



# ***MSSNY Council***

## **MINUTES SPECIAL MSSNY COUNCIL MEETING Thursday, February 22, 2024 6:30 pm**

### **MSSNY Officers in Attendance**

Paul A. Pipia, MD, President	Jerome Cohen, MD, President-Elect
David Jakubowicz, MD, Vice-President	Howard Huang, MD, Secretary
Parag Mehta, MD, Immediate Past-President	Frank Dowling, MD, Asst. Treasurer
Bernadette Riley, DO, Assistant Secretary	
L. Carlos Zapata, MD, Vice-Speaker	

### **Councilors in Attendance**

Niraj Acharya, MD	Hemant Kalia, MD
Jose David, MD	Elana Sitnik
Robert Kimball, MD	Realba Rodriguez, MD
Scot Glasberg, MD	
Daniel Gold, MD	
Suresh Sharma, MD	
Penny Stern, MD	
Charles Lopresto, DO	

### **Board Members in Attendance**

Bonnie Litvack, MD  
Thomas Madejski, MD

### **Executive Vice President**

Troy Oechsner

### **MSSNY Staff in Attendance**

Moe Auster	Terrance Bedient
Julie Vecchione	Jennifer Wilks
Valerie Cammiso	Michael Reyes
Heather Lopez	Fran Nunez
Nicholas Hospodar	Zina Carey
Robyn Cangemi	

### **County Federation Representative**

Stavroula Savelidis

## **Empire Foundation**

Joseph Maldonado, MD

Leah McCormack, MD

## **Other Guests in Attendance Who Wished to be Recognized**

Thomas Lee, MD

Jonathan Dougherty

Lucia Castillejo

Cheryl Malone

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

Dr. Pipia called the meeting to order. Dr. Huang conducted roll-call. A quorum was present. Dr. Pipia stated that last night the BOT signed the contract with the Westchester Marriott. So, MSSNY will be back at the Westchester Marriott for the 2025 HOD.

### **B. UPDATES** (Paul A. Pipia, MD)

#### **1. Lobby Day**

Dr. Pipia stated that one of the main reasons he called this meeting is to make sure they all deliver the correct message to the people in the Legislature that they will meet at Lobby Day. He stated that the next Council Meeting is the day before Legislative Day and the number of people attending is looking very low. He gave examples of in the past, how people asked about other items (not planned to advocate for) and these items took the majority of the time they were supposed to have with the Governor. Two examples of these other items were soda tax and mask mandates. (He stated he will come back to Lobby Day shortly).

#### **2. Impexium Membership Management System**

Dr. Pipia said that Impexium is not working well, as everyone knows. He said that, unless Impexium surprises them and comes through in the next couple of months, MSSNY will probably be leaving them. It was decided at the Board of Trustees Meeting last night, that right now they have no choice but to stay with Impexium, as MSSNY cannot function with no database. MSSNY will also go forward with talks with iMIS and make sure they fully explore whether iMIS can truly deliver. Dr. Pipia noted that Texas manages iMIS for 13 other states, including Florida. Dr. Litvack confirmed that this is what the Board decided. Dr. Jakubowicz explained that with Impexium, MSSNY gets what everyone else gets. Everything special that MSSNY needs must be made to the system. For each customization, they are nickel and diming MSSNY. He said even Impexium acknowledges that they might not be the right fit for MSSNY. Dr. Pipia also understands that because of this some counties are struggling. He would like them to let MSSNY know if they are in need of assistance.

## **Announcements**

- Dr. Pipia shared that the Empire Foundation has agreed to come on as a Diamond Sponsor (\$20,000) at the House of Delegates. Dr. Maldonado, representing Empire, said that they had a Board Meeting last week, where they looked for ways to collaborate with MSSNY. At the HOD, they would like to showcase to the Member the work the Foundation does. He said that they hope to continue to do this in years to come. Dr. Lee thanked those who provided leads and introductions, such as Drs. Frankel, Haider, and Choi. So far, they have three Diamond Sponsors, including

MLMIC, New York Blood & Cancer Center, and now the Empire Foundation. They also have some Silver Sponsors. These include Sellers and Altfest (a financial company). Right now, they are above \$80,000. He asked everyone to consider buying an ad in the journal. In addition, he said that they are gathering raffle items, such as Yankees tickets with box seats, as well as Mets and Giants tickets. He said that it would be great if anyone could add some additional raffle items.

