President's Column

by Henry Westra

The mission of the Michigan Medical Group Management Association (MMGMA) is to advance the health care industry and the medical group practice management profession by enhancing the skills of individual managers and administrators. This mission is partially fulfilled each time MMGMA convenes one of its Spring or Fall educational conferences.

“Keeping All the Balls in the Air” was the title of MMGMA’s Spring 2002 conference and as you all know that from financial management to human resources management to risk management and beyond there are plenty of balls to keep in the air. Based upon the very positive feedback from conference attendees it would appear they all left better prepared to meet the challenges of each new day.

The quality of MMGMA conferences is possible because of the wonderful support of conference sponsors and exhibitors. I especially like to thank our Platinum conference sponsor, The Rehmann Group; Gold conference sponsor, ProNational Insurance Company; and Bronze conference sponsors, Beene Garter, L.L.P., National City Bank, Smith Haughey Rice & Rogge and Michigan State Medical Society Group Insurance Trust.

The MMGMA Program Committee is busy planning the Fall 2002 conference, which will be in Frankenmuth, September 11, 12 and 13. Mark your calendars now because you will not want to miss the networking, education and just plain fun.

ACMPE College News

by Liz Sayre-King, FACMPE, College Forum Rep

“The American College of Medical Practice Executives supports and promotes the personal and professional growth of health care leaders (physicians and management executives) to work collaboratively to advance the profession of medical practice management.” For those of you who are not familiar with it, this is the ACMPE mission statement. Anyone who joins the College may become a Nominee. After successfully completing a series of examinations, a Nominee advances to Certified Medical Practice Executive. A CMPE advances to Fellow (FACMPE) after completing a paper or series of case studies.

As of last October, in Michigan, we have 52 Nominees, 27 CMPEs and 15 Fellows. These individuals show their commitment to their profession through their membership in the College and their advancement. We need more of us! If you would like more information about the College, or if I can help you with exams or papers, please call me at 231-935-6997, or e-mail me at lsayreking@aol.com.
WHICH DIRECTION WILL YOU TAKE?

by Diane Bristol
MMGMA Legislative Chair

There are many hazards on the road to the future of medical practice management. Are you ready to travel the highway? As you look at where health care is going, I’m sure you will agree that government intervention is everywhere in your practice. Whether it’s Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement (or lack thereof), timely payment, anti-trush/self-referral, patients’ rights, Stark Compliance, OSHA, CLIA, privacy issues, etc., the government is involved.

In Michigan, term limits will be a big factor as we lose some of medicine’s staunch supporters. Sen. Bill Schuette (R-Midland), sponsor of the timely payment legislation, will be term-limited. Many of the legislators who have listened to our comments in the past will be replaced by new faces—faces not necessarily knowledgeable in health care issues. It will be up to every one of us in medical management to become involved and educate our legislators. We need you to make the effort to get to know your legislators. Become involved in their campaigns. Be ready to write letters or make phone calls about an issue when asked. Your MMGMA Legislative Committee has been very active, but a legislator wants to hear from someone in his/her own district.

You have a very unique chance to be the one person who can influence your legislator by providing the grassroots information he or she needs to make an informed decision when voting on a health care issue. Are you ready to take the road to making a difference?

Reminder: Meet your current State Legislators at the MSMS/Alliance/MMGMA Capitol Check-up in Lansing on Wednesday, May 23.

CAUTION
DANGEROUS ROAD AHEAD

MMGMA Compliance Hotline Service

The Board of Directors of the Michigan Medical Group Management Association is pleased to announce the availability of a Compliance Hotline as another service available to its members. This is a continuing commitment by the organization’s leadership to provide even more benefits to its members in the constantly changing medical environment in which we all operate.

It is MMGMA’s goal to provide its members with an excellent quality product at a very reasonable price, member practices will be able to have this compliance hotline available for their staff for an annual fee of $100.00.

For additional information or a registration form please contact Liz Foster at 517-336-7587 or efoster@msms.org.

