

# STATE NETWORK NEWS

A Newsletter for State Chapters

**SPECIAL ISSUE**

November 2005

Issue 56

## MESSAGE FROM AMDA'S HOUSE OF DELEGATES CHAIR

**The times, they are a —changing.... and you can do something about it!**

Physicians continue to see many transformations in long term care, from the new F-tag 501 on the Medical Director, to Medicare Part D, Prescription Drug Plans, and to new nursing home CPT codes, among others. We all have thoughts and opinions on how our medical practice and resident care could be better served. As AMDA's annual meeting nears, it is imperative we reflect on how we want our future to be shaped, and more importantly how we as an organization should position ourselves in the long term care continuum. Our proud tradition as a grassroots association has demanded that we promote the concerns of the front line physician, and there is no better way to do so than to participate in the House of Delegates and the resolution process.

AMDA has worked hard to become the source for clinical practice in LTC. Our advocacy and educational efforts have remained resident-focused, and need to continue to reflect the changing needs of our patients. The House of Delegates is the conscience of AMDA, reflecting what members feel the organization should consider and deliberate to improve resident care.

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The charge of the House is to develop and debate policy recommendations and resolutions for presentation to the board; consider and endorse resolutions, policy and position statements brought to it from the board; approve amendments/changes to the bylaws; and hold elections for board positions. The House proceedings basically tell the board the direction the average member wants its association to take throughout the next year.

Resolutions are the consolidated opinions of our organization. Any and all thoughts of what positions we should take are welcome for consideration. States and individuals can submit resolutions to the AMDA national office through their state president or directly to me. If you have an idea or an issue, but are uncertain how to prepare a resolution, our committee is here to assist you. Resolutions must be submitted by January 16<sup>th</sup> to the national office. The resolutions committee will review all submissions and coordinate revisions. Resolutions, Policy Papers, and related material will be sent to delegates on February 16, 2006. You can review past resolutions, white papers and bylaws as needed at [www.amda.com/library](http://www.amda.com/library).

Delegates to the House are appointed by the state chapter president. It is suggested that a mix of experienced and new persons be chosen to provide a balance of institutional memory and source of new ideas and leaders. Delegates should read all material prior to coming to Dallas to make the meeting productive and efficient.

It is also time to give serious consideration for nominations and elections for AMDA leadership officers. Positions this year include a Board of Directors representative from both the HOD and the State Presidents' Council, Secretary, Chair - House of Delegates and Vice President (with automatic succession to President-Elect and President). Send all resolutions and nominations to the AMDA office. I look forward to seeing you at our 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium in Dallas, March 16-19, 2006.



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

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# 29TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM PREPARATION



This issue of *State Network News* is devoted to helping you prepare for **AMDA's 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium to be held March 16–19, 2006, in Dallas, TX.**

The meeting will feature many events involving state chapters, including:

- State Chapter Working Session—Wednesday, March 15 from 5:00 pm–9:00 pm
- CMD Reception—Wednesday, March 15 from 6:00 pm–7:00 pm. The session will provide the opportunity for informal networking and a panel discussion.
- House of Delegates Meeting with Box Lunch (Delegates only)—Thursday, March 16 from 11:30 am–1:00 pm. Preparation for the Business meeting on Saturday.
- State Chapter Receptions/Meetings—Friday, March 17 from 6:30 pm–7:30 pm
- State Presidents Council Breakfast and Annual Business Meeting—Saturday, March 18 from 6:30 am–8:00 am
- House of Delegates Meeting (Delegates only)—Saturday, March 18 from 4:00 pm–6:00 pm **(seating begins at 3:30 pm and doors will close promptly at 4:00 pm)**

In an effort to seat delegates on time and allow the maximum amount of time scheduled for the business of the House, we ask that you confirm your delegates onsite prior to the meeting. We will have a House of Delegates Help Desk onsite Thursday and Friday to register State Delegates.

In order to have all of these meetings run as smoothly as possible, we need your input and cooperation. **Please read the information included in this newsletter carefully and save it for future**

## CMD Activities in Dallas

### Wednesday, March 15, 2006

6:00–7:00pm **CMD Reception** (for CMDs, physicians interested in becoming CMDs, and AMDCP Board)

### Thursday, March 16, 2006

8:00am–5:30pm **CMD Booth** (General information and questions)

8:00am–11:30am **Sessions for CMDs/ Experienced Medical Directors**

- Wound Care
- Advanced Course on Medical Direction

1:30pm–5:00pm - Stepping Up to the Leadership Challenge

2:00pm–6:00pm **Poster Sessions** with CMD Poster on view

### Friday, March 17, 2006

8:00am–4:00pm **CMD Booth** (Individual appointments 1:00pm–4:00pm)

1:30pm–3:00pm **Sessions for CMDs/ Experienced Medical Directors**

- What Leaders Really Do
- An Approach to Designing Quality EOL Care for Dementia Patients