- Dr. Pipia said that next week, the Nominating Committee is going to meet. He was told by some members that he appointed someone to the Committee that is also going to be running for a spot. He will disqualify that 1 person and nominate someone new. He chose to not yet share who he will nominate, as he has also been told that people have been calling members of Nominating Committee to lobby for themselves.
- Dr. Pipia also announced that the Nominations Task Force has also met. They will be meeting again on Wednesday, February 28, 2024. They will have a report out soon. Dr. Pipia was told by Dr. Latreille that Districts 3 & 4 have a Resolution.

### **1. (Continued) Lobby Day**

Dr. Pipia spoke of the very important Scope of Practice issues. He did an interview that will be televised in the Albany area. He also has been in newspapers (there is a two-page piece in Newsday) and they have submitted letters to the editors. Hospitals want to have PAs practice independently. He heard a story from Dr. Glasberg about a PA who diagnosed a patient with bronchitis. The next day, the person died of a pulmonary embolism. When PAs see patients and do not bounce anything off the doctor, physicians often must come to the rescue if a patient gets sicker and more vulnerable. A discussion ensued on how to get more people to come to Legislative Day. Right now, only 38 people have committed to come up. Some suggested having medical students come. It was pointed out that student concerns, while valid, may be different than what those already in practice want to advocate for. Some stated that disappointment occurs when people go there expecting to meet with a Senator or Legislator and end up meeting with the staff, especially if they take the day off of work. Others said a key staff person would be just as effective, if not more so. They all agreed in the need to keep in mind why they go and what they are fighting for or against.

Moe said that the Governor has a good message in her budget about expanding access to care. However, her proposals in many ways actually minimize the role of the physician. Moe shared a presentation, in which he mentioned positive items, such as investment in the Patient Centered Medical Home Program, Reducing Interest rates on court judgements (one way to bring down liability costs), and increasing costs for increasing subsidies. In addition to the scope of practice issues discussed earlier (such as the PA issue, permitting PAs to practice without any supervision or collaboration after 8,000 clinical hours if they practice in primary care or are employed by a hospital), Moe spoke of other items MSSNY opposes, including the proposal to eliminate the CPH programs and requiring physicians to pay 50% of the Excess Medical Malpractice coverage cost. In addition to important issues of the budget, they are pretty certain that Wrongful Death will come up again. Everyone knows the arguments and points, but this will be a crucial part of Lobby Day.

Dr. Pipia shared that Moe, Troy, and staff applied for a \$50,000 grant from AMA, to be able to have ads on radio and print, talking about how the physician should lead the team in the scope of practice. He was happy to share that they did get this grant. So they can now take up this fight (courtesy of the AMA). Troy mentioned that getting a good showing on Lobby

Day is super important. It was suggested to maybe make it hybrid and put it on YouTube and Facebook. Moe said that making it hybrid would be logistically difficult. He also worries that if virtual is added, nobody will come in person. He emphasized that attending in person is an incredibly important way to make MSSNY's presence known, at an incredibly important time. Dr. Pipia did say that if and when people end up going virtual, they should have their cameras on, as it is important for their faces to be seen.

### **C. OTHER INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Gold Card.** Scot Glasberg said that the Gold Card Bill was amended, and now it is a good bill. He feels a win with the Gold Card Bill will be a pretty significant win for MSSNY. He is sure that they will be met with opposition from insurers. Also, Senator Breslin is not running again, so the timing is now to really press for it.

Dr. Pipia thanked Empire and the AMA. He stressed once again how important it is for EVERYONE to go to Legislative Day.

### **D. ADJOURNMENT**

**Dr. Pipia adjourned the meeting.**