

STATE NETWORK NEWS

A Newsletter for State Chapters

**SPECIAL ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM
ISSUE
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MESSAGE FROM AMDA'S HOUSE OF DELEGATES CHAIR

During the 29th Annual AMDA Symposium in Dallas, the House of Delegates met and conducted business, led ably by Charles A. Crecelius, MD, PhD, CMD. Those proceedings provided valuable input of views and direction from the grassroots to the board and staff. The HOD dealt with seven resolutions. An update regarding the "Roles and Responsibilities of the Medical Director in the Nursing Home" and a white paper on "Expert Testimony in Long Term Care" were both approved. The HOD was supportive of the resolutions from the White House Conference on Aging and opted to monitor its implementation and take action on an as needed basis. The resolution will be brought forth before the American Medical Association's House of Delegates meeting. A resolution from Missouri to work for reinstatement of federal funding for Graduate Education Centers passed with plans to notify AMDA members and our legislators about our position and expectations. A resolution from Pennsylvania that addressed the issue of influenza vaccine availability in long term care facilities was passed and will be brought forth before the American Medical Association's House of Delegates meeting. Similarly, we referred to the board a Minnesota resolution requesting that we take action to compel hospitals to send discharge summaries and other needed data along with patients when they transfer to nursing homes and home health agencies.

Finally, there was extensive debate over the "Position Statement on Oversight of the Medical Director in their Role as Attending Physician" resolution. The issue is how medical directors can objectively assess their own function in facilities where they are also attending. Many of our colleagues in remote areas have no other options to deal with this issue. In

the end, the position statement was defeated and will need reworking by the board. If you have any insight into this issue, then please share it with a board member, AMDA staff, or me. We will probably bring this back next year since it seems to require resolution.

At the House of Delegates meeting, we heard several reports from the staff and officers. Of importance was the report about the status of previously passed resolutions. This helped to give perspective to the ongoing work and mission of AMDA.

New officers were also elected for the House of Delegates. Congratulations to them all. The slate of candidates was excellent and strong. All of them were well qualified to fill the positions for which they were nominated.

- Charles A. Crecelius, MD, PhD, CMD (St. Louis, MO)
Vice President
- Edward S. Warren, MD, CMD (Inman, SC)
Chairman, House of Delegates
- Paul R. Katz, MD, CMD (Rochester, NY)
Secretary
- Jeffrey B. Burl, MD, CMD (Sutton, MA)
Board Representative from the State Presidents Council
- Kenneth K. Steinweg, MD, CMD (Greenville, NC)
Board Representative from the House of Delegates

Thank you to everyone for electing me as Chair. I appreciate this honor greatly. We will use "Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure", as we have in the past. Most modern medical societies and organizations use it since it is easily understood and applied. Verna R. Sellers, MD, CMD (Norfolk, VA) has consented to help by serving as Parliamentarian for the HOD next year. We will start meetings on time and have fair discussions so that all sides are well heard. In my board activities, I will bring the understanding and perspective of a clinician as well as a medical director. Physicians need to be the ones making medical decisions for patient care and there needs to be adequate compensation for that work to make it something we can afford to do.

As we approach the 30th Annual AMDA Symposium in Hollywood, Florida, bring forth issues that the AMDA HOD can address. Submit resolutions about those concerns that require national action or coordination with other national medical organizations. The topic can be legal, ethical, policy related, or functional, among others. It is often good to filter them through your state chapter first. The main difficulty with resolutions that fail or get board referral for reworking is that they are not implementable. AMDA staff can help you in this regard. If you wish to have my input on your resolution, e-mail me at e-warren@att.net. Your resolutions bring needed guidance to the board about the issues and expectations of the general membership.

REMEMBER: The moral high ground in all of our efforts is patient advocacy.



Edward S Warren MD, CMD
Chair, House of Delegates

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From Lorraine Tarnove, Executive Director, at the national office ...

Tarnove to Hit the Road

After three years of dialogue with AMDA state chapter leaders and two regional listening posts in Massachusetts and Minnesota this year, Executive Director Lorraine Tarnove announced at the State Presidents Council meeting held in Dallas on March 17, her plans to attend all state meetings over the next two years. The Listening Posts were very valuable but it is clear that it is still difficult for state presidents and leaders to get to another meeting. "If the mountain won't come to me, off I go," pledged Tarnove. "My initial plans are to attend the Georgia, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Virginia state chapter meetings," added Tarnove.

