



TMAA NEWSLINE

THE ALLIANCE
SERVING ON BEHALF OF MEDICINE

President's Message

Greetings!

This alliance year is passing so rapidly. I have talked with and visited most of our county alliances and I am impressed! You are so important to the health and well-being of the physicians and the communities you serve.

I have had the privilege of visiting several county alliances in October and November. We are a generous and gracious group! The TMAA was welcomed to Chattanooga/Hamilton County Medical Society Alliance in October and West Tennessee Consolidated Medical Assembly Alliance, Weakley County Medical Alliance, Washington-Unicoi-Johnson Medical Alliance and Rutherford County/Stones River Alliance in November.

In Chattanooga Darlene Vickers (Nominating Chair) and I were treated to a wonderful lunch and meeting honoring those members who have been with the alliance for 50 plus years! I even came away with a terrific cookbook put out by this alliance, Hey Good Lookin' What's Cooking? After a delightful fall drive on the first Sunday in November, I was pampered at the home of Sue and Bob Vegors. The next day I got a chance to talk to and visit with the West Tennessee group and the Weakley County Alliance. These two alliances do excellent work in their communities. Later in the week we went to East Tennessee to join the W-U-J County Alliance for a tasty fall meal in Jonesborough AND a program provided by a professional storyteller. Jonesborough, TN is the site of the Annual Storytelling Festival.

The November visits concluded with a visit to the Hope Clinic in Murfreesboro, TN. The Rutherford County/Stones River Alliance was instrumental in getting this free clinic up and running. We enjoyed a delicious lunch and tour of the facility - very impressive. I feel so proud to be an alliance member. Thank you to all for the invitations. Seeing all of you in action is the best part of this job!

November Issue

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Contact Us

TMAA Website:
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E-Mail:
TMAA@tnmed.org

Phone: 615-385-2100

Direct Line: 615-460-1651
1-800-659-1862

AMA Alliance Website:
www.amaalliance.org

Phone: 312-464-4470

Dates to Remember:

- DEC. 3-5** Southern Medical Assoc. Alliance (SMAA) Dallas, TX
- JAN. 29-30** Southern Regional Alliance LDC Raleigh, NC
- FEB. 5-7** North Central State Alliance LDC (St.Louis, MO)
- FEB. 10** PITCH -West TN/PLC
- FEB. 24** PITCH- East TN(except SE TN) & Middle TN
- MARCH 1** Deadline for submitting Health Grant requests
- MARCH 1-3** AMA Alliance Conf. & AMA National Advocacy Conf. (NAC) – Winter Session, Washington, DC
- MARCH 15** Deadline for Dolores Chandra Award Nomination
- MARCH 15** Final Membership dues to TMAA Office
- MARCH 17** PITCH-Southeast TN
- MARCH 30** Doctors' Day
- MARCH 31** Final membership dues to AMA Alliance to determine state delegate count for AMAA Annual Session
- APRIL 9-11** TMA/TMAA ANNUAL MEETING, AIRPORT MARRIOTT, NASHVILLE

2009-10

TMAA LEADERSHIP

Robin Hutchins
Gail Brabson
Dottie Pennington
Mary Ann Lovelace
Beth Kasper
Ellen Evancho
Shawna Dittrich
Sarah Higgins
Darlene Vickers
Andrea Gaume
Madeline Becker
Emily Shore
Mona Copeland
Debra Liening
Amy Sowell
Kellee Bryant
Milli Yium
Leanna Wright
Jamie Singer
Amber Cesare
Annelle Bond
Barbara Trautman
Marcia Young
Tad Lisella
Robert D. Kirkpatrick, MD

We are looking forward to visiting the Knoxville Academy of Medicine Alliance in December. After the holidays we will have lunch with members of the Kingsport Alliance and are privileged to join the Nashville Academy of Medicine Alliance on May 7, 2010 for installation of their 2010-2011 officers.

In January we will turn our attention to visiting the Medical Students/Resident Spouse groups around our state. We will be asking these groups how the TMA/TMAA can best meet their needs. Jamie Singer (Resident/Medical Student Spouses Chair) and I are looking forward to working for and with our young physicians and their partners.