3:30pm–5:00pm - F-501: A Practical and Legal Update  
- Multi-Modal Approaches in the Management of Atypical Dementia

### Saturday, March 18, 2006

8:00am–10:30am **General Session II** (Acknowledgement of AMDCP Board of Directors and all CMDs)

8:00am–4:00pm **CMD Booth** (Individual appointments 8:00am–12:00pm)

11:00am–12:00 **Sessions for CMDs/ Experienced Medical Directors**

- Documentation and Coding: What You Need to Know about the New CPT Codes
- Medical Director vs. Surveyor: The Informal Dispute Resolution Process
- Promoting Excellence in EOL Care in the Nursing Home

2:30pm–3:30pm - Palliative E-Kits for Inpatient Care under Title 22

4:00pm–6:00pm - Leadership for Culture Change in the LTC Continuum

### Sunday, March 19, 2006

7:00am–8:30am Writing and Reviewing Peer-Reviewed Submissions for Journal Publication

## DELEGATES NEEDED

As those of you know who have previously attended House of Delegates Business Meetings know, preparation is crucial to being able to accomplish the substantial amount of business before the House of Delegates. Prompt registration of delegates is important. The following guidelines from the AMDA Bylaws, Article IX—House of Delegates, Section 1—Composition, can be viewed at [www.amda.com/library/governance/bylaws/article9.htm](http://www.amda.com/library/governance/bylaws/article9.htm), and should be followed for appointing delegates.

- The state chapter president appoints delegates.
- All delegates must be AMDA members in good standing (i.e., active member, no outstanding dues).
- Each state is entitled to one delegate for every twenty-five (25) or portion of twenty-five AMDA members in good standing with a minimum of one delegate.
- Alternate delegates can be appointed in the event that a position needs to be filled.
- Delegates will receive resolutions, policy recommendations, position papers and other information submitted for consideration thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

Each chapter will be allowed three (3) alternate delegates. A delegate registration form and a list of the number active AMDA members by state are enclosed. As we get closer to the symposium date, we will be happy to provide lists of pre-registered attendees by states upon request. Please complete the delegate registration form and mail or fax to Kathleen Meyers as soon as possible. State groups that are in the process of being organized are welcome to send one non-voting delegate. In some cases, state leaders have no choice but to wait to appoint delegates on-site, but it would benefit all if this were used only as a last resort. It is to your advantage to have your delegation well prepared in order to further the interests of your state members.

Let us avoid those frustrating lines at delegate check-in! Kathleen Meyers will be available on-site at the AMDA registration desk to register delegates and alternates. Please make an effort to have all your delegates registered by noon on Friday, March 17, 2006 so that we can seat delegates promptly on March 18, 2006, when we convene the House of Delegates Business Meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathleen Meyers, Executive Office Coordinator, at 410/992-3103, or email to [kmeyers@amda.com](mailto:kmeyers@amda.com).

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES



**Friday, December 16, 2005**

### Delegate Nominations Due

Reminder — Individuals whose names have been submitted as delegates to the House of Delegates meeting are not automatically registered for the annual symposium. Members must register for the annual meeting separately! Preliminary registration information may be accessed online at AMDA's web site at [www.amda.com/education/annsym2006/regform.htm](http://www.amda.com/education/annsym2006/regform.htm).



**Monday, January 16, 2006**

**Resolutions, Position Statements, and Policy Papers to be submitted to the House of Delegates must be received in the National Office by this date.**



**Thursday, February 16, 2006**

**Resolutions, Policy Papers, and Proposed Bylaws Changes Mailed to Registered Delegates.**

## NEW STATE CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

As a new state chapter president, AMDA encourages you to participate in the state functions offered at the annual symposium. We understand that the symposium can be a little overwhelming. AMDA is here to help. If you have general questions about state chapter activities that occur during the annual symposium, please contact Nicole Germain, Membership Coordinator, at 410/992-3114 or [ngermain@amda.com](mailto:ngermain@amda.com). If you have questions regarding the House of Delegates activities, please contact Kathleen Meyers, Executive Office Coordinator, at 410/992-3103 or [kmeyers@amda.com](mailto:kmeyers@amda.com).

## REVISED MEDICAL DIRECTOR TAG IMPLEMENTED NOVEMBER 18TH

Effective November 18, 2005, CMS implemented the revised Interpretative Guidelines in the *State Operations Manual*, Appendix PP for the medical director Tag. CMS had published an advanced copy of the regulations in June to allow state survey agencies and providers time to complete training on the new guidance.