On Wednesday evening in Dallas, AMDA President Steven A. Levenson MD, CMD, gave an energetic talk that pleaded with state leaders to be responsive and support national office by providing substantive communication and response to national requests for feedback. Dr. Levenson himself is going to hold monthly conference calls open to all state leaders with the first now in planning for June. All states have received an initial request to help with scheduling.

The culmination of this year's efforts to improve chapter communications will be at the December 3 strategic planning meeting that will include representatives from the states. The AMDA board also approved the establishment of "LTC Direct" that will offer state chapters services including membership promotion and meeting management. State chapters responded to all of the plans with enthusiasm. Daniel Haimowitz, MD, FACP, CMD, a past state chapter president and current AMDA Program Chair said, "This is exactly what we need and what we've been hoping for."

"It takes a while for us to get a handle on how to address the state's needs and wants. These activities and services should go a long way to supporting chapter growth and creating a productive national/state relationship," said Tarnove.

AMDA Contacts for State Chapters

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May 14-20 was National Nursing Home Week. This year's theme was Legends in Our Own Time. AMDA recognizes all the great things medical directors do to improve the lives of nursing home residents. We

consider all of you Living Legends. Thanks for all you do!

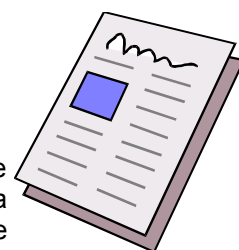
AMDA Membership Survey

In June, all members will be asked to complete our biannual membership survey. Each survey requests demographic and job related information, as well as a section with a timely topic. This year we will be asking questions related to how you use electronic means to gather information, get education, and communicate.

Web Site Update

AMDA members at the Annual Symposium got a sneak preview of the new design for www.amda.com. The goal of the web site redesign is to make it more user-friendly, faster, improve the search engine, and incorporate e-commerce. We anticipate that the new site will be available in July.

Newsletter Template



AMDA is proud to provide this issue of *State Network News* as a newsletter template for state chapters that do not currently have a newsletter. State chapters can revise the template to meet their needs.

The template was created in Microsoft Publisher 2003. Save the template on to your computer before setting it up as your state chapter newsletter then edit and adapt.

Please contact Nicole Germain at ngerman@amda.com for more information.

Focus on Futures



The AMDA Foundation would like our state chapters' leadership to keep in touch with the Futures participants in their area by adding them to the state chapter mailing list, inviting them to state chapter meetings/conferences and serving as a mentor to them.

Please contact Erin Blume at eblume@amda.com for the list of Futures residents and fellows from your state!

AMDA AND STATE CHAPTER BEST PRACTICES

At the annual symposium in Dallas, state chapter representatives from around the country met with AMDA staff. The result of the meeting was a compilation of best practices to help guide the development of new chapters and increase the overall activity level of existing chapters.

State Chapter Meetings

Texas Medical Directors Association

Finding sponsors for state chapter meetings can be daunting but it does not have to be. The Texas Medical Directors Association offsets meeting expenses by maintaining a list of local sponsors who can offer financial support for their meetings. The sponsor covers speaker fee and/or food. The state chapter also plans meetings a year in advance giving them ample time to secure sponsorship, speaker(s), and location. This also allows time for creating and distributing marketing materials, posting information on the state chapter web site, and sending out press releases.

Alabama Medical Directors Association

To promote upcoming meetings, the Alabama Medical Directors Association produces a brochure. The brochure includes the meeting location, schedule, registration information, and credit hours. The brochure is mailed to current members, potential members, and other groups.

American Medical Directors Association

The national office also provides assistance to state chapters in organizing meetings.

The national office is available to assist with the following:

- Contacting potential sponsors to identify local representatives for financial support.
- Providing list of appropriate hotels.
- Mailing lists of current AMDA members in state.
- Providing speaker suggestions, model letters, and forms (i.e. faculty disclosure, audio/visual request, and evaluation).
- Posting meeting dates on www.amda.com.
- Providing application for CME and/or CMD credit.

Forming a New Chapter

Accessible from the AMDA web site, the *AMDA State Chapter Handbook: New Chapter Development* <http://www.amda.com/chapters/resources/guides.htm> provides information and resources for establishing a new state chapter. A revised version of this manual will be available in June 2006.

In brief, individual and groups wishing to form a chapter must (1) inform the national office of the chapter's existence by sending a copy of the bylaws and articles of incorporation, (2) elect delegates to the national House of Delegates meeting held yearly at the annual symposium and (3) provide the names and addresses of all physicians belonging to the state group at the time of application and an annual update.

