



TMAA NEWSLINE

MANY VOICES, ONE HEART

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are getting ready to celebrate Christmas at our house. Whatever your religious beliefs, this is the season of celebrations, family, friends and food. From our house to yours, we wish you the very best.

Sue and Bob Vegors

Why We Burn



From Director Shirley Meiere

Edna St. Vincent Millay wrote:

*My candle burns at both ends;
It will not last the night;
But, ah, my foes, and oh, my friends—
It gives a lovely light.*

Most of us can identify with the first line of this verse – Alliance members are among the busiest creatures on Earth. What separates us is the reason we are so busy. Since 1922, the Alliance has been about the business of burning and shining; and this combination defines the true meaning of giving. Our members burn tirelessly for issues that improve lives and change environments. Our efforts shine

a light on violence, ignorance and abuse, and give a ray of hope to those struggling under the burden of medical education debt. We bring warmth to our physicians and their families – mindful of the hostilities that assault the practice of medicine. All across our land Alliance members are turning the lights on in shelters, schoolhouses, and soup kitchens. We hold hurting hands, we dry weary eyes, we give the discouraged a pat on the back. All the while we wonder at the glorious spirit of mankind—ultimately, we pass our candles on to those who follow and pray they burn as bright.

County Project Highlight

PARTNERS IN LIFE

Best wishes to Washington-Unicoi-Johnson County Medical Alliance immediate past-president Suzy Pinyard and congratulations to new President, Madeline Becker. We want to thank Suzy for her enthusiasm and hard work during her tenure and welcome Madeline to her leadership role. At Madeline's first Board meeting the WUJC board members voted to implement the following new project.

We propose that the Medical Alliance shifts its focus from being Womens' Health Partners to Partners In Life. Whereas in the past we partnered with another female to be their health advocate, our new focus will be **your spouse** and **you**: "The Doctor" and "You" as Partners In Life.

We will continue having those health cards we had in the past that served as reminders for us for those routine screens and exams for the specific age groups, but these cards will be revised to include guidelines for these tests not just for women ages 18-65 and above but also for men ages 20-65 and above.

Why Partners in Life? "The Doctor" in your life is so busy caring for his patients, your family, and dealing with other matters, that so often, his health and welfare takes second place to other concerns. This is not to say that you are not a caring partner for "The Doctor" in your life, but having these health cards inform and remind us of that special role as "That Doctors' "health advocate, facilitator, and most often enforcer. (Don't we all know what difficult patients' doctors make?)

If you knew it was time for your partner's colonoscopy for example, wouldn't you make sure it was scheduled, make sure he did the necessary prep, then drive him to the GI center and hold his hand if needed? (Although I personally think you have to be there not for the hand holding, but to be there to pin him down and get that darn test done!) Yeah, sure they know it has to be done. But you know sometimes they just might try and get out of it if given a chance-like the beeper would conveniently go off 'cause Mr. Whats-his name needs his prescriptions filled. Right at that very moment! Uh huh...

Sooo, do you think you can see the importance and need of this partnership?

PARTNERS IN LIFE - sort of a play on words. You are the partner in his life: you run his household, you do his laundry and you have his VISA card; You are also the partner in charge of his health so he can have his life. Partners In Life if approved and accepted will replace Women's Health Partners and will truly be a program of the Medical Alliance. The health cards can be used by the partners: "The Doctor "in your life and "You" and the whole concept can be adapted in your families and with others. "You" can also be a partner in life with other loved ones. "

From: Washington-Unicoi-Johnson County Medical Alliance
Chair for Women's Health Partners – Marissa Fernan-Taasan

We applaud this new project. Congratulations to WUJC Medical Alliance for creating and implementing the Partners in Life project. Many of our county Alliances, large and small, will want to explore this impressive but easy and practical project for their own use. If your Alliance has a project which you wish to be highlighted in a future issue of our Newsline, please send your information to Judy Ginsberg at TMAA@tma.medwire.org.



- Send in state membership dues to the TMAA office.
- Mail a copy of your newsletter to the TMAA office.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

We are striving to keep our directory as current as possible. Please e-mail changes to TMAA@tma.medwire.org.

Attachment has changes to date.

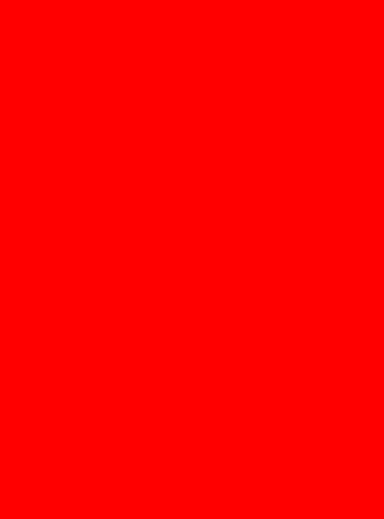
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JANUARY 17 TMAA office – Convention 2007 Planning Meeting

JANUARY 18 TMAA office – Quarterly Finance Meeting

FEBRUARY 12-14 Washington, DC

AMA Legislative Advocacy and AMAA Leadership



Development Conference II You can register online at
AMAAlliance.org under the Event heading.

MARCH 1 Deadline for submitting Health Grant requests

MARCH 15 Deadline for Dolores Chandra Award Nomination

APRIL 27 -28 TMA-TMAA Annual Meeting

Nashville Airport Marriott Hotel

If you would like to have your county alliance event publicized, please
e-mail the information to the TMAA office.