so anymore. Dr. Pipia suggested that Troy and Dr. Jakubowicz try to talk to them to explain how good our advocacy is, particularly with all we are doing with the Grieving Families Act.
9. **Sixth District Branch Report** - Celeste Johns, MD  
No written report. Spoke of her sadness with what happened with working for Basett and how she and many others have changed to individual member coverage. Otsego County will be having their Member meeting on October 11<sup>th</sup> and Tompkins County already had theirs on September 8<sup>th</sup>. She also echoed Dr. Kimball's mention of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> District branches' upcoming meeting.
10. **Seventh District Branch Report** - Hemant Kalia, MD  
Continuing to make headway with sharing the results of the physician wellness survey that was conducted in March, 2023. They have shared the results with county, state, and regional organizations. They continue to work on efforts to make a sustainable change in their community. Also, they are working on a Patient/Clinician Alliance to use patient voices to help make legislative change. In addition, they have a "Trifecta Event" coming up with MLMIC, Sellars Insurance, and MSSNY. It will address "How to Survive and Thrive in the Medical Practice in Today's Day and Age."
11. **Eight District Branch Report** - Mark Jajkowski, MD  
Spoke of some updates, including the fact that Erie County's President had an op-ed published, expressing his concerns with the Wrongful Death Act. He also mentioned that the Erie County Medical Society Fall Gala will be held on October 12<sup>th</sup> in which Dr. Stacey Watt, incoming Erie County President will be installed. In addition, he thanked Aimana ElBahtity for all of her hard work.
12. **Ninth District Branch Report** - Daniel Gold, MD  
As submitted. Westchester County was happy to see that their op-ed on the Grieving Families Act was picked up in the syndicated affiliates of their local news. Also, many of their counties have elected to move their dues billing and collections to be centrally managed by MSSNY.
13. **International Medical Graduates Report** - Suresh Sharma, MD  
Report as presented. IMG was created a year ago. At the annual meeting, they designated a committee to create the bylaws. Dr. Sharma presented the bylaws and asked for Council approval. Vice Speaker L. Carlos Zapata had a comment regarding the last paragraph, which mentioned Sturgis Standard Code Procedure. He said that Sturgis is no longer, and it should therefore be replaced with the current edition of the American Institute of Procedure. Dr. Sharma agreed that the changes will be made. Jay Silverman agreed that this was in line.  
A motion to approve the bylaws with the proposed change was **approved**.

14. **Minority Affairs Section Report** - Realba Rodriguez, MD  
Spoke of the election results which include Dr. Realba Rodriguez as Chair and Dr. Lisa Eng as Co-Chair. They are planning an activity in which the topic will most likely be Immigration Medicine. Dr. Rodriguez thanked Drs. Dowling and Zapata for helping her to finalize the bylaws. Dr. Pipia advised that she also refer to Dr. Jerome Cohen, as he Chairs the Bylaws Committee.
15. **OMS Report** - Charles Lopresto, DO  
Dr. Lopresto spoke of an item that was tabled from the last meeting re: a resolve clause about healthcare workers being encouraged to mask if not up to date on current Covid vaccinations. The United States Department of Health ended its vaccination requirements so this was a way to account for this. Dr. Clancy advised referring this back to the Infectious Disease and Emergency Preparedness Committees. Dr. Lopresto expressed his concern that there is policy on both Covid vaccinations and masking but none on masking if one does not get the vaccine (as what was done with the flu). A motion was made to refer this back to the committees suggested by Pat. The motion was **approved**.
16. **Resident and Fellow Section Report** - Anna Heffron, MD  
No written report. They had a joint virtual meeting with the MSS and YPS. They had good policy discussion. Preparing for the November AMA Interim meeting and the RFS Assembly, where they will be well represented.
17. **Medical Student Section Report** - Elana Sitnik  
Elana Sitnik was not in attendance.
18. **YPS Section** (Jocelyn Young, DO)  
Dr. Young was not in attendance.

**F. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT Troy J. Oechsner**

Troy began by saying it is time to prepare for next year. They are looking at a \$500,000 hole (loss of PPP grant and now the Employment Retention Tax Credit). Some areas staff have been working on to fix this gap include: subleasing the Westbury office space; increasing non-dues revenue such as monetizing some of what Heather Lopez does; reducing expenses with IT, increasing staff efficiencies by repurposing people toward more proactive efforts, increasing HOD sponsorships, and more.

Troy also presented his MSSNY Goals and Measures Power Point presentation. He spoke of MSSNY's goals, which line up with the 5 areas of the strategic plan: membership, non-dues revenue, governance, advocacy, and communications. He made it clear that MSSNY must focus on the membership and dues decline and "Together we can Build MSSNY".