For 30 years, Medicare regulations have required medical directors in skilled nursing facilities. In 1987, The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act extended that requirement to nursing facilities. **The functions of a medical director, codified in Title 42 483.75(i) (2), are to implement resident care policies and coordinate medical care in the facility.**

It is very important to understand that

1. The regulation has not changed, but there is **additional guidance** in the *State Operations Manual*, and,
2. The **guidance** is a reflection of already existing and long-standing AMDA policy: the role and responsibilities of the medical director.

AMDA has been holding training sessions on the new Tag throughout the year. For a copy of the new Tag, go to [www.amda.com/federalaffairs/ftag](http://www.amda.com/federalaffairs/ftag).

### Are You in Compliance?

You must be able to answer **YES** to be able to vote at the HOD meeting at the 29th Annual Symposium. Your chapter must be in compliance with AMDA's bylaws to have voting delegates. This means that the national office must have the following items on file by **Friday, January 27, 2006**.

- Current state chapter bylaws
- Current state chapter membership list
- Annual report for each chapter (meeting minutes, chapter activities, dues structure, etc.)

For a copy of the annual report template visit [www.amda.com/chapters/report.htm](http://www.amda.com/chapters/report.htm). If you have any questions, contact Nicole Germain, Membership Coordinator, at 410/992-3114 or [ngermain@amda.com](mailto:ngermain@amda.com).

## AMDA EFFORTS RESULT IN NEW AND REVISED NURSING HOME CODES

Over the past two years, AMDA has been working to both redefine and obtain appropriate relative value units (RVUs) for the Nursing Facility (NF) Code family. This week, the AMA released the new family of codes. CPT codes 99301-99303 and 99311-99313 have been deleted. They are replaced by three new codes (99304-99306) for the initial assessment; four new codes for the subsequent visits (99307-99310); and a new code for the annual nursing facility assessment (99318). The discharge codes 99315 and 99316 were unchanged.

AMDA was joined in the effort to obtain new codes by the American Geriatrics Society (AGS), the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), and the American Academy of Home Care Physicians (AAHCP). AMDA's efforts were led by Dennis Stone, MD, CMD, MBA, AMDA's Representative to the CPT Advisory Committee and Practice Expense Advisory Committee (PEAC) with the assistance of AMDA's RVS Committee members Charles Crecelius, MD, CMD; Arthur Snow MD, CMD; Leonard Gelman MD, CMD; David MacRae MD, CMD; Robert A. Zorowitz, MD, MBA, CMD; and George Taler, MD.

### Background

On November 12, 2004, AMDA submitted a CPT Coding Change Request for the revision of the NF services section of CPT to the CPT Editorial Research and Development Department. In their letter, AMDA stated that the current structure of the NF Services section of CPT is atypical and has been a source of confusion since its creation in 1992. CPT includes three codes for Comprehensive Nursing Facility Assessments: an annual assessment (99301); an assessment for a major permanent change of status (99302); and, an assessment at the time of admission (99303). AMDA stated "To address the problems created by this coding structure, we recommend revising the structure of the current Comprehensive Nursing Facility Assessment codes to create three levels of service for admissions, consistent with the structure of the three levels of service for admission in the Initial Hospital Care section of CPT."

AMDA also stated that there currently are only three levels of service for established patients in the Subsequent Nursing Facility Care subsection of CPT, and that the highest level of service is restricted to a detailed interval history and a detailed examination. This is inconsistent with current clinical practice. To correct this problem, the association proposed a new fourth level of service code to permit the reporting of a comprehensive level of service.

Finally, AMDA recommended adding a new code in a new subsection (Other Nursing Facility Care) to allow the reporting of a comprehensive annual assessment. "This is a service that is unique to the NF setting and the extent of history and examination and the complexity of medical decision making are not well described by the other E & M codes in this section."

### **New NF Codes**

Below are the new descriptors for the redefined Nursing Facility Code family. CPT Codes 99301–99303 and 99311–99313 have been deleted and have been replaced by 99304–99306 and 99307–99310, respectively.

**99304** Initial nursing facility care, per day, for the evaluation and management of a patient which requires these three key components:

- a detailed or comprehensive history;
- a detailed or comprehensive examination; and
- medical decision making that is straightforward or of low complexity.

Counseling and/or coordination of care with other providers or agencies are provided consistent with the nature of the problem(s) and the patient's and/or family's needs.

Usually, the problem(s) requiring admission are of low severity.

**99305** Initial nursing facility care, per day, for the evaluation and management of a patient which requires these three key components:

- a comprehensive history;
- a comprehensive examination; and
- medical decision making of moderate complexity.

Counseling and/or coordination of care with other providers or agencies are provided consistent with the nature of the problem(s) and the patient's and/or family's needs.

Usually, the problem(s) requiring admission are of moderate severity.

**99306** Initial nursing facility care, per day, for the evaluation and management of a patient, which requires these three key components:

- a comprehensive history;
- a comprehensive examination; and
- medical decision making of high complexity.

Counseling and/or coordination of care with other providers or agencies are provided consistent with the nature of the problem(s) and the patient's and/or family's needs.

