

**Montana Pharmacy Association
Business Meeting
Couer d' Alene Resort
May 31, 2008**

Members & Guest Present

The meeting was attended by 64 MPA members and guest.

Call to Order, Welcome, Approval of Minutes & Financial

MPA Chair Jim Seifert called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

Chairman Seifert highlighted the minutes from the June 9, 2007 business meeting that had been previously made available to the membership. A motion was made to approve the minutes as written. Motion seconded and passed.

Executive Director, Stuart Doggett reviewed the CPA compilation from the previous fiscal year that had been completed by Jan Montayne of Helena. He then reviewed the current year to date financial report prepared by the MPA office on Quick Books. There being no questions a motion was made to approve the financial reports. Motion seconded and passed.

Chairman's Report/Welcome New Board Members King & Shields

Jim Seifert reported that after consultation with the MPA board it was agreed that he will continue to serve as Chairman until the September board meeting instead of making the change at the Annual MPA Business Meeting. He explained that this decision was agreed to in order to provide continuity to the new MPA staff and to provide additional time for the next officers to complete pending business obligations.

Jim reviewed some of the activities his last 12 months as Chair of MPA. He reported the 2008 Winter Conference had been a success and the Board has decided to continue this concept with another MPA Winter Conference on January 9-11, 2009 in Bozeman. Jim explained that in the last few months the MPA Board had conducted interviews with other association management firms and decided to hire Stuart Doggett and his firm, Association Management Plus, Inc. to manage MPA as of January 1, 2008. He expressed his thanks to Jim Smith and his firm for their efforts in providing quality association management services to MPA for the previous 14 years.

Jim said the last year has been a busy one for MPA in the areas of both federal and state policy initiatives. On the federal front, the MPA Legislative/Policy committee members established relationships with members of our Congressional Delegation to effectively advocate and educate them on issues impacting the pharmacy profession. On the state policy side, Jim said he and others on the MPA Board attended meetings of the Board of Pharmacy and spoke out

on regulatory matters that impacted members of MPA. He reminded attendees that 2009 will be a legislative year and he urged them to contact and meet with local legislators before the session so lawmakers know who in their community to contact if they have questions about pharmacy related legislation.

Chairman Seifert introduced the standing members of the MPA Board in attendance including Vince Colucci, Starla Blank, Tobey Schule and Lori Morin. He also announced that Tony King and Eric Shields had been elected as the two new MPA board members in April. He invited Tony and Eric to the front of the rooms for official introduction and installation as new members of the MPA Board.

MPA 2008 Awards and Recognition Ceremony

Starla Blank opened the award ceremony by thanking members for submitting names and nominations for the 2008 awards. The award winners and presenters included the following:

Danielle Petritz, Pharm. D., Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award Winner
Presented by Lori Morin

Eric R. Shields, Pharm. D., Innovative Pharmacy Practice Award Winner
Presented by Lori Morin

John A. Fitzgerald, R. Ph., Bowl of Hygeia Award Winner
Presented by Reed Murdoch

Julie McFarlane, C.Ph.T, Pharmacy Technician of the Year Award Winner
Presented by Kelly Shields

Vince Colucci, R. Ph., Fitzgerald Pharmacist of the Year Award Winner
Presented by Starla Blank

Chairman Seifert congratulated the award winners. He then called on James Willits and Lori Morin who presented a \$2,000 check to Dean Forbes of the Skaggs School of Pharmacy from the Academy of Past MPA Presidents.

Committee and Other Reports

Membership/Benefits:

Jim Seifert reported that as of May 28 MPA had 534 members. He said he was working with Billings area board members to conduct a phone-a-thon one evening to call non-members and urge them to join. If the program is successful he said he would like to try similar efforts in other communities. He reminded members about two membership benefit program endorsed by MPA including quality insurance products from Pharmacist Mutual and Heartland. He explained Heartland is the association's newly endorsed credit card and payroll system provider. He urged members to explore the discounts they can receive from these programs as a member of MPA.

Communications:

Eric Shields reported that MPA will be issuing a revised summer newsletter and it will include pictures of this year's award winners and other issues. He added that changes have been made to the MPA web-site including language changes to the Member Benefits and Join sections. The Join section area now allows members to submit their membership with a credit card on-line or they can print off the correct dues form and send it in with their check to the MPA office. Eric said a Breaking News Section and other features are being considered to enhance the MPA web-site.

