

A Newsletter for State Chapters

MESSAGE FROM AMDA'S HOUSE OF DELEGATES CHAIR

It's only a few short weeks to the 28th annual symposium, and to the democratic process that makes up the House of Delegates. This year as usual we will have two sessions: the luncheon on Thursday where we will receive a variety of reports and review the slate for elections to the AMDA Board of Directors (four positions this year—Vice-President, Treasurer, representative from the House of Delegates, and representative from the State President's Council) and then the second session on Saturday, when elections will be held, resolutions will be reviewed and voted upon, and other business of the House will be transacted.

Delegates will soon be receiving material via email to read and bring to the House meeting. All should be on time and prepared for the meetings of the House, having read, analyzed and discussed the materials for the meeting in advance. The House is an active process that allows all to participate in deliberations, debates and voting. The quality of our work is only as good as the preparation and work of those involved. In addition to several timely resolutions, we will also be discussing proposed position papers.

Our resolutions are taken very seriously by the Board of Directors. Bylaws note that the board may in its

discretion choose not to pass or enact all resolutions brought forth by the House. Several considerations, usually financial or logistic, may make a House resolution not feasible to enact, however, this is done only after thorough consideration. Uncertainties in the fate of some past resolutions may have made some House members feel their contributions have been unappreciated, when quite the opposite is true. House resolutions keep the Board in contact with the heartbeat of the organization. Without them, the democratic process and frontline input we are noted for would be severely affected. To help correct any past misconceptions, and to ensure the Board and House communicate better, several steps have been taken.

This year the Chair of the House of Delegates will review recent resolutions, review the rationale of board action, and report on the progress of active work. The Policy Compendium, consisting of all resolutions ever passed by the House, has been thoroughly reviewed this past year with historical or inactionable items separated from those representing current AMDA policy. The House of Delegates Resolution and Results Compendium, which lists all resolutions brought to the House regardless of passage, has also been thoroughly reviewed, with clarifications, expanded explanations, and attention to recently passed resolutions noted. House delegates are encouraged to review these documents, both to gain a sense of the rich history of the grassroots energy our organization possesses, and to better understand our current positions and policies.

You don't know where you're going unless you know where you've been. So, read our past resolutions and positions, be prepared to discuss new resolutions and other business, and help AMDA move forward in representing working physicians in long term care.

Charles A. Crecelius, MD, PhD, CMD
Chair, House of Delegates

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STATE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AT THE 28TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

- State Chapter Working Session—Wednesday, March 16 from 5:00 pm–9:00 pm
- CMD Orientation and Panel—Wednesday, March 16 from 6:00 pm–7:00 pm
Hear first hand the details of the revised core curriculum.
- House of Delegates Meeting with Box Lunch (Delegates only) —Thursday, March 17 from 11:30 am–1:00 pm
- State Chapter Receptions/Meetings—Friday, March 18 from 6:30 pm–7:30 pm
- State Presidents Council Breakfast and Annual Business Meeting—Saturday, March 19 from 6:30 am–8:00 am
- House of Delegates Meeting (Delegates only)—Saturday, March 19 from 4:00 pm–6:00 pm
(seating begins at 3:30 pm and doors will close promptly at 4:00 pm)



New for 2005

This year, the syllabus will be provided on CD-ROM in the registration packet and handouts will also be available at each session. In addition, audio CD-ROMS will be available for purchase after the symposium.

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Each year as we prepare for the activities for state chapters in conjunction with the annual symposium, we are challenged by the varied needs of state chapters and the many issues of interest. With only one forum each year—the annual symposium—there are an overwhelming number of items to present and discuss.

Years ago, the State Presidents Council meeting was one long discussion, with those who had the loudest voice prevailing. Over the last few years, we have responded to suggestions that have provided a more workable and equitable format. Having two meetings, Wednesday and Saturday also helps.

As we send out this reminder, we have received little or no feedback from state presidents about topics for the agendas of these meetings. We have put together a draft, based on the findings of our state chapter assessment survey and informal discussion with state representatives throughout the year.

We know you are busy. We are still hoping we can get some idea of what is on your mind via one-on-one phone calls. Executive Director Lorraine Tarnove will be calling all state presidents in the next few weeks to touch base and make sure our plans are on target. So expect her call and let her know what is of most concern to your state chapter.

And, there is still time to email agenda items to Susan Gutierrez at sgutierrez@amda.com.

IMPORTANT!

