



TMAA NEWSLINE

ALLIED IN CARING AND SHARING

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President's Message

Tennessee Medical Association Alliance is actively working on convention and all the things that come at the end of our year. Please note the calendar with dates of importance. Now is the time to send in **Membership dues.**

Mark your calendar now for the convention. Registration forms will be arriving in March to County Presidents/Contacts. Make sure you get one to complete. All members are welcome. All county presidents are expected as they function as the Board of Directors of our TMAA.

**Allied in Caring and Sharing
Celebrating 80 Years
Of Making a Difference in
Tennessee.
April 18 and 19.**

Give cosmetic representatives a chance to pamper you. For those who arrive early, indulge and pamper yourself with what they have to offer. That's correct, absolutely free.

Such an opportunity and no charge to any of us.

Also.....Silent Auction (Baskets ---- Great gift ideas)

JOIN US AT THE UPCOMING.....

TMAA 80TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

You'll have fun, share fellowship, and do our state alliance business. We'll leave refreshed and full of ideas to make the coming alliance year a good product one.

For the Alliance,
Sarah Higgins

P.I.T.C.H.

Physicians Involved at Tennessee's Capitol Hill (PITCH) – 2008

Dates to Remember:

Feb. 26 PITCH(Middle TN)

March 1 Deadline for submitting Health Grant requests

March 15 Deadline for Dolores Chandra Award Nomination

March 15 Final Membership Dues to TMAA Office

March 18 PITCH (West TN)

March 30 Doctor's Day

March 31 – April 2 AMA Alliance Conference and AMA National Advocacy Conference (NAC) – Winter Session – Washington, DC

April 8 PITCH (East TN)

April 18 – 19 TMA – TMAA Annual Meeting – Nashville Airport Marriott Hotel

TMA will once again be asking TMA members to come to Nashville to show their support for MLR and other issues of great importance to organized medicine. Last year's weekly visits by physicians paled in comparison to the previous year but it still showed lawmakers that physicians are paying attention to the legislative activities. Legislators have voiced their hopes that physicians will stay as involved this year or to even increase the level of activity.

We have again changed the format of PITCH in hopes of increasing participation. We have assigned a day to each grand division of the State. The schedule is as follows:

- Middle Tennessee February 26
- West Tennessee March 18
- East Tennessee April 8

TOP 10 REASONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

10. Making a Difference in your Community
9. Developing Leadership Skills.
8. Being part of a National Organization
7. Finding out about legislation affecting Medicine
6. Building a Network of Colleagues
5. Helping others with county projects
4. Getting to know your community
3. Meeting new friends
2. Supporting each other
1. Supporting the Family of Medicine

If you have not joined the Alliance, please do so now!! Our Future Depends on Your Support!!!

UPDATE

National Health Promotions Committee News From (our own) Jo Terry, HP Chair

2007-08

TMAA Leadership

Sarah Higgins
Darlene Vickers
Kathy Corlew
Suzy Smith
Leanna Wright
Suzanne Greer
Sharon Gerkin
Gail Brabson
Mary Ann Lovelace
Sue Vegors
Jo Terry
Robin Hutchins
Beth Kasper
Madeline Becker
Venetia Johnson
Melissa Portera
Kathi Hall
Dawn Richardson
Milli Yium
Mona Copeland
Nora Lee
Kathy Griffin
Annelle Bond
Barbara Trautman
Marcia Young

Health Promotions Committee members are busy reaching out to their assigned state chairpersons to learn who's doing what. One of our committee goals is to document who is doing what—that is, which national projects are being implemented and what materials are being used. This data will provide information for planning purposes, and help us gauge interest in what we offer from national. We are especially promoting *Screen Out!* with ways to incorporate collecting petition signatures as part of other alliance activities.

We also are seeking applications for the Health Promotion Policy Grants (HPPG). With up to \$500 available per Alliance, these funds can make a difference in providing seed money or supplemental dollars for projects. There are also two \$1,000 grants for policy change related to alcohol awareness.

Most recently, the Southern Regional Conference in Huntsville, AL, provided a forum for sharing Alliance Health Promotion materials, grant opportunities, *Screen Out!* strategies and the American Psychiatric Association (APA) Alliance's cooperative effort: *When Not to Keep a Secret* high school essay contest. [For more information about the contest, click here to visit the Alliance Web site health promotions page.](#)

Prevention is the word that best summarizes Alliance health promotion activities. And for your personal health and fitness, don't forget to keep walking and documenting your miles as part of the 2008 Walking Challenge! We will recognize the winners at the Capitol Conference at the end of March.

Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act

There is a bill (H.R. 536) called the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act which will require insurance companies to cover a minimum 48-hour hospital stay for patients undergoing a mastectomy.

It is about eliminating the "drive through mastectomy" where women are forced to go home a few hours following surgery, against the wishes of their doctor, still groggy from anesthesia and sometimes with drainage tubes still attached.

Lifetime Television has put this bill on their web page with a petition drive to show your support. Please sign the petition by going to the web site

below (only have to give name and zip code), then follow up with an email/call/fax to your congressional representative:

www.lifetimetv.com/breastcancer/petition/signpetition.php

REMINDER

We are striving to keep our calendar as current as possible. Please mail your county news to the TMAA office at:

TMAA
2301 21st Avenue South, P. O. Box 120909,
Nashville, TN 37212

We will try to promote your event by advertising it in our *Newsline*. Thanks for allowing us to help you.

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