Usually, the problem(s) requiring admission are of high severity.

There are now 4 codes for Subsequent Nursing Facility Care:

**99307** Subsequent nursing facility care, per day, for the evaluation and management of a patient, which requires at least two of these three key components:

- a problem focused interval history;
- a problem focused examination;
- straightforward medical decision making.

Counseling and/or coordination of care with other providers or agencies are provided consistent with the nature of the problem(s) and the patient's and/or family's needs.

Usually, the patient is stable, recovering, or improving.

**99308** Subsequent nursing facility care, per day, for the evaluation and management of a patient, which requires at least two of these three key components:

- an expanded problem focused interval history;
- an expanded problem focused examination;
- medical decision making of low complexity.

Counseling and/or coordination of care with other providers or agencies are provided consistent with the nature of the problem(s) and the patient's and/or family's needs.

Usually, the patient is responding inadequately to therapy or has developed a minor complication.

**99309** Subsequent nursing facility care, per day, for the evaluation and management of a patient, which requires at least two of these three key components:

- a detailed interval history;
- a detailed examination;
- medical decision making of moderate complexity.

Counseling and/or coordination of care with other providers or agencies are provided consistent with the nature of the problem(s) and the patient's and/or family's needs.

The patient may be unstable or may have developed a significant new problem requiring immediate physician attention.

*Continue on page 10*

## 2006 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

David A. Smith, MD, FAAFP, CMD, AMDA President, has completed the 2006 Nominating Committee by appointing Jeffrey Nichols, MD, of New York to represent the State Presidents Council and Margaret Noel, MD, CMD, of North Carolina to represent the House of Delegates. They join designated members Immediate Past President Daniel Swagerty, MD, MPH, CMD, and Executive Director Lorraine Tarnove to begin the process of identifying candidates for the following offices:

- ◆ Vice President (1-year term)
- ◆ Secretary (2-year term)
- ◆ Chair, House of Delegates (2-year term)
- ◆ State Presidents Council Representative (3-year term)
- ◆ House of Delegates Representative (3-year term)

State chapters are encouraged to submit candidates to the Nominating Committee, in care of Kathleen Meyers at the national office. Nominees must:

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

If you have any questions, please contact Kathleen Meyers, Executive Office Coordinator, at 410/992-3103 or email at [kmeyers@amda.com](mailto:kmeyers@amda.com) or any member of the Nominating Committee:

- ◆ Dr. Swagerty at [dswagert@kumc.edu](mailto:dswagert@kumc.edu)
- ◆ Dr. Nichols at [jnichols@ccnr.cabrinity.org](mailto:jnichols@ccnr.cabrinity.org)
- ◆ Dr. Noel at [noel@memorycare.org](mailto:noel@memorycare.org)

## STATE PRESIDENTS— SELECTING DELEGATES

Please note that all delegates must be members in good standing in order to be seated. We will run a check on dues status of all delegates when registered. Please encourage your delegates to be sure their membership is up-to-date.



## RESOLUTIONS PROCESS

All resolutions, policy papers, and position statements are submitted for consideration and endorsement by the House of Delegates. Resolutions may be submitted from the Board of Directors, state chapters, committees, and subsections of the association.

Before reaching the floor of the House of Delegates, resolutions must follow a review process:

1. Resolutions are submitted to the AMDA national office.
2. Resolutions are reviewed against previous policies and actions to ensure consistency and identify potential conflicts with prior policy.
3. Resolutions are sent to appropriate committees and board members for review and to staff for analysis of the fiscal impact on the association.
4. Resolutions Committee meets by conference call prior to the annual meeting of the House of Delegates to review the resolutions and comments.
5. Resolutions Committee makes edits and suggestions for format compliance and clarity.
6. Suggested changes are sent back to the originators of those resolutions.
7. Resolutions Committee meets by conference call to review and agree upon the final resolutions included in the delegates' handbook.
8. House of Delegates is briefed on resolutions several days prior to formally convening at the annual symposium.
9. House of Delegates reviews and debates resolutions.
10. Passed resolutions are implemented by the appropriate committee or staff.

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Gebhart, Government Affairs, at 410/992-3145 or [ngebhart@amda.com](mailto:ngebhart@amda.com).

# GUIDELINES FOR WRITING RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions set forth background information and propose a course of action or statement of policy.

The title of the resolution should appropriately reflect the intended course of action of the resolution.

Follow these guidelines for writing a resolution:

## **Format**

Resolutions begin with background information and conclude with a specific proposal. Background information follows the term “whereas,” while the proposed course of action is set forth by “therefore be it resolved.”

## **Whereas**

Background or whereas information provides the rationale for the resolved course of action. The whereas statement(s) should lead the reader to your conclusion (resolved).

