

Message from AMDA's House of Delegates Chair

When winter comes, can spring be far behind? Those of us who live in the colder climates are usually focused on that thought at this time of year. Tired of cold, tired of snow, sleet, sleet and snain, tired of slush, tired of salt all over the car, tired of traffic delays because of the weather or accidents, tired of.... whatever. Where is that sunshine to lift us out of SAD? But, whoa, there, pardner! Get some perspective in your life! Just think about the majority of those we serve in long term care. For them, there is very little, if anything, in the way of seasons as we know them, for theirs is the constancy of rarely going outside. To those with thinning skin and slower metabolisms, the cold of winter is no different than the cold of air-conditioning, the glare of the fluorescent lights is the same year-round, and the sun rarely shines on their venerable aged bodies. But our mission, we AMDA-ites, our mission is to improve the quality of care (and, hopefully thereby, the quality of life) of those we serve. And, for each of us, here's the crucial role that contributes to the success of our endeavors.

It can be summed up in two words: active participation. No, these words used together are not redundant. The part each of us can play is to be involved and to work together to fulfill our mission. One of the best ways to do that is to serve as an educated and active participant as a delegate from your state chapter to the House of Delegates. Those of you who have served as Delegates have seen that it is one of the best experiences of the democratic process that it is possible to have. But, aye, there's work to do. Delegates need to be on time for the meetings of the House, to come prepared by having read, analyzed and discussed the materials for the meeting in advance, and to be an active participant in the meeting itself by paying attention to and perhaps participating in debates and by voting. Tall order? Perhaps. But I hope that you will give serious consideration to saying, when asked to serve, "Supersize that!"

See you in Phoenix.



Alva S. "Buzz" Baker, MD, CMD
Chair, House of Delegates

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STATE NETWORK NEWS
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Hotel Update for Annual Symposium

The two headquarter hotels—Hyatt Regency Phoenix and Wyndham Phoenix Downtown—have sold out their rooms for the 27th Annual Symposium. If you have not made your hotel reservations, you may wish to check the following hotels that are reasonably close to the convention center:

Holiday Inn Express	602/452-2020
Marriott Springhill Suites	602/307-9964

Note: Transportation to and from these hotels to the Civic Plaza or Hyatt will not be provided by AMDA.

If you have any questions, contact Jennifer Braun, Meetings Assistant, at jbrown@amda.com.

Registration

The 2004 AMDA Annual Symposium is just a few short weeks away. If you have not already registered for the meeting, we will only be accepting registrations in the AMDA office through February 14, 2004. After that, you are welcome to register for the meeting on site in Phoenix beginning Wednesday, March 3. If you have questions regarding registration, please contact Laurie Wilson, Registrar, at 410/992-3116 or lpwilson@amda.com.

State Chapter Activities at the 27th Annual Symposium

- Informal State Chapter Discussion Group— Wednesday, March 3 from 2:00 pm–4:00 pm Learn what works from the success of other chapters. Presented by Dan Haimowitz, MD, CMD
- State Presidents Business Meeting— Wednesday, March 3 from 5:00 pm–8:00 pm
- House of Delegates Luncheon Briefing (Delegates only)— Thursday, March 4 from 11:30 am–1:00 pm
- State Chapter Receptions/Meetings— Friday, March 5 from 6:00 pm–7:30 pm
- State Presidents Council Breakfast— Saturday, March 6 from 6:30 am–8:00 am
- House of Delegates Meeting (Delegates only)— Saturday, March 7 from 4:00 pm–6:00 pm (**seating begins at 3:30 pm and doors will close promptly at 4:00 pm**)



Airport

The Hyatt Regency Phoenix and the Wyndham Phoenix Downtown are located 10 minutes from the Sky Harbor International Airport. Shuttle service is approximately

\$8.00 per person and a taxicab is approximately \$15.00 per person. Ground transportation is available in the baggage claim area of the airport.

Travel Discounts

America West Airlines is offering a discount of up to 10% on airfare, plus other travel discount options to and from the AMDA Annual Symposium. Use the Convention and Meetings Services Code **AP4172** to receive your discount. There are three options for making your discounted reservation.

1. Online at www.americawest.com. Enter the Meeting Code AP4172 in the e-certificate area to receive the discount.
2. Call America West Group Travel Department at 800/548-7575 Monday through Friday 8:00 am–5:00 pm.
3. Contact your preferred travel agent and reference the Meeting Code AP4172.