Watch your email for House of Delegates information for the 2005 annual meeting, i.e. agendas, resolutions, slate of nominees, ADMA bylaws!

DR. BEST WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

You got to know him last year. With your help, he went from a novice medical director to a capable and effective physician leader. Now AMDA invites you to share your thoughts and ideas with Dr. Best. Write to him at DrBest@amda.com, and let him know what challenges, issues, and activities you would like him to address in 2005. You also can sign onto AMDA's Web site (www.amda.com/drbest/journal.htm) and read Dr. Best's private journal entries, where he talks about key issues and relates his conversations with some of AMDA's leaders.

2005 NOMINEES

The 2005 Nominating Committee has completed the proposed slate of nominees to be acted on at the 2005 House of Delegates in New Orleans this March. The slate will be sent to delegates and posted on the web in late February. For a brief biographical description and statement from each nominee, go online to www.amda.com/about/nominees2005.htm.

AMDA INFORMATION KIOSK

Now is your chance to stock up on great AMDA products like Clinical Practice Guidelines, CPT Coding Information and practical Implementation Tool Kits 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 on Level Three at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center during the following hours:

Thursday, March 17	8:00 am–5:30 pm
Friday, March 18	8:00 am–5:00 pm
Saturday, March 19	8:30 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.

STATES MOVE TOWARD ADOPTION OF PAIN POLICIES

Following the adoption of the Federation of State Medical Board's "Model Policy for the Use of Controlled Substances for the Treatment of Pain," last May, state health professional regulatory boards in Missouri, Minnesota, and Virginia adopted new pain policies:

- The Missouri State Board of Healing Arts recently adopted a modified version of the Federation's model policy. To read the full text of the policy, go to <http://pr.mo.gov/boards/healingarts/CSGUIDE.pdf>.
- In June 2004, the Virginia Board of Medicine adopted the policy in its entirety (read the full text at www.medsch.wisc.edu/painpolicy/domestic/vamodpol.htm).
- The Minnesota boards of Medical Practice, Nursing and Pharmacy issued a "Joint Statement on Pain Management" in September of 2004. Full text available at www.state.mn.us/cgi-bin/portal/mn/jsp/content.do?subchannel=null&programid=536904249&sc3=null&sc2=null&id=-536886235&agency=BMP.

At the same time, the Pain & Policy Studies Group at the University of Wisconsin provides public access to the full text of all state pain policies at www.medsch.wisc.edu/painpolicy/matrix.htm. Comments and questions are always welcome.

CD-ROMS FROM AMDA 2005 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.

CMD INFORMATION BOOTH IN NEW ORLEANS

Thursday, March 17, 2005

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

Friday, March 18, 2005

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

Saturday, March 19, 2005

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.

ONLINE RENEWAL NOW AVAILABLE

When you receive your invoice in the mail, go to www.amda.com and login as a member. Then click on the link "Membership Renewal" and pay your invoice online.

AMDA Contacts for State Chapter Business:

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

Matt McBride, Govt & Public Affairs
410/992-3112
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CMD Activities in New Orleans:

CMD Orientation and Panel

Wednesday, March 16, 2005 6:00 pm–7:00 pm

All current CMDs, Core Curriculum registrants, and those interested in the AMDA CMD program are invited to attend this orientation. Learn about the changes to the core curriculum and the value of the CMD credential.

Core Curriculum on Medical Direction Part I

Wednesday, March 16, 2005 8:00 am–6:00 pm

Thursday, March 17, 2005 8:00 am–5:00 pm

Special Note: This schedule offers Core Curriculum participants the opportunity to attend the entire Symposium Friday through Sunday.

Intensive Sessions for Experienced Medical Directors:

Thursday, March 17, 2005

- ◆ Advanced Course in Management of Mental Health Dilemmas 8:00 am–11:30 am
- ◆ Ethical Debates in LTC 8:00 am–11:30 am
- ◆ How and Why for Successful Implementation of AMDA CPGs 1:30 pm–5:00 pm

EXHIBITS

Commercial exhibits will be located at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. 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 17, 2005

2:00 pm–5:00 pm Exhibit Hall Open
5:00 pm–6:00 pm Exhibits Open with
Welcome Reception

Friday, March 18, 2005

10:30 am–12:00 pm Exhibits Open with
Coffee Break
Noon–1:30 pm Cash Lunch in
Exhibit Hall
5:00 pm–6:30 pm Exhibits Open with
Prize Drawings