In writing whereas statements, begin by introducing the topic of the resolution. Be factual rather than speculative and provide or reference statistics wherever possible.

Although whereas statements are not mandatory, it is difficult to understand the rationale behind a proposed course of action when that rationale is not set forth in the resolution.

## **Resolved**

The resolved portion of a resolution should emphasize a course of action for the association. The Board of Directors, not the House of Delegates, is responsible for determining the appropriate committee involvement. Also, the association cannot direct another organization to do a particular task, although it can recommend a course of action or concern to other organizations.

The rules for the submission of resolutions will be strictly applied. Late resolutions should be submitted only on truly emergent issues, especially late-breaking developments of information, and will be reviewed by the Resolutions Committee that will rule on acceptance.

Please be sure to make your resolutions clear and concise. Because it is only the resolved portions of the resolutions on which action is taken, they must be capable of standing alone. If background materials accompany resolutions, the material will be forwarded to the appropriate committee for review, but it will not be published in the meeting handbook that is distributed to the delegates. If funds are needed for implementation, staff will provide a fiscal

note. Please refer to the Policy Compendium to avoid duplication of current policy.

When resolutions become AMDA policy, the complete resolution is indexed in the AMDA Policy Compendium—an internal document. For external purposes, only the resolves are included.

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Gebhart, Government Affairs, at 410/992-3145 or [ngebhart@amda.com](mailto:ngebhart@amda.com).

## MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS ON-LINE



Reserving a room online only takes a few minutes. Go to AMDA's web site, Education & Meetings, then AMDA's 2006 Annual Symposium, choose Hotel Accommodations, and click on the easy link for on-line reservations or use this link—[www.amda.com/education/annsymb2006/hotel.htm](http://www.amda.com/education/annsymb2006/hotel.htm).

### **Hyatt Regency Dallas**

300 Reunion Blvd.  
Dallas, TX 75207  
888/421-1442 phone  
Room Rates:  
\$185 Single/Double Occupancy

If you call for reservations, be sure to mention AMDA to receive the discounted room rate.

## AGENDA ITEMS

The State Chapter Working Session will take place on Wednesday, March 15, 2006, from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm and the State Presidents' Council Business Meeting and Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 18, from 6:30 am to 8:00 am.

As always, we are asking that you submit any agenda items in advance for consideration. Please email policy issues to Nancy Gebhart at [ngebhart@amda.com](mailto:ngebhart@amda.com). If the items are regarding membership or general administrative issues, then send email to Nicole Germain at [ngermain@amda.com](mailto:ngermain@amda.com). The deadline for submitting agenda items is January 6, 2006.

## STATE CHAPTER RECEPTIONS

Once again AMDA has received a generous grant from Johnson & Johnson Health Care Systems in support of the State Chapter functions during our Annual Symposium in Dallas, Texas. Space for State Chapters (who are in compliance with AMDA bylaws) to conduct business meetings or hold a reception is being held at the Hyatt Regency Dallas on Friday, March 17, 2006, from 6:30 pm–7:30 pm. This 60-minute timeframe has been set aside for our State Chapters and no other programming will take place at this time. You are welcome to use as much of the meeting time as you need to conduct chapter business and networking. Please be advised that corporate/facility events will begin at 7:30 pm immediately following the state chapter receptions.



AMDA will arrange a reception with beer, wine, and light fare. Because we have received a grant from Johnson & Johnson, we must ask that you NOT seek outside sponsorship from industry representatives to support your Chapter Meeting/Reception Friday evening. This would pose a conflict and place sponsorship of State Chapter activities in jeopardy for everyone in the future.

To secure a room, please complete the attached form (**Attachment C**) and return it to Naomi Cahill no later than January 6, 2006. Space at the hotel is limited and we will have to pair some chapters together in order to accommodate everyone. If there are chapters with whom you are willing to share space, please note on the enclosed form.

If you have any questions, contact Naomi Cahill at 410/992–3107 or [ncahill@amda.com](mailto:ncahill@amda.com).

### AMDA Contacts for State Chapter Business:

Nicole Germain, Membership Department,  
410/992–3114 or [ngermain@amda.com](mailto:ngermain@amda.com)

Nancy Gebhart, Govt Dept, 410/992–3145 or  
[ngebhart@amda.com](mailto:ngebhart@amda.com)

## GETTING THE WORD OUT

Preliminary registration information is available on AMDA's web site at [www.amda.com/education/annsymb2006/regform.htm](http://www.amda.com/education/annsymb2006/regform.htm). Remember that not all state chapter members are members of AMDA.

**Please promote the symposium in your newsletters and encourage your state members to register and join AMDA.** Members save \$200 on registration fees and increase your state's representation in the House of Delegates.

If you would like to have AMDA membership information available at state meetings, please contact Nicole Germain, Membership Coordinator, at 410/992–3114 or [ngermain@amda.com](mailto:ngermain@amda.com).

