

Wyoming Medical Society

QUARTERLY BOARD UPDATE

The Wyoming Medical Society operates under the direction of a Board of Trustees comprised of representatives from each county medical society as well as Trustees to represent Physician Assistant, Student, Resident and Retired members. The Board meets quarterly to decide strategy and policy for the organization. WMS will send communication following every Board meeting to keep members apprised of work being done on their behalf in the state.

Board Members Present June 9, 2010

Reed Shafer, MD - President
Gerrie Gardner, DO - Vice President
Cynthia Casey, MD - Secretary/Treasurer
Mike Jording, MD - Past President
Stephen Brown, MD - AMA Alternate Delegate

Lawrence Kirven, MD - Johnson County Trustee
Kay Buchanan, MD - Goshen County Trustee
Mike Tracy, MD - Northwestern Counties Trustee
Robert Kanard, MD - Retired Physician Trustee
Jennifer Frary, PA - C - Physician Assistant Trustee

Business of the Board

Financial, investment, and membership reports were reviewed and approved. The Wyoming Medical Society is in sound financial condition and membership is growing.

Annual Meeting Evaluation

WMS Board members discussed many aspects of the Annual Meeting that could possibly be improved in future years. As our membership works to implement EMR requirements, we would like to pursue options for presentations and vendor booths at the meeting, and possibly a FAQ on the website to help members navigate the process. The timing and location of the meeting is another aspect that was discussed. We will be addressing this over the summer with a membership survey. The 2011 meeting is already set for June 9-11 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Laramie.

WYOPAC Update

Wyoming Medical Political Action Committee (WYOPAC) financial and membership reports were reviewed and discussed. Membership has increased modestly and the financial standing has remained steady. The WYOPAC candidate survey will go out this summer. Officers were nominated and elected. Dr. Brown will serve as president and Dr. Shafer will serve as vice president.

State and Federal Legislative Issues

WMS Executive Director Sheila Bush presented updates on several state and federal legislative issues that are currently being debated. At the federal level, WMS is closely monitoring the SGR short-term relief initiatives and will keep the membership informed when final action is taken. She also reported the Red Flags Rule has once again been delayed. At the state level, the board of midwifery has been formed and will soon begin the process of promulgating rules and regulations. WMS was influential in the outcome of the final measure and will continue to be involved in the process as it evolves. The Governor's newly formed Leadership Team on Health Care Reform, as well as the Medicaid Fraud settlement were also explained. Dr. Jording discussed the possibility of pursuing a partnership with the Wyoming Dental Association to develop resources to help physicians when patients present with dental problems.

WMS Officers

The results of the WMS Officer Elections were officially announced. Your new officers are as follows.

President: Gerrie Gardner, DO
Past President: Reed Shafer, MD
Vice President: Cynthia Casey, MD
Secretary-Treasurer: Michael Tracy, MD
Open Trustee: Larry Jenkins, MD
Retired Trustee: Robert Kanard, MD

Community Service Award

The recipient of the WMS Community Service Award was announced. The 2010 award was presented to Dr. Nick Morris of Powell. He was recognized at the President's banquet and press releases have been sent to announce the distinction.

Centennial Scholarship Fund

Dr. Jording presented a summary of the WMS Centennial Scholarship Fund, including the financial report. The fund has grown by nearly \$10,000 this year to a gift value of just under \$125,000. This allowed us to present 4 scholarships in 2010. This year's recipients are listed below. Dr. Jording also presented a program from South Dakota for recognizing a young physician. He believes the WMS could offer a similar award through this fund. We will also be looking to raise additional funds for the Centennial Scholarship through a mailing this summer.

Centennial Scholarship: Eric Howell, Sheridan
Centennial Scholarship: Sandra Smylie, Douglas
Outstanding WWAMI Graduate Award: Luke Goddard, Buffalo
Outstanding WWAMI Graduate Award: Kimberly Westbrook, Laramie

WWAMI Update

Dr. Hillman and Dr. McEchron presented an update and summary of the WWAMI program. Dr. McEchron described his position with the University of Wyoming, and the success of their interview process in Laramie. The percentage of students coming back to practice in Wyoming has returned to the 70% level. Dr. Hillman discussed some of the new clinical advancements and that Wyoming is looking to establish residency locations. He further asked for support in legislative efforts for expansion of available slots to 20 in Wyoming, for the shadowing program, for the RUART program, to support expanded clerkships in Wyoming, and to help get info out to hospitals regarding WWAMI.