

THURSTON-MASON COUNTY

Medical Society

November 2015

## Newsletter

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### MESSAGE FROM THE TMCMS PRESIDENT

**By Bob Lang, MD**

I have just returned from the Washington State Medical Association Board of Trustees quarterly meeting. "Healthy Doctors, Healthier Patients" is a 2-year initiative that is being developed to study ways to promote legislation to lessen stresses on practicing physicians in this rapidly changing practice environment. The study will expose and illuminate the effect of practice burdens on physicians who now spend up to 22% of their time on administrative tasks and recordkeeping rather than direct patient care. The five areas of study will include: credentialing, prior authorizations, more responsibilities for medical assistants, benefit managers and virtual credit cards.

Katie Kolan, WSMA legislative director, discussed various bills of medical significance that will be presented in the upcoming 2016 legislative session. A bill limiting balance billing to 150% of Medicare fees is one that is under close scrutiny. Some legislators apparently would like patients to never see a medical bill. There was a detailed discussion about what the WSMA's position should be on non-compete causes. For more information, visit the WSMA website at [http://wsma.org/doc\\_library/ForMembers/BOT/v5\\_151\\_107\\_BOT\\_Packet\\_Supplemental.pdf](http://wsma.org/doc_library/ForMembers/BOT/v5_151_107_BOT_Packet_Supplemental.pdf)

The Spring Gala is not far off and your medical society needs your help and generosity. We need all of your participation to make this event a success.

Just a reminder, we have postponed the New Members Social which was scheduled for December 4 due to a conflict with a Providence event. We are now planning to hold the New Members Social in the spring.

### BLOOMING WITH HEALTH – TMCMS Gala March 26, 2016

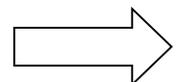
The TMCMS is hosting a spring Gala and all are welcome and encouraged to attend. The Gala will provide an evening of entertainment with dinner, dancing and an auction to raise funds for worthy causes supporting community health in Thurston and Mason Counties. Please invite your friends and colleagues to attend this exciting community event.

We hope the Gala will become an annual event. The Kitsap Medical Society's Fire and Ice Gala is a great example of what we hope our Gala will become. <http://www.kcmedical.org/FireIce/>

The Volunteer Care Institute, TMCMS's 501(C)3 non-profit organization will divide any funds in excess of the direct expenses of the Gala equally between the Olympia Free Clinic in Thurston County and the Shelton Pool at the Shelton High School in Mason County.

The mission of The Olympia Free Clinic: <http://oly-wa.us/olyfreeclinic/> is to provide uninsured or underinsured adults access to quality and appropriate health care services and linkages to community services. They have had great difficulty finding specialist care for their patients since Project Access was mothballed. While the grant from the Gala will be unrestricted, it could go towards resurrection of Project Access.

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The Shelton High School pool was in danger of closing until **SPLASH** (Support and Preserve Lifelong Aquatic Safety and Health) of Mason County stepped in and raised funds to support its continued operation. The pool provides an important resource for all members of the Mason community and the funds from the Gala will be used to help complete this project and keep the pool open. To learn more about this important project <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofthesheltonpool/>

Please give generously as a sponsor, donor and attendee. These worthy organizations need our support. The TMCMS Board will do everything in its power to make this dinner and dance a truly memorable evening.

**TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ONLINE ON THE TMCMS WEBSITE AT [www.tmcms.org](http://www.tmcms.org). THERE IS A DIRECT LINK ON THE TMCMS HOMEPAGE.**

Purchase your tickets before December 31 to get the early bird price of \$87. Prices go up to \$90 after December 31.

Thank you in advance for your support of this event. We look forward to seeing all of you in March. We are also looking for businesses or individuals who would like to sponsor the Gala. Listed below are the different levels of sponsorship available.

#### Event Sponsorship Opportunities

##### \$10,000 Platinum

1. Recognition as a Platinum Gala sponsor
2. 20 tickets (2 tables)
3. Business logo included on the guest invitation (deadline Dec. 15, 2015)
4. Special recognition in opening speeches with short promo video or representative speaker from your company
5. Large signage recognition & special recognition in event program
6. Recognition in TMCMS newsletter prior and after event
7. Business logo with direct link to your website on TMCMS website

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8. Two bottles of red and white wine at your tables

##### \$5,000 Gold

1. Recognition as a Gold Gala Sponsor
2. 10 tickets (1 table)
3. Business logo included on the guest invitation (deadline Dec. 15, 2015)
4. Special recognition in opening speeches with short promo video or representative speaker from your company
5. Large signage recognition & special recognition in event program
6. Recognition in TMCMS newsletter prior and after event
7. Business logo with direct link to your website on TMCMS website
8. Two bottles of red and white wine at your table