### State Chapter Meetings

Log on to [www.amda.com/chapters/upcoming.htm](http://www.amda.com/chapters/upcoming.htm) for a listing of state chapter meetings.

## CHAPTER NEWSLETTERS

Please make sure that the national office is on your mailing list to receive your state chapter newsletter.

The newsletters may be sent to the attention of:

Nicole Germain, Membership Coordinator  
American Medical Directors Association  
10480 Little Patuxent Parkway, Ste 760  
Columbia, MD 21044



May this Joyous Season  
bring you Peace, Health,  
and Happiness throughout  
the coming year.

The AMDA Staff



## STATE CHAPTER CONNECTIONS BOOTH

Space in the AMDA Exhibit Hall has been reserved for state chapters. The State Chapter Connections Booth will consist of 6-foot skirted tables and chairs. We invite you to showcase your state chapter accomplishments and member materials. We encourage you to distribute information such as brochures, enrollment forms, newsletters, upcoming meetings, web site information, and giveaways. This is a perfect opportunity for state chapters to network with industry representatives and to recruit new members in your state. The booth is intended for informational purposes and for small informal discussions (not to be used for state chapter meetings).

The State Chapter Connections Booth will be available during exhibit hall hours:

### Thursday, March 16, 2006

2:00 pm–5:00 pm	Grand Opening Welcome Reception
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### Friday, March 17, 2006

10:00 am–1:30 pm	Coffee Break
Noon–1:30 pm	Cash Lunch
5:00 pm–6:00 pm	Prize Drawings

A badge is required at all times on the exhibit hall premises. Therefore, anyone staffing or visiting the area must be registered with AMDA and have a badge. Any sales on site at the exhibit hall are prohibited. You are welcome to accept orders to fulfill at a later date. All state chapter-related items must be removed by noon on Saturday, March 18, 2006. Otherwise, they will be discarded.

Space and time are limited! If you are interested in showcasing your state chapter, please complete the attached form (**Attachment D**) and return it to Sandy McAllister no later than January 6, 2006. If you have any questions, contact Sandy McAllister at 410/992–3124 or [smcallister@amda.com](mailto:smcallister@amda.com).

Please keep in mind that the national office is providing the space; however, it is the responsibility of the state chapters to display their materials and staff the booth. You are welcome to use your own chapter logo tablecloth or a table-top sign (no larger than 14" x 19") to identify your chapter. Remember to bring appropriate supplies such as pens, staples, or tape.

## BOARD REPRESENTATIVES STATE PRESIDENTS COUNCIL

Morris Kutner, MD, CMD (2006)  
Florida  
[mku1057661@aol.com](mailto:mku1057661@aol.com)

David A. Brechtelsbauer, MD, CMD (2007)  
South Dakota  
[dbrechte@usd.edu](mailto:dbrechte@usd.edu)

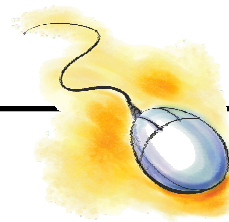
Luis L. Gonzalez, Jr., MD, CMD, FACP (2008)  
Arizona  
[lgonz@cox.net](mailto:lgonz@cox.net)

## BOARD REPRESENTATIVES HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Catherine Kiley-Zofkie, DO, CMD (2006)  
Ohio  
[Catherine.zofkie@kmcnetwork.org](mailto:Catherine.zofkie@kmcnetwork.org)

Kendra J. Belfi, MD, CMD (2007)  
Texas  
[kjbelfi@juno.com](mailto:kjbelfi@juno.com)

Jeffery A. Kerr, DO, CMD (2008)  
Missouri  
[ens@fidnet.com](mailto:ens@fidnet.com)



## ONLINE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

AMDA members can renew their memberships online!

The online renewal process is as simple as clicking a button. When you receive your first renewal notice in the mail, go to [www.amda.com](http://www.amda.com) and log in as a member, then just click on the link "Membership Renewal" and pay your invoice online.

The Discharge Codes have remained the same:

**99315** Nursing facility discharge day management; 30 minutes or less

**99316** Nursing facility discharge day management; more than 30 minutes

This is the new annual assessment code:

**99318** Evaluation and management of a patient involving an annual nursing facility assessment, which requires these three key components:

- a detailed interval history;
- a comprehensive examination; and
- medical decision making that is of low to moderate complexity.

Counseling and/or coordination of care with other providers or agencies are provided consistent with the nature of the problem(s) and the patient's and/or family's needs.

Usually, the patient is stable, recovering, or improving.

At the same time the NF Code family was being revised, the nine codes of the Domiciliary Care Services family (99341 – 99350) also were given updated descriptors and vignettes.