Mark Your Calendars
MMGMA Fall Conference
September 12-13, 2002
Frankenmuth
MMGMA is a voluntary, member governed organization and is one of the most successful of all state affiliated MGMA programs because of dedicated people willing to give of their time and talents to ensure MMGMA success. MMGMA works hard in many ways not seen by its members for the benefit of its members. It is a privilege to work with many bright and talented people pulling together to keep MMGMA on track to fulfill its mission. But leadership of MMGMA is not an exclusive club. If you have a desire to be more involved, there is a place for you. Jump on-line to www.michmgma.org (newly updated with the new logo and artwork) and review the various committees to see what might be of interest. Contact me or any other officer who will help you get connected. MMGMA will only be as good as you want it to be.

Community Service Awards Project

MMGMA Participation by Henry Westra, MMGMA President

Each year MMGMA is invited to participate with the Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) Community Service Award. The goal is to recognize a physician, medical group manager and a MSMS Alliance member whose outstanding contributions to the community are above and beyond his/her daily activities. Categories of outstanding service and leadership would include volunteer medical work, overseas missionary work, volunteer health education efforts, etc. MMGMA participation in the past has been spotty at best. My personal goal this year is to identify such a person within the ranks of MMGMA for recognition by both MMGMA and MSMS for their efforts. But I need your help. Although the awards will not be presented until the spring of 2003 I am asking you to begin now to identify a person who, in your opinion, is worthy of such recognition. There will be more information later this year and requests for your nominations and I thank you in advance for your help.

Welcome New Members!

Rebekah Wallace
Grayling
Heidi Dale
Southfield
Rebecca Charkowski
Kalamazoo
Myron Lewis
Petoskey
Linda Kirk
Grand Rapids
Barbara Kovacs
Grand Haven
Teresa Baker
Warren
Julia Pierce
Lansing
Janet Zvonek
Sterling Heights
Roberta Begley
Petoskey
Malissa Leon
Grand Rapids
Filipiwas (Pearl) Santillian
W. Bloomfield
Rose Olszewski
Troy
Linda Duncan
Grand Rapids
Carol Fewless
Grand Rapids
Anne Sienkiewicz
Dearborn
Shawn Karrar
Grand Rapids
Jennifer Richardson
Grand Rapids
Lynda Bower
Grand Rapids
Kathleen Burdette
Troy
Stacey Wagner
Grand Rapids
Paula Royer
Battle Creek
Celeste Clark
Grand Rapids
Darlene Brown
Grand Rapids
Diane Strouse
Grand Rapids
Maria Norman
Grandville
Jennifer Kent
Grand Rapids
Heyam Dollah
Holland

Medical Group Management Association

MMGMA
Michigan
A State Affiliate
Spend Time with Your Lawmakers at Capitol Check-Up

MSMS members, Alliance members, and MMGMA members are invited to participate in grassroots politics during the annual Capitol Check-Up, on Thursday, May 23 at the State Capitol in Lansing. The event, which will last from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., will provide participants with valuable access to state lawmakers and a wonderful opportunity to bring forward issues of medicine and patients, particularly during an election year. Some issues to consider addressing with legislators include Self-referral bill (SB 517), Certificate of Need bills (SB 787-791, 802), Timely Payment bills (SB 451-452), Optometry Scope of Practice bills (HB 5548-5552, SB 1087-1091), and Medicaid funding. Many state lawmakers and their staffs have confirmed their participation in this event. Last year’s Capitol Check-Up drew more than 300 participants.

The day will begin with a registration and lunch on the Capitol lawn, followed by breakout sessions with several state legislators and other key speakers. APCapital will sponsor this year’s event, which is a joint effort of MSMS, MSMS Alliance, Michigan Medical Group Management Association, and Michigan Doctors’ Political Action Committee.

For more information about Capitol Check-Up or state legislation, or to RSVP, contact Colin Ford at MSMS at 517-336-5737 or cford@msms.org. Or visit www.msms.org and click on “Grassroots Political Action.”

Getting Excited about the Fall Conference in Frankenmuth?

Browse at our website, michmgma.org, and click on the “Bavarian” link for more exciting Frankenmuth activities and information.