Legislative/Policy:

Tobey Schule reported that federal legislation to address AMP and prompt pay is at a stand still. It was speculated that since something has to be done by July 1st that Congress may simply pass an extension to deal with issues at a later date or legislation may be attempted.

On the state legislative front he said the MPA legislative committee is looking at introducing "Advanced Pharmacist Practitioner Bill" and a bill to increase the size of Board of Pharmacy from 6 to 7 members with the stipulation the new member be a licensed pharmacist.

Jim Seifert thanked Tobey for his hard work on the national front for pharmacist in Montana and across the country.

School of Pharmacy:

Dave Forbes, Dean of the School of Pharmacy, introduced the UM faculty members and UM students who were in attendance at the meeting. He reported the UM School of Pharmacy is one of the top ten schools in the nation in the area of research. Dave explained as state support has lessened the school has depended more and more on private and federal dollars to maintain a quality program. Dave said the school is now required to interview each student before admission.

He concluded by reporting that he has reinstated the Tripartite Committee, which includes the executive director of MPA, the executive director of the Board of Pharmacy and the Dean of the School of Pharmacy. The purpose of the committee is to share information and ideas at the committee level and to take mutual actions where appropriate to improve the pharmacy profession in Montana.

Board of Pharmacy:

Ron Klein introduced himself as the new Executive Director for the Montana Board of Pharmacy. He described his background and said that prior to moving to Montana he had been an inspector in the State of Nebraska.

Ron said the six members Board of Pharmacy will have two openings on July 1st. One of the openings is for a public member and a second opening is for a pharmacy technician representative. He said the next meeting of the Board of Pharmacy is scheduled for July 13-14 in Helena.

Ron reviewed some of the requirements for Group CE and said he is asking individuals to submit the presenters resume and program handouts. He reported the Board of Pharmacy is now distributing their quarterly newsletter electronically and also posting the newsletter on their

web-site. Ron concluded by reporting the Board of Pharmacy will be supporting a department bill to enact a Montana Prescription Drug Monitoring program. The emphasis of the bill will be to enhance patient safety.

Montana Medicaid:

Roger Citron urged members with questions regarding Montana Medicaid programs or rules to contact his office or to visit their informative web-site. He also provided updates on various program efforts including the Preferred Drug List, Tamper Resistant Pads and the NPI requirements.

Roger said the PharmAssist Program is going forward and many across the state are going through the required training in order to be qualified.

Necrology Report:

Lori Morin provided the Necrology Report of the seven known former MPA members that had passed on during the past year. The list included; William Cohan, Raymond Dickerson, Bruce Dobney, David Hartwig, Bob Martina, James Mitchell, Jr. and Mary Alice Shott. A moment of silence was held for these former members and other pharmacy professionals that may have passed on during the previous year.

Executive Director:

Stuart Doggett reported that he had assumed the position of Executive Director for MPA on January 1, 2008. He provided a brief background saying that he was a White Sulphur Springs native and grew up on the family cattle ranch that remains in operation. He graduated from the University of Montana with a BA in political science and has been active in governmental affairs and association management in Helena since 1983 where he resides.

He thanked the Board and the previous association management team for MPA for their support and professionalism in helping facilitate a positive transition for his firm to manage MPA. His said the last several months had been busy and he attended meetings of the Board of Pharmacy, the NASPA, and three MPA Board Meetings. He reported he is helping implement a new member benefit and started reaching out to state and national legislators on issues of importance to the pharmacy profession. Stuart concluded by welcoming interested MPA members to visit the office in downtown Helena when they are in the State Capitol.

2008 MPA Resolutions

Jim Seifert referred members to the proposed 2008 MPA Resolutions in their meeting packets. He suggested the resolutions be segregated into two groupings with discussion and action on items 1-4 and then on items 5-7 since the second group involved new subject matters.

Resolutions 1-4

Resolution 2008 -1

Average Manufacture's Price

WHEREAS, the standard benchmark for pharmacy reimbursements has been Average Wholesale Price (AWP); and,

WHEREAS, the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 requires that reimbursement benchmarked to Average Manufacturer's Price (AMP) in 2006-2007; and,
WHEREAS, there are concerns among pharmacists over this transition to a new method of reimbursement including: inadequate reimbursement below acquisition costs, disincentives to dispense generic drugs, and the method by which AMP will be calculated, in which to keep their stores open and services available to Medicaid patients;
BE IT RESOLVED, that MPA urges the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to delay the transition from AWP to AMP until the concerns expressed by Montana and other pharmacists have been resolved; and,
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CMS continue the reporting requirements being used to determine AWP in order to provide this information to state Medicaid programs.