*For more information . . .*

For more information on the new codes, AMDA will be revising its CPT Coding Booklet that will be available on the AMDA website in December 2005. The revised booklet will update the NF vignettes and frequently asked questions on physician visits, the use of nonphysician practitioners, hospice services, and domiciliary care.

On November 2, 2005, CMS published the *Medicare Program; Revisions to Payment Policies Under the Physician Fee Schedule for Calendar Year 2006*. AMDA has published a review of the fee schedule on the AMDA Government Affairs website at <http://www.amda.com/federalaffairs/feeschedule2006.htm>.

## ART AUCTION TO BENEFIT AMDA FOUNDATION

The AMDA Foundation will hold its first art auction on March 17, 2006 from 9pm–11pm at the 2006 AMDA annual symposium. The auction will feature artwork from residents of long term care facilities from around the country.

The Foundation expects to have several paintings, ceramics and other works of art to auction off during this inaugural event. The event will also showcase works from AMDA member Jeffery Levine, MD who is donating a series of four photographs from his collection. One of the photographs, "Visiting Sister", is shown here.



*Artwork Donated by Jeffery Levine, MD*

In addition the Foundation is soliciting art from celebrities. Radio and television personality Shadoe Stevens, has already donated a piece of his artwork to the Foundation. Other celebrities, including Tony Bennett, Sally Struthers and Barbara Carrera have been invited to contribute.

The Foundation has also requested the assistance of chapter members to donate art from their respective facilities to the art auction. If you are interested in donating or know of a facility that would like to donate, please contact Chris Danihel at 410/992-3134 or at [cdanihel@amda.com](mailto:cdanihel@amda.com) as soon as possible.

The cost of the event is \$25.00 per person. The event will feature live entertainment and a dessert reception. Proceeds from the event will go to support the Foundation and its research studies.

## MINNESOTA AND MASSACHUSETTS HOST LISTENING POSTS

Based on many discussions with State Chapter Presidents, AMDA realized the need for “live” dialogue and communication beyond the Annual Symposium activities. We contacted all the chapters about the opportunity to host a listening post in conjunction with their state chapter meeting. The Minnesota and Massachusetts chapters were eager to provide the site for our first two listening posts. We had a great turnout at both meetings—18 on-site participants in Minnesota and 21 on-site participants in Massachusetts. We also provided a web conferencing option for those who were not able to attend in person—there were 8 on-line participants with both meetings.

Our first listening post took place with the MNMDA in Bloomington, MN on October 27<sup>th</sup>. For over three hours we shared ideas and concerns. AMDA staff came away with an extensive list of questions that emerged during our dialogue. Topics included MMA Prescription Drug Benefit; F-Tag 501 Medical Director; Professional Liability; State Chapter Communications; Industry Relations; and CPT Codes/Payment.

The second AMDA Listening Post hosted an increased number of participants in every venue—21 attendees face-to-face at the meeting included 3 state presidents (Frederick Rowland, Connecticut; Susan Levy, Maryland; and Robert Schreiber, Massachusetts) and two AMDA Board of Directors members, Charles (Chuck) Crecelius, and Jeff Burl; 6 callers and 5 online “call-ins.” The result was a fast-paced two-hour discussion with lots of ideas from participants.

With the official start date for the revised F-Tag 501 one day after the Listening Post on November 18, there was a lot of discussion about the tag. Like many states and national, participants saw the revision as an opportunity for medical directors to show their value. Many shared ideas about medical director’s reports to the nursing facility administration and all stressed the importance of submitting such a report. Ideas from the group will be taken to staff for development of a model. Other ideas that will be discussed with staff or at the December Board of Directors meeting:

- ◆ an additional educational offering for experienced medical directors with a clinical emphasis
- ◆ state and national partnership on the Primer
- ◆ periodic mailings to survey agencies about CPGs and other AMDA resources
- ◆ tying P4P to CPGs and
- ◆ encouraging national to get involved in STAR project with CMS and JCAHO’s 100,000 Lives.

Additional suggestions focused on the state chapters and included an orientation for new state chapters at the Annual Symposium to help identify local network and to share lessons learned.

Like other state chapters the Massachusetts chapter has not had much luck working with the survey agency; the members see the F-Tag 501, the materials and message from AMDA as an opportunity to open a dialogue and begin developing a working relationship.

Special thanks Teresa McCarthy (current MMDA president) and Robyn Lampright (Executive Director of MMDA) in Minnesota and the dynamic duo of Robert Schreiber (current MAMDA president) and Mark Levy (incoming president). They all have done a terrific job with their chapters, and creating a productive dialogue with national.



### AMDA EXTENDS THANKS

Thanks to the Minnesota and Massachusetts state chapters for hosting AMDA’s Listening Post. The Listening Posts was successful in letting national communicate with state chapters, and chapter members with each other.

Also, thanks to the Maryland and Pennsylvania state chapters for hosting F-Tag 501 and MMA educational training.