Southwest Airlines offers up to 10% off most fares for air travel to and from AMDA's Annual Symposium, with the convenience of Ticketless Travel. To qualify, call Southwest Airlines Group and Meetings Reservations at 800/433-5368, and reference the assigned AMDA ID Code **#Y0334**. Reservation Sales Agents are available 7:00 am–8:00 pm Monday through Friday and 8:30 am–5:30 pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Car Rentals

AMDA has made special arrangements with Avis Rent-A-Car to provide discounted rentals during your stay. The following rates will apply:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Daily</u>	<u>Weekend</u>
Compact	\$42.99	\$25.99
Intermediate	\$46.99	\$27.99
Full Size-4 Door	\$50.99	\$29.99
Premium	\$53.99	\$32.99
Sport Utility	\$85.99	\$78.99

The above rates are guaranteed. Return to the same renting location or additional surcharges may apply. All rates include unlimited free mileage. Weekend daily rates are available from noon Thursday to Monday at 11:59 pm.

Rates are available from February 26, 2004 to March 14, 2004. To make a reservation, please call Avis at 800/331-1600 or online at www.avis.com. Please mention Avis Worldwide Discount number **J628016** to receive the discounted group rates.

Nominating Committee Completes Slate for 2004

The 2004 Nominating Committee has completed the proposed slate of nominees to be presented to the 2004 House of Delegates in Phoenix this March. As usual, the committee was faced with an impressive field of qualified candidates. However, the reality is that AMDA members are busier than ever building, maintaining, or preserving their LTC practices. As a result, many who would like to serve simply can't make the time and travel commitments required for them to be successful in volunteer leadership positions. Others are very active at the state level and have no additional time to serve nationally.

With five slots to fill and a deep commitment to offer highly qualified candidates who represent the rank and file AMDA membership, the committee worked hard to fill the slate. Hundreds of letters and many hours of phone conversations with the current leadership, including the state chapter presidents, yielded the following slate:

Vice President:

Jonathan Evans, MD, CMD
Steven Levenson, MD, CMD

Secretary:

Kendra Belfi, MD, CMD
Jeffrey Burl, MD, CMD

Chair, House of Delegates:

Charles Crecelius, MD, PhD, CMD
Jeffrey Nichols, MD

State Presidents Council Representative:

David Brechtelsbauer, MD, CMD
Daniel Haimowitz, MD, CMD

House of Delegates Representative:

Anthony Lechich, MD
TBD

**For a brief bio and statement
from each nominee, go online to
[www.amda.com/about/
nominees2004.htm](http://www.amda.com/about/nominees2004.htm).**

Floor Nominations

According to AMDA bylaws, floor nominations at the House of Delegates Meeting require that the individual:

- is a member in good standing;
- has demonstrated involvement in AMDA at the state and national level;
- is willing to advance the mission of the organization;
- is willing to give the time necessary to be an effective board member*;
- is able to contribute personal and professional qualities that complement those of other board members;
- is comfortable with the approach and tone of the organization's fundraising efforts;
- is skilled at being a team player;
- is able to contribute financial support consistent with the organization's expectations of board members and with his or her own means and priorities; and
- is capable of placing the organization's purposes and interests above his or her own professional and personal interests when making decisions as a board member.

* Attend 2-3 weekend meetings per year and spend 1-2 hours a week on reading and comments.

2004 Annual Symposium— Red Eye Rounds Sunday, March 7, 2004, 7:00 am–8:30 am

Red Eye Rounds I: Medical Direction

Moderator: Monte Levinson, MD, CMD

A panel of experienced medical directors will offer practical approaches to problems and issues in a variety of long term care settings and situations. The issues addressed will be based upon questions submitted to the panel from the audience as well as issues submitted throughout the year.

Red Eye Rounds II: Clinical Quandaries in LTC

Moderator: Alva Baker, MD, CMD

Drawing from needs expressed in course evaluations and inquiries to AMDA throughout the year, a panel of experienced long term care physicians will offer practical strategies for management of clinical treatments.

Please submit your questions in advance to malogan@amda.com so that the faculty can include your specific questions in the preparation of their comments.

CMD Activities at AMDA's 2004 Annual Symposium

CMD Orientation and Panel

Wednesday, March 3, 2004 4:00 pm–5:00 pm
All current CMDs and those interested in the AMDA
CMD program are invited to attend this orientation.

Core Curriculum on Medical Direction:

Module A

Wednesday, March 3, 2004 5:00 pm–9:00 pm
Thursday, March 4, 2004 8:00 am–4:30 pm

Special Note: In response to participants' requests from previous years, **Module A begins at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, March 3, and ends at 4:30 pm on Thursday, March 4.** This schedule offers participants the opportunity to attend the entire Symposium Friday through Sunday.

Advanced Course in Medical Direction

Thursday, March 4, 2004 8:00 am–11:30 am

State Chapters: Go Online to Prepare for AMDA's 27th Annual Symposium!

