

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 May 1, 2010

Reed Shafer, MD - President

Gerrie Gardner, DO - Vice President

Cynthia Casey, MD - Secretary/Treasurer

Larry Jenkins, MD - Open Trustee

Stephen Brown, MD - AMA Alternate Delegate

Mark Murphy, MD - Converse County Trustee

Jennifer Thomas, MD - Campbell County Trustee

Jay Swedeberg, MD - Natrona County Trustee

Mike Tracy, MD - Northwestern Counties Trustee

Jeffrey Cecil, MD - Platte County Trustee

Bradley Hanebrink, MD - Sheridan County Trustee

Holly Payne, DO - Teton Mountain Counties Trustee

Robert Kanard, MD - Retired Physician Trustee

Sandra Smylie - WWAMI Student Representative

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.

Wyoming Health Information Technology and Exchange

Former WMS Executive Director and current health policy advisor to Governor Freudenthal, Wendy Curran, presented the latest updates and current state of Health Information Technology and Health Information Exchange (HIT/HIE) in Wyoming. Curran reported that the Governor's office applied for \$4.9 Million to implement a Health Information Exchange in Wyoming to support physician practices, hospitals and labs in pursuing Health Information Technology. A statewide HIE will assure that private practice and hospital EMR and HIT systems will be able to communicate with each other as they come online. These efforts are all in the name of increasing patient safety and improving the quality of patient care in Wyoming. Curran also reported that a Regional Extension Center (REC) is coming online to assist Wyoming and Montana physicians in their journey to research, negotiate contracts and implement EMR/HIT in their practices. Curran said it best when she likened building the HIE system to building an airplane while flying it and said that success won't be realized without the engagement and leadership from physicians across the state.

Upcoming Legislative Session Report

Executive Director Sheila Bush reported Wyoming Medical Society successes and challenges in the 2010 Budget Session. WMS is proud of the many accomplishments including the passage of an innovative health reform pilot project, approval for a PACE program and important amendments to the medical review panel statute. Challenges this year included narrowly defeating a measure to grant full hospital privileges for nurse practitioners and making best attempts to strengthen proposed legislation to license lay midwives in a way that protects patient safety through advanced training requirements and restricted scope of practice regulations.

WMS Community Service Award

WMS Board members discussed the eligible candidates nominated to receive the 2010 WMS Community Service Award. Nominees this year included Willard Woods, MD of Wheatland, Doug Parks, MD of Cheyenne and Nick Morris, MD of Powell. Ballots were distributed to each board member to determine this year's winner. Ballots are due to be returned to the WMS office by Friday, May 21. The 2010 Community Service Award winner will be announced later this month and recognized at the President's Banquet during the 2010 WMS Annual Meeting at the Jackson Lake Lodge.

County Reports

Starting in 2010 each board meeting agenda will allow ample time for four counties to provide county reports in an effort to improve communications with the County and Regional Medical Societies. Select organizations will present a report at the quarterly meetings of the Board. Drs. Buchanan, Thomas, Casey and Murphy reported on the activities, challenges and successes of the Goshn County, Campbell County, Northeastern Counties and Converse County Medical Societies, respectively.

AMA Delegate's Report

AMA Delegate Robert Monger, MD and AMA Alternate Delegate Stephen Brown, MD will join incoming WMS President Gerrie Gardner, DO, WMS Legal Counsel Richard Rideout, JD and WMS Executive Director Sheila Bush in Chicago for the AMA Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates June 12-16, 2010. A thorough report of the events of this meeting will be distributed to the membership later this coming Summer and at the Fall meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Wyoming Medicine Magazine

WMS is thrilled to be publishing the second magazine publication, Wyoming Medicine, this summer. The publication is due to hit mailboxes in early August prior to the primary election. The magazine is anticipated to include informative articles about the upcoming gubernatorial election, WWAMI 101, WWAMI student highlight section, child obesity updates and much much more. Be sure to look for your summer publication this August.

WMS Strategic Planning

In 2005 WMS hired consultants to assist in a strategic planning process. ReThink, LLC provided consulting services to guide the Board through the initial phase of establishing a new strategic plan for the Society. WMS staff will be relying on the work of the board to begin surveying the membership and diligently working through the summer to determine the feasibility of the goals and projects suggested by the initial planning process.