**AMERICAN MEDICAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION  
2006 DELEGATE(S) REGISTRATION FORM**

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

The following members will represent our state chapter at AMDA's 29th Annual Symposium House of Delegates Luncheon on March 16, 2006 and House of Delegates Business Meeting on March 18, 2006 in Dallas, Texas.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT:** Delegates that will attend the House of Delegates meeting are not automatically registered for the annual symposium. **Members must register for the symposium separately!** Preliminary registration information may be retrieved from AMDA's website [www.amda.com](http://www.amda.com) or by calling AMDA at (410) 740-9743.

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO KATHLEEN MEYERS VIA FAX (410) 740-4572 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. CALL KATHLEEN AT (410) 992-3103 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.**

**American Medical Directors Association**  
**Number of Active Members by State**  
As of November 7, 2005 \*

	STATE	# OF MEMBERS	VOTING STATUS	# OF DELEGATES ALLOWED
1	Alabama	69	Voting	3
<b>2</b>	<b>Alaska</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Non-voting</b>	<b>1</b>
3	Arizona	60	Voting	3
4	Arkansas	47	Voting	2
5	California	253	Voting	11
6	Colorado	95	Voting	4
7	Connecticut	51	Voting	3
<b>8</b>	<b>Delaware</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Non-voting</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Dist. of Columbia</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Non-voting</b>	<b>1</b>
10	Florida	216	Voting	9
11	Georgia	129	Voting	6
<b>12</b>	<b>Hawaii</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Non-voting</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Idaho</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Non-voting</b>	<b>1</b>
14	Illinois	130	Voting	6
15	Indiana	114	Voting	5
16	Iowa	46	Voting	2
17	Kansas	53	Voting	3
18	Kentucky	67	Voting	3
19	Louisiana	35	Voting	2
20	Maine	40	Voting	2
21	Maryland	160	Voting	7
22	Massachusetts	155	Voting	7
23	Michigan	167	Voting	7
24	Minnesota	102	Voting	5
25	Mississippi	42	Voting	2
26	Missouri	116	Voting	5
27	Montana	7	Voting	1
28	Nebraska	73	Voting	3
29	Nevada	31	Voting	2
<b>30</b>	<b>New Hampshire</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Non-voting</b>	<b>1</b>
31	New Jersey	117	Voting	5
32	New Mexico	39	Voting	2
33	New York	267	Voting	11
34	North Carolina	152	Voting	7
<b>35</b>	<b>North Dakota</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Non-voting</b>	<b>1</b>
36	Ohio	252	Voting	11
37	Oklahoma	28	Voting	2
38	Oregon	34	Voting	2
39	Pennsylvania	316	Voting	13
40	Rhode Island	27	Voting	2
41	South Carolina	60	Voting	3
42	South Dakota	41	Voting	2
43	Tennessee	117	Voting	5
44	Texas	286	Voting	12
45	Utah	11	Voting	1

**American Medical Directors Association**  
**Number of Active Members by State**  
 As of November 7, 2005\*

	STATE	# OF MEMBERS	VOTING STATUS	# OF DELEGATES ALLOWED
46	Vermont	11	Non-voting	1
47	Virginia	113	Voting	5
48	Washington	80	Voting	4
49	West Virginia	30	Voting	2
50	Wisconsin	112	Voting	5
51	Wyoming	15	Non-voting	1
52	Pediatrics Subsection		Voting	1

198 Voting Delegates Allowed  
+09 Non-voting Delegates Allowed  
 207 Total Delegates



STATE CHAPTER MEETING SPACE REQUEST  
2006 AMDA ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM  
FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2006  
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

State Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Attendance: \_\_\_\_\_

Desired Room Set-up:  Conference Table  Banquet Rounds  Reception

Will you be conducting a Business Meeting? Yes  No

Chapter(s) we are willing to share meeting space with: \_\_\_\_\_

Our Chapter will not be hosting a meeting/reception this year.

**PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN January 6, 2006 to:**

AMDA  
Attn: Naomi Cahill  
10480 Little Patuxent Parkway  
Suite 760  
Columbia, MD 21044

Phone: 410/992-3107  
Fax: 410/740-4572  
E-mail: ncahill@amda.com



AMERICAN MEDICAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION  
STATE CHAPTER CONNECTION BOOTH REQUEST  
DALLAS, TX

State Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of individual who will staff the table: \_\_\_\_\_

Will use own chapter logo tablecloth  
to identify booth

Will use table-top sign  
to identify booth

Special Needs/  
Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN JANUARY 6, 2006 TO:**

AMDA  
Attn: Sandy McAllister  
10480 Little Patuxent Parkway  
Suite 760  
Columbia, MD 21044

Phone: 410/992-3124 phone  
Fax: 410/740-4572 fax  
Email: [smcallister@amda.com](mailto:smcallister@amda.com)