AMDA has made it easier than ever for State Chapters to make plans to participate in AMDA's 27th Annual Symposium in Phoenix, Arizona, March 4–7. Just surf over to AMDA's web site.

State Chapter Connections Booth: To participate in the State Chapter Connections Booth in the exhibit hall, go to www.amda.com/chapters/annsym/boothform.htm and complete the online form.

Symposium Registration: To register for AMDA's 27th Annual Symposium, go to www.amda.com/education/annsym2004 and select "Online Registration Form" from the menu. Online registration is secure to ensure the privacy of personal and payment information. The deadline for online registration is February 14, 2004.

Create Your Personalized Schedule: If you have already registered, surf over to www.amda.com/education/annsym2004/myschedule.htm, select the sessions you plan to attend, and in seconds you'll have a symposium agenda complete with room assignments, formatted for printing and ready to take with you.

AMDA Information Kiosk

Now is your chance to stock up on great AMDA products like Clinical Practice Guidelines, CPT Coding Information and practical Tool Kits or even purchase a souvenir AMDA Symposium T-shirt at the AMDA Information Kiosk. Staff will be on hand to answer questions about AMDA as well as assist you with your meeting needs. You can visit the AMDA Kiosk in Lobby Two at the Phoenix Civic Plaza during the following hours:

Thursday, March 4	7:00 am–5:00 pm
Friday, March 5	7:00 am–5:00 pm
Saturday, March 6	7:00 am–4:00 pm

As in previous years, there will be an AMDA Booth in the Exhibit Hall where products will be sold as well.

CD-ROMs from AMDA 2004 Annual Symposium

Digitally recorded CD-ROMs of all educational sessions, including the Pre-Symposium Workshops and General Sessions, will be available for sale during the meeting. The CD-ROMs will include the audio recordings as well as the PowerPoint presentations and other handouts for each session. The CD-ROMs are a great way to take important information back to your colleagues and staff or to "attend" a session that you missed. If you are unable to attend the symposium and would like to purchase a copy, please contact Digitell Inc at 800/679-3646 or www.digitellinc.com.

Internet Alley

Once again, AMDA will provide web-enabled computers where you can check your e-mail, surf the Web, and view the latest information and features on AMDA.com (including complete AMDA Symposium coverage) and web-based CME programs on AMDA CME Direct.com. Internet Alley will be accessible 24 hours a day to keep you connected.

CMD Information Booth in Phoenix

Thursday, March 4, 2004

8:00 am–12:00 pm
1:00 pm–5:00 pm
CMD Booth Open for General Q and A.

Friday, March 5, 2004

7:00 am–12:00 pm
1:00 pm–5:00 pm
CMD Booth Open for Individual 15-Minute Appointments.

Saturday, March 6, 2004

7:00 am–12:00 pm
CMD Booth Open for Individual 15-Minute Appointments.
1:00 pm–5:00 pm
CMD Booth Open for General Q and A.

New State Chapter Presidents

Join us in congratulating new state chapter presidents:

- Arizona Medical Directors Association—
Luis L Gonzalez Jr. MD, CMD
- Michigan Medical Directors Association—
Mary Beth Tupper MD, CMD
- Oregon Medical Directors Association—
Mark Traines, MD
- Pennsylvania Medical Directors Association—
Sefi Rebecca Knoble, MD, FACP
- South Carolina Medical Directors Association—
Steve Smith, MD
- Texas Medical Directors Association—
Charles Miller, MD, CMD

Arizona Forms Independent Chapter

Congratulations to the Arizona Medical Directors Association (AzMDA) for establishing their own independent chapter. Arizona was originally part of the Western Medical Directors Association, which now includes Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah.

For more information or to become a member, contact Bonnie Howard, AzMDA Executive Director, at 623/974-4212 or azmda@cox.net.

Exhibits

Commercial exhibits will be located at the Phoenix Civic Plaza. Only registered attendees displaying a badge are permitted in the Exhibit Hall. One day passes for guests over the age of 18 will be available on site at the Registration Desk. Exhibit hours are as follows:

Thursday, March 4, 2004	
4:30 pm–7:00 pm	Opening Reception
Friday, March 5, 2004	
9:30 am–10:30 am	Coffee Break
Noon–1:30 pm	Cash Lunch
5:00 pm–6:00 pm	Prize Drawings
Saturday, March 6, 2004	
7:00 am–8:00 am	Continental Breakfast
10:00 am–11:00 am	Coffee Break

AMDA Contacts for State Chapter Business:

Susan Gutierrez, Membership Coordinator
410/992-3106 or sgutierrez@amda.com

Meg LaPorte, Govt & Public Affairs Specialist
410/992-3120 or meglaporte@amda.com