##### \$2,500 Silver

1. Recognition as a Silver Gala Sponsor
2. 6 tickets
3. Special recognition in opening speeches
4. Large signage recognition
5. Special recognition in event program
6. Recognition in TMCMS newsletter prior and post event
7. Business logo with direct link to your website on TMCMS website
8. Two bottles of red and white wine at your table

##### \$1,000 Bronze

1. Recognition as a bronze Gala sponsor
2. 4 tickets

#### **WSMA ANNUAL HOUSE OF DELEGATE MEETING**

Six TMCMS board members attended the WSMA annual House of Delegates meeting in September in Spokane. The TMCMS sponsored four resolutions, three of which were accepted by the House of Delegates. These resolutions were:

**C-2 – Recognize Alternatives to the ABMS MOC and Recertification Process** RESOLVED, that the WSMA will support alternative pathways for board recertification (i.e. NBPAS) and maintenance of certification; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the WSMA will propose this resolution to the AMA for consideration at its next meeting.

**C-4 – Universal Health Coverage for Washington State** RESOLVED, that the WSMA establish a workgroup to

study and monitor efforts to achieve universal health coverage in Washington state. Proposed reforms should be evaluated using criteria in WSMA policy and also articulated by the Institute of Medicine, summarized as: universal, continuous, affordable (for individuals and families), sustainable (for society as a whole), and providing high quality health care, with a full report presented to the House of Delegates next year.

**C-8 – Opposition to Coal Exports and Oil Transport and Storage in Washington State** RESOLVED that WSMA support legislation that works to prevent or minimize potential deleterious health effects related to transportation of coal and oil by train through Washington State.

### WHAT DOES THE COUNTY MEDICAL BOARD DO FOR YOU?

By Ken Lee, MD, TMCMS Board Member

Many members of the TMCMS and WSMA remark to me, "I pay my dues but I don't know what the medical societies do for me." I can report that during the recent annual meeting of the WSMA in Spokane, I, along with the support of the TMCMS board, authored and was successful in getting passed resolution C-2 at the WSMA House of Delegates This resolution says that **WSMA supports alternative board recertification bodies such as the National Board of Physicians & Surgeons (NBPAS.org) and also the new GAPP maintenance of certification process by the American Gastroenterological Association ([gastro.org](http://gastro.org)).**

These alternative boards have deleted the locked room, closed book high-stakes exam that has been forced upon working MDs for decades by the American Board of Medical Specialties. Prior to 2014, the ABMS was the sole monopoly that recertified all US physicians and surgeons. The new boards provide a more humane method of ensuring continuing education for our profession. My resolution for 2015 adds to my 2014 resolution that WSMA also adopted. That resolution states the WSMA opposes mandatory MOC/recertification by the ABMS as a condition of licensure, employment, insurance contracting and hospital privilege. Although these resolutions are not state law, it is a starting point for insurance and hospital credentialing. The TMCMS is concerned about the excessive stresses placed upon the

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younger members and hopefully these resolutions can relieve this unreasonable burden.

### OCTOBER OPIOID MEETING UPDATE

TMCMS would like to thank the many physicians who attended our October membership meeting on "Responsible Management of Opioid Prescribing and the WA State Prescription Monitoring Program". We especially thank Dr. Gary Franklin, Medical Director of the WA State Department of L&I and Chris Baumgartner, Director of the WA State Prescription Monitoring Program for their presentations.

Many physicians in attendance were able to register for online Prescription Monitoring Program at the meeting. If you have not already done so, please visit the WA Department of Health webpage to sign up for this program.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

#### December

- No TMCMS board meeting

#### January

- TMCMS board meeting, Thursday, January 21 from 6:30-8:00 PM

#### February

- WSMA Legislative Summit, Tuesday, February 9
- TMCMS Annual Meeting, Thursday, February 18 at the Olympia Country & Golf Club

#### March

- TMCMS board meeting, Thursday, March 17 from 6:30-8:00 PM
- Blooming with Health – TMCMS Gala, Saturday, March 26 at the Indian Summer Golf & Country Club

#### April

- Meeting of the Gut Club of SW Washington. Date to be announced.
- TMCMS board meeting, Thursday, April 21 from 6:30-8:00 PM

**It's time to renew your medical society membership for 2016. Save \$25 on your state medical society membership if you register online before December 31. Visit the WSMA website at [www.wsma.org](http://www.wsma.org) to renew today.**

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