Recruiting New Members

Florida Medical Directors Association

New members are vital to an organization. They provide new ideas and enthusiasm. With a focus on membership recruitment, the Florida Medical Directors Association (FAMDA) waives first year dues for new members. New members are allowed to participate in FAMDA's meetings and other activities and network with members. Current members also get involved by contacting other individuals who might want to join.

American Medical Directors Association

The national office does one joint marketing mailing per year per chapter to promote membership in AMDA and the chapter. State chapters are invited to participate in this membership recruitment drive by sending an e-mail to ngerman@amda.com.

State Chapter Newsletters

Pennsylvania Medical Directors Association

Accessible from the Pennsylvania Medical Directors Association web site, the chapter newsletter (<http://www.pamda.org/>) covers legislative issues, notable chapter activities, upcoming meetings, and reports from the state chapter committees. The newsletter is mailed to members and posted on the chapter's web site.

Georgia Medical Directors Association

The Georgia Medical Directors Association's newsletter includes articles on long term care issues and how it affects medical directors in their state, upcoming meetings, message from the president and recognizes newly certified medical directors in their state.

American Medical Directors Association

The national office provides state chapters with a newsletter template that state chapters can customize to fit their needs. (*Read more on page 2*)

These are just some of the ways an active chapter can strengthen a specific area that has been historically weak. AMDA will periodically compile a list of the most successful ideas and activities related to chapter organization, promotion, technical activities, and meetings in *State Network News*. E-mail your best practices to ngerman@amda.com.

AMDA NEEDS YOUR HELP TO REINSTATE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR TITLE VII

During the Annual Symposium in March in Dallas, the AMDA House of Delegates passed a resolution supporting the reinstatement of funding for Title VII, specifically its provisions on Geriatric Education Centers, Geriatric Training for Physicians, Dentists and Behavioral Health/Mental Health Professionals, and Geriatric Academic Career Awards. Funding for these programs was cut out of the 2006 federal budget. Unless Congress votes otherwise, the funding will not appear in the 2007 budget. Because Title VII is the only federal funding for programs that train providers for underserved populations, it is imperative that you contact your members of Congress to request that Title VII is reinstated in the 2007 budget.

A bipartisan effort in the Senate to restore Title VII funding has been started by Senators Pat Roberts (R-KS) and Jack Reed (D-RI). The American Geriatrics Society (AGS) has established a link on their web site with information on Title VII, and how to contact your members of Congress and support the Senate effort. Visit the AGS web site at <http://www.americangeriatrics.org/advocacy> to learn more about Title VII and what you can do to restore funding to these vital geriatric programs

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

AMDA's Program Committee seeks proposals for AMDA 30th Annual Symposium March 29–April 1, 2007, Hollywood Florida.

Topic areas: Clinical Medicine, Medical Direction, Hospice and Palliative Care, Home Care, Pediatric Long Term Care, Research, Assisted Living and Mental Health

Submission Deadline: July 1, 2006

**Only electronic submissions will be
accepted at:
<http://amda2007.abstractcentral.com>**

Visit http://www.amda.com/chapters/resources/meeting_2006.htm to read the minutes from the following meetings held at AMDA's 29th Annual Symposium in Dallas.

**HOD Meeting
State Presidents Working Session
State Presidents Council Breakfast Meeting**

NEWLY RELEASED CHECKLIST HELPS LONG TERM CARE AND OTHER RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES PREPARE FOR AN INFLUENZA PANDEMIC

The Department of Health and Human Services has released the "Long Term Care and Other Residential Facilities Pandemic Influenza Planning Checklist." This tool provides guidance for assessing and improving the preparedness of such facilities for responding to pandemic influenza.

"The collaboration of long term care and other residential facilities with public health agencies will be important in protecting the people living in those facilities if and when a pandemic occurs," Secretary Leavitt said. "These facilities provide vital services for their residents. By working together now, we'll be better equipped to serve these residents and their caregivers in the future."

The new checklist identifies steps that long term care and other residential facilities can take to prepare for a pandemic, and could be helpful in other types of emergencies. With participation from AMDA, NADONA, AHCA, AAHSA, ACHCA, and NAGNA, the checklist was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

A copy of the "Long Term Care and Other Residential Facilities Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Checklist," is available on the AMDA web site, with other checklists, and pandemic planning informa-

KEEP NATIONAL UPDATED

Please submit your annual meeting report and update your state chapter contact information if there have been changes in the last year. Also, be sure to tell us about any upcoming state chapter meetings so that we can post the information on AMDA.com.

Help us share your success with current and developing state chapters.