Have a happy and safe Thanksgiving!

Robin

Addendum: Grants available in Tennessee

Attendees at UPDATE 2009 expressed an interest in learning about grants for health projects available in Tennessee. I found some sites that may be of interest:

www.FundsnetOnlineServices.com (Go to Regional Grants and Resource Sites - Tennessee Foundations & Grants)*

www.BlueCrossBlueShieldofTennessee.com (Go to Tennessee Health Foundation)

www.marchofdimes.com/tennessee (Go to Community Grants Program)

*This site lists grants available in most communities in Tennessee.

Word from our Legislative VP ~ Gail

Remember how on long trips with your children, the big question every 10 miles down the road was, "are we there yet?" Well, it seems like that is the same question we all seem to be asking about legislation and health care. The answer is a resounding, NO, we are not there yet! But we could be getting closer to a destination. What do you want to see when we arrive at that destination? You have the power to help determine what is there by becoming involved, reading your emails from TMA *Legistat*, AMA *Advocacy* alerts, and calling your legislators. It doesn't take any more time to do that than a "pit stop" on the trip with your kids.

The family of medicine needs your voice – Register for the Alliance Advocacy Network.

As a member of the Alliance Advocacy Network, you will gain access to legislative alerts at the same time as the nation's physicians. You will also gain access to Alliance Alerts, providing options for your state or county. Become a member of the Alliance Advocacy Network by sending your e-mail address and home address to amaa@ama-assn.org, or call 312.464.4470. Your privacy is guaranteed.

While the focus of health care legislation has been on the national stage this year the TMA is hard at work representing the interest of Tennessee physicians. While physicians disagree about national "healthcare reform", we are hard at work with issues that affect how physicians practice in this state. As far as the national issues, I urge you to follow this very closely. This is sometimes difficult to do because of the rhetoric of extremist on either side of the issue.

Mark the following dates on your calendar for PITCH (formerly Doctor's Day on the Hill) for 2010:

- February 10, 2010 (West TN/PLC*) *Physician Leadership College
- February 24, 2010 (East TN (Except SE TN) & Middle TN)
- March 17, 2010 (Southeast TN)

The Doctor of the Day on Legislative Plaza will be Thursdays beginning January 14, 2010. I urge you to encourage your spouse to volunteer a day if possible. You can call the TMA office to sign up.

Again, I urge you to pay attention to what is going on nationally and in our own state. Please be quick to respond when you receive emails asking you to contact your legislators. Remember, "If you are not at the table, you are probably on the menu."

Gail M. Brabson, VP Legislation

Health Promotions

If you are looking for ideas for projects for your community, amaalliance.org is an invaluable website. Click on the "Project Bank", and view hundreds of suggestions that may benefit your hometown.

It is not too early to be thinking of health grant requests for next year. Updated forms are on the TMAA web site - tmaalliance.org. Grant request form packets will be mailed to county health promotions chairs after January 1, 2010. The deadline for submitting health grant requests is March 1, 2010. If there is any way I can help your county alliance complete a health promotions project, please contact me at sld4@comcast.net.

Remember the Southern Medical Association Alliance (SMAA) is holding their meeting in Dallas, December 3-5, 2009.

Shawna Dittrich, VP Health Promotions



On November 5 we were stunned to learn of the unexpected death of one of our favorite national leaders, John Lovin, who had served as our state's director for two years prior to being elected as AMAA Treasurer 2009-10. To say that the AMAA board was shocked and distressed over this untimely, sad news is a major understatement.

It is hard to comprehend that we have lost John, as the Finance Committee had had a conference call two days before he died. It was ably led by John, who sounded so good to us after his recent back surgery. John experienced complications the next day and suffered a fatal pulmonary embolus. He was 54.