**G. COMMISSIONERS (Informational and Action Items)**

1. **Commissioner of Governmental Relations**, Gregory L. Pinto, MD  
Dr. Pinto called the report written by Mo, Pat, Michael, and Zena "excellent". He called our attention to Page 4, which speaks about plans by the Department of Health to force practices to get permission before they sell their practice to private equity. MSSNY's

advocacy scaled this way down. Also, Dr. Pipia's comments regarding the Medicare cuts that are coming up are in the report as well.

2. **Commissioner of Membership**, David M. Jakubowicz, MD

Dr. Jakubowicz said that we really need to change our trajectory and focus on groups we are losing. He cannot comment on individual members (there is a difference in member numbers from June to September, which shows an increase in individual numbers but he needs to verify this). Dr. Jakubowicz noted that MSSNY has lost or will be losing institutional memberships, such as St. Charles, Mather, and Samaritan. We will also lose year to year somewhere around \$120, 000 by people transitioning to Life Members. He said that things appear to be both jarring and dire, and seem to be snowballing worse. He said that we need to focus on young physicians. Residents, fellows, and medical students tend to leave. Thus, the target group should be young physicians who move to the state, as they will probably stay for a while. Dr. Jakubowicz would like our current younger physician members to help target these young physicians in a way that appeals to them. They need to see the value that MSSNY membership offers. He would also like to realign our staff goals. Dr. Pipia suggested reaching out to the AMA. Dr. Jakubowicz agreed and also suggested reaching out to MLMIC, Pharma, etc.

3. **Commissioner of Public Health**, Jocelyn Young, DO

As submitted. Dr. Young was not in attendance, so Dr. Litvack noted two key events that people should consider attending. One is Veterans Matters (a collaborative teaching day – all information is in the report) and the other is the Women's Leadership Academy, a collaboration between MSSNY and MESF, in which virtual seminars are held (because of a generous grant from the Physicians' Foundation). CME credit is offered and this is a huge benefit for all members (men and women), even though one does not have to be a member to attend. Dates and other information are also in the report.

4. **Commissioner of Physician Payment & Practice**, Inderpal Chabra, MD

Dr. Chabra was unable to attend but Heather Lpopez stated that the report is as submitted. The only thing she noted is that since the report was submitted, there have been 25 new consults.

5. **Commissioner of Continuing Medical Education**, Dr. Daniel Choi

As submitted. Dr. Choi said that it is an "excellent" report.

6. **Commissioner of Communications**, L. Carlos Zapata, MD

As submitted. Dr. Zapata noted that in terms of social media accounts, MSSNY has new handles on X (formerly known as Twitter) and on Threads. He asked all to please sign up and follow MSSNY on both X and Threads.

**H. REPORT OF THE GENERAL COUNCEL, Jay Silverman, Esq.**

No report.

**I. REPORT OF THE ALLIANCE, Barbara Ellman, Alliance Co-President**

No formal report. Barbara Ellman thanked MSSNY for including the Alliance in the Council meetings and on various committees as well. They send a check for \$5,000 for

dues for MSSNY PAC each year. She personally sends letters to the Governor and Legislators whenever MSSNY asks.

**J. OTHER INFORMATION / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

***DISCUSSION TABLED FROM EARLIER IN THE MEETING***

Dr. Pipia went back to the conversation tabled from the beginning of the meeting. Dr. Litvack made it clear that she is not trying to be divisive. On the contrary, she said that she is trying to bring everyone back together with openness and transparency. She wants to ensure that the will of the majority is followed, and the rights of the minority protected. She said that they need to set a precedent going forward. Dr. Pipia explained that there were meetings that he, Dr. Sellers, and Dr. Mehta were all excluded from at different times. He said that he has been with MSSNY for over 38 years and has seen too many fights. He also said that there is not an effective and cheap way to ensure that only voting members vote. Some do not want to vote in public, especially when they are dealing with controversial issues. Dr. Pipia would like to see some sort of non-costly way of getting these votes in an easy manner in the near future. Dr. Litvack suggested that if there is a meeting and only voting members are moved to a different "room" or "session" to vote, they should be moved only for the vote itself (not for the discussion). This way, the Council will be as informed as possible. All agreed to work harder at stopping any fighting, as they are all working towards the best interests of MSSNY.

Dr. Pipia asked if all are ok with having the meeting with the Empire Foundation after the November Council meeting is adjourned. There, they will discuss Empire's Board of Trustees. ***No objections.***

**K. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was ***approved.*** Meeting adjourned.