

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 a 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 January 23, 2010

Reed Shafer, MD - President
Gerrie Gardner, DO - Vice President
Mike Jording, MD - Past President
Cynthia Casey, MD - Secretary/Treasurer
Larry Jenkins, MD - Open Trustee
Robert Monger, MD - AMA Delegate
Stephen Brown, MD - AMA Alternate Delegate

Mark Murphy, MD - Converse County Trustee
Lawrence Kirven, MD - Johnson County Trustee
Mike Tracy, MD - Northwestern Counties 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 continues to remain stable.

President Reed Shafer, MD announced that after considering the recommendations provided by the WMS Building Subcommittee, the WMS Board made the difficult decision to leave the Hereford Ranch Building and pursue purchasing office property for WMS staff. The purchase of 122 E. 17th Street is anticipated to be finalized in early March. Please note that the WMS office will be closed the weeks of March 8th and March 15th to allow staff time to move and transition into the new space. Dr. Sloan Hales, owner of the Hereford Ranch Building, will be recognized for his overwhelming generosity and longtime dedication to WMS at the Annual Meeting this June. Please plan to join us in offering our appreciation to Sloan Hales, MD and his wife Anna Marie.

WMS Strategic Planning

In 2005 WMS hired consultants to assist in a strategic planning process. The Board considered doing the same again in 2010 but decided to instead revisit the existing strategic plan and reprioritize key issues and action items to better fit the society's current needs. The strategic planning process will occur the afternoon of the April Board meeting in Casper. The date and time of that meeting is yet to be determined.

Advocacy Update

Proposed federal legislation, Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (PAMTA), was discussed relating to requested support from the WMS. After extensive discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that the issue was sufficiently complex and beyond the expertise of the WMS that it would be appropriate to remain neutral at this time.

Medicaid reimbursement for OB Services in Wyoming was discussed as an informational item with Executive Director Sheila Bush noting the WMS's success in pushing for an increase in reimbursement rates. The WMS will continue to follow the issue.

Upcoming Legislative Session Report

Executive Director Sheila Bush reported that former WMS Executive Director Dennis Ellis has been retained to assist in advocacy efforts through the 2010 legislative session. After reviewing legislation available at the time of the meeting the Board moved to direct WMS staff to work on the following initiatives:

- **House Bill 11:** *Cancer Control Act amendment*. This bill authorizes for more frequent colorectal cancer screening tests when medically indicated. **WMS Supports**
- **Budget Footnote** to provide for expansion of the WWAMI program in Wyoming to increase the number of seats in future classes in Wyoming from 16 up to 20 students per year. **WMS Supports**
- **House Joint Resolution 6:** *Noneconomic Damages- constitutional amendment*. This amendment would allow for the Wyoming legislature to enact laws limiting the amount of damages for noneconomic loss. **WMS Supports**
- **Not Yet Filed:** *Midwife Licensure*. Establishes a Board of Midwifery to provide for direct access for certified professional midwives to practice in Wyoming. **WMS Opposes the legislation as written but hopes to improve the bill to ease the numerous patient safety concerns.**

WMS Board Accountability

Extensive discussion was held regarding the general duties and obligations of the Board of Trustee members under the WMS Bylaws. Board members are required to actively participate in the meetings of the Board and hold current membership in the Wyoming Medical Society. Bylaws dictate that any board member who is not a paying member and has missed more than two consecutive meetings of the board will be removed and replaced, either through appointment or election, in order to ensure members of that trustee's county have adequate representation on the board. The WMS Board moved to more closely follow the bylaws and address noncompliance among board trustees.

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. Kirven, Tracy, Hanebrink and Payne reported on the activities, challenges and successes of the Johnson County, Northwestern Counties, Sheridan County, and Teton Mountain Counties Medical Societies, respectively.

AMA Delegate's Report

AMA Delegate Robert Monger, MD reported on the 2009 Interim Meeting of the AMA House of Delegates in Houston, Texas. He explained the importance the AMA stressed on the difference between endorse and support and that the AMA holds that supporting a measure is quite different than endorsing one. A portion of the House of Delegates was not ready to accept that it was significant enough of a difference to warrant the AMA's actions in DC. According to the AMA endorsing means that the AMA agrees with 100% of the elements of the bill and supporting means that they are in agreement with portions and believe that improvements are still necessary.

AMA Grant Funding

In light of the anticipated scope of practice challenges surrounding the midwives' push for direct access, WMS submitted a request for grant funding from the American Medical Association's Scope of Practice Partnership (SOPP) to assist in advocacy efforts to protect patient safety in Wyoming. The AMA SOPP awarded WMS \$11,500 to use in direct relation with advocacy efforts regarding midwife licensure legislation being considered this session.