Mindy Throm Burnworth, Carol Rollins, and Christi Jen served as the Arizona Delegates during this year’s American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) House of Delegates (HOD) 67th Annual Session in Denver, Colorado. Arizonian Phillip Schneider, ASHP Past President, also served as a Delegate.

The HOD is the authority over ASHP professional policies, which express the Society’s stance on important issues related to health-system pharmacy practice and medication use. The House meets annually at the ASHP Summer Meeting where it reviews policy proposals that have been approved by the Board of Directors. Most professional policies are initially proposed by ASHP members and then drafted by ASHP Councils or the Executive Committees of Sections and Forums.

The development of good policy takes time and benefits from active, constructive discussion. In early May 2015, the Arizona Delegates attended the Regional Delegate Conferences (RDC) in Phoenix, AZ. During this conference, proposed changes to policies were discussed. Jen reflects on her experience, “Attending the RDC for the ASHP House of Delegates was another great experience as an active member of both ASHP and the Arizona Pharmacy Association. My third year of experience attending the RDC was easier because I was able to navigate the process better. It also helped that the ASHP HOD developed a webinar previously explaining what the process will be like.” Discussion occurring at the RDC is posted to ASHP Connect (ASHP’s online member communication tool). ASHP Connect allows individuals to connect with peers, discuss topics of interest, and share ideas and expertise. Expand your network and join the discussion at http://connect.ashp.org/ASHP/Home. Finally, the policies are voted on during the HOD session. Upon approval by the ASHP Board of Directors, the policies are official.

During the House meetings (June 7 and 9, 2015), the Arizona Delegates along with approximately 200 other Delegates, collectively reviewed over 30 policy items, one resolution, and one statement. The Arizona Delegates wish to communicate the outcome of the policy process to you, our Arizona constituents. The new ASHP initiatives (including reflections on Pharmacist Recognition as a Healthcare Provider, Pharmacy Involvement in the Procurement and Sale of Medical Marijuana, Pharmacists’ Involvement in Emergency Response, and many others) are available online at: www.ashp.org/DocLibrary/Policy/HOD/2015HODPolicies.pdf. For those wishing to view the policies with corresponding rationale, use the following link: www.ashp.org/DocLibrary/Policy/HOD/2015HODPoliciesRationale.pdf. The professional policies approved by the 2015 ASHP House of Delegates are also published in the American Journal of Health-System Pharmacists August 15, 2015 72:e49-e54; doi:10.2146/sp150034.

What is on the horizon for the 2015-2016 policy year? 29 new recommendations were made by members of the HOD and will serve as agenda items. The recommendations are available at: www.ashp.org/DocLibrary/Policy/HOD/HODRecommendations.pdf.

In addition to the House proceedings, one Arizona pharmacist received special recognition at the ASHP Summer Meeting. Mindy Throm Burnworth, PharmD, FAzPA, BCPS, Midwestern University College of Pharmacy-Glendale, Glendale, AZ was given the title “Fellow” by ASHP in recognition of excellence achieved in pharmacy practice. Members who have achieved FASHP status have successfully demonstrated sustained commitment or contributions to excellence in practice for at least 10 years,
contributed to the total body of knowledge in the field, demonstrated active involvement and leadership in ASHP and other professional organizations, and have been actively involved in and committed to educating practitioners and others.

The push for provider status at the national level is moving full steam ahead, and ASHP and the Arizona Pharmacy Association are supporting this initiative. Passing provider status legislation will help our patients receive the care they need and deserve, and will enhance the capabilities of pharmacists to provide that care to them. As of August 13, 2015 there are 185 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives and 28 in the Senate for the Pharmacy and Medically Underserved Areas Enhancement Act (H.R. 592 and S. 314, respectively). As impressive as these accomplishments are, we are asking our Arizona pharmacists to substantially increase their efforts to help increase the co-sponsors to at least 218 in the House and 50 in the Senate. The numbers 218 and 50 represent support by at least half of the House and Senate, respectively, and send a strong signal to congressional leadership that these are serious bills that demand action by committees and ultimately on the floors of both the House and Senate. Contact your Senate and House of Representative member to sponsor the Pharmacy and Medical Underserved Areas Enhancement Act (H.R. 592 and S. 314) by visiting the ASHP Advocacy Website: http://www.ashp.org/menu/Advocacy/GrassrootsNetwork. Please click on Take Action! to contact your representative. We need more representatives from Arizona to sponsor this bill. For information on how to make a donation to ASHP’s PAC (Political Action Committee) see www.ashp.org/pacdonate.

Thank you for electing us to represent Arizona during the 67th Annual Session of the ASHP HOD. As a pharmacist and ASHP member, your voice counts and is especially important to advance pharmacists as health care providers! Your feedback is encouraged. Contact Mindy Throm Burnworth mburnw@midwestern.edu, Carol Rollins Carol.Rollins2@bannerhealth.com, or Christi Jen Christi.Jen@bannerhealth.com.
Attendees at the ASHP Regional Delegate Conference hosted in Phoenix, Arizona on May 3-4, 2015. (left to right) AZ Delegate Carol Rollins, ASHP President Christene Jolowsky, ASHP Board of Director Ranee Runnebaum, AZ Delegate Christi Jen. (not pictured) AZ Delegate Mindy Throm Burnworth and ASHP Past President / Arizonian Phillip Schneider attended on May 5-6, 2015.
Delegates to ASHP House of Delegates and Arizona Pharmacist Association Members at ASHP HOD meeting in June 2015. (left to right): Phillip Schneider, Carol Rollins, Christi Jen, Mindy Throm Burnworth
Mindy Throm Burnworth receiving ASHP Fellow status (FASHP) at the ASHP Summer Meeting. (left to right): Carol Rollins, Mindy Throm Burnworth, Christi Jen