Resolution 2008 -2

Provider Status for Pharmacists

WHEREAS, pharmacists are increasingly educated in patient care and increasingly competent in providing quality patient care; and,
WHEREAS, numerous studies have demonstrated better health outcomes through clinical care provided by pharmacists; and,
WHEREAS, these same studies have shown reduced costs of care through the clinical care provided by pharmacists; and,
WHEREAS, these outcomes and these savings can be realized in the Medicare and Medicaid programs by allowing pharmacists to use standard CPT codes for billing purposes;
BE IT RESOLVED, that MPA urge CMS to approve used of these CPT codes for billing purposed in 2008.

Resolution 2008 -3

Prompt Payment for Medicare Part D

WHEREAS, delayed payment for claims under Medicare Part D presents and undue hardship upon community pharmacists; and,
WHEREAS, pending federal legislation would require prompt payment for Medicare Part D claims;
BE IT RESOLVED, that MPA supports federal legislation to enact prompt payment for Medicare Part D claims.

Resolution 2008 – 4

Compounded Medications and Federal Regulation

WHEREAS, legislation proposing federal regulation of compounding has been drafted; and,
WHEREAS, said legislation would result in decreased patient access to medication; and,
WHEREAS, regulation of pharmacy and medical practice has been historically and appropriately been the jurisdiction of the states, through state pharmacy licensure boards;
BE IT RESOLVED, that MPA oppose developments in federal legislation proposing to regulate compounded medications that is currently under the state board of pharmacy jurisdiction;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MPA urge the Montana Board of Pharmacy to review its administration rules in the area of compounding and update them as necessary.
A motion was made to support MPA 2008 Resolutions 1-4 as proposed. Motion seconded and passed.

Revised Resolutions 5-7

Resolution 2008 – 5

Expand the Board of Pharmacy by one member and require the new member be a pharmacist

WHEREAS, the Board of Pharmacy presently consists of six members appointed by the governor; and,
WHEREAS, three of the members must be licensed pharmacists, one member must be a registered pharmacy technician, and two members must be from the general public; and,
WHEREAS, the board deals with ever increasing complex issues involved in the regulation of the pharmacy profession; and,
WHEREAS, one additional pharmacist on the board would provide professional insight on complex matters before the board to assist them in regulating the pharmacy profession and protecting the public;
BE IT RESOLVED, that MPA supports legislation to modify the structured of the Board of Pharmacy to add one additional licensed pharmacist.

Resolution 2008 – 6

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PMP)

WHEREAS, diversion of controlled substances and other pharmaceuticals is generally recognized as a problem in Montana and the United States; and,
WHEREAS, the majority of other states have prescription drug monitoring programs; and
WHEREAS, these programs have proven to be effective tools in identifying and preventing drug diversion at the prescriber, pharmacy and patient levels; and,
WHEREAS, these programs have proven they can function effectively while still protecting and respecting patient privacy;
BE IT RESOLVED, that MPA supports legislation to establish a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program in Montana.

Resolution 2008 – 7

Professional Right of a Pharmacist to Not Dispense When Reasonable Access

Exist

WHEREAS, a Montana pharmacist has given notice and announced they will no longer dispense oral contraceptives; and,
WHEREAS, this issue was brought to the Board of Pharmacy for discussion by members of the public who have asked the board to intervene on this issue; and,
WHEREAS, there is reasonable access to oral contraceptives and other drugs in Montana; and,
WHEREAS, a pharmacist is similar to other professionals who can choose to provide or not provide specific services;
BE IT RESOLVED, that MPA believes there must be reasonable access for drugs in Montana; and,
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MPA supports the position that a pharmacist has the right to use his or her professional or personal judgment when deciding whether or not to stock or dispense any drug as long as there is reasonable access of this drug to the patient.

A motion was made to support MPA 2008 Resolutions 5-7 with the slight language changes for resolutions 6 and 7 as suggested. Motion seconded and passed.

Other/Adjournment

Gayle Hudgins reported on a recent Geriatrics related survey that she conducted and provided copies to interested members.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Jim Seifert.