He is survived by his wife, Vickie, a gynecologist, and only daughter, Bonnie, and her husband. John's mother and siblings also are left to mourn his loss. The family asked for memorials to Lakeview Baptist Church, Christian Family Academy Fund, High School Project, 4080 N. Center St., Hickory, N.C. 28601. Condolences to the family may be sent to: 704 W. 7th St., Newton, NC 28658-4218

Sarah Higgins represented TN at the memorial service and reported fitting tributes to John. AMAA President Nancy Kyler shared with the AMAA Board her experience at the burial and reception, where, at a more informal sharing time, his daughter, Bonnie sang "Amazing Grace," the hymn that John had sung to her as a lullaby every night of her childhood. John is buried in a beautiful cemetery on a hillside that Nancy described as a scenic resting place.

John and I had been friends for ten years. This is a profound loss for me personally. He was on the AMAA Health Promotions Committee and the national liaison when I served as TN's HP chairman. When John served as Tennessee's AMAA Director, he came whenever we invited him, sometimes at his own expense. John inspired and educated many of us on a variety of topics that included how to use technology and what it meant to him to be an Alliance member. As a fine leader, outstanding man of principle, and a wise commentator, John embodied the best of what it is to be an Alliance leader. He will be missed by countless friends and Alliance colleagues across the country.

Jo Terry, AMAA Director

Congratulations

Congratulations to proud parents Elizabeth & Dallas Clements on the recent arrival of Matthew Russell born on October 28. We are thrilled for the grandparents Jo and Bill Terry.

Please let us know of any births, weddings, deaths or other note-worthy events that we may add to Cheers and Tears. Just e-mail articles, pictures to Judy at tmaa@tnmed.org

Share with members (especially county leaders)

Great Opportunity To Begin Networking and Leadership Training For Our Grassroots Members

Make your plans now to join Alliance leaders from your neighboring states.

FOR: North Central States Alliance LDC

DATE: February 5-7, 2010

WHERE: Hilton St. Louis Frontenanc (St. Louis, MO)

See e-mail attachment for more information & application.

From the Historian

Please remember to send me any photos or interesting articles about your local alliance and its members that you would like included in this year's TMAA scrapbook!

Madeline Becker
123 Chestnut Ridge Dr
Jonesborough 37659

Doctors Spending More Time With Patients

A new study suggests family doctors are now taking more time consulting with adult patients, seeing them more often and improving the quality of visits. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

TMAA PHILANTHROPIC FUND

The Board of Directors of the TMAA established this fund in January, 2006. The fund may receive tax-deductible contributions for the qualifying projects of the Fund and for sponsoring activities to raise monies to be used exclusively for charitable, scientific, safety and literary or educational purposes.

The fund oversees the consideration and distribution of Health Promotions Grants and AMA Foundation funds.

Memorial or Honorary Gifts may be made to the TMAA Philanthropic Fund.

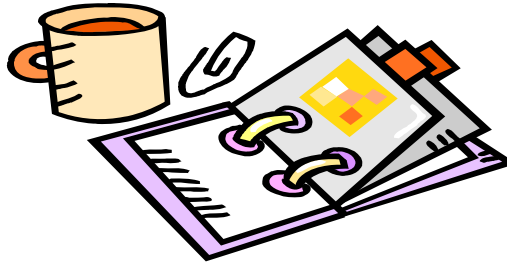
Please include the following information:

1. Name of the deceased or honoree.
2. Name and address of the family receiving the acknowledgment.
3. Your (donor) name and address.

Send your check to:

Mrs. Beth Kasper, Asst. Treasurer
TMAA Philanthropic Fund
3307 Seven Mile Ferry Road
Clarksville, TN 37040

Acknowledgments will be sent to the family of the deceased or honoree and to the donor.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DEC.	3-5	Southern Medical Assoc. Alliance(SMAA) Conference Dallas, TX
DEC.	4	Nashville Academy Of Medicine Alliance Holiday Coffee & Silent Auction
JAN.	29-30	Southern Regional Alliance LDC Raleigh, NC
FEB.	5-7	North Central States Alliance LDC St. Louis, Mo
FEB.	10	PITCH -West TN/ PLC
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