



September 2013

Newsletter

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Message from the TMCMS President **By Rachel Reeg, MD**

Two weeks ago the TMCMS Board of Trustees met at Summit Pacific Medical Center for our monthly board meeting. Providers Mary Ellen Biggerstaff, ARNP and Shawn Andrews, MD joined us for a tour of the new well-designed hospital and clinic with expanded resources from the previous Mark Reed Hospital serving the same region. Dr. Andrews stayed for our board meeting and further discussion included how the medical society can reach out to local counties and encourage physicians to advocate for themselves and their patients through the WSMA. We all enjoyed meeting in Elma. Thank you for your hospitality!

Several member of the board will be attending the WSMA annual meeting at the end of September. We are looking forward to this meeting, with the goals as mentioned above—to advocate for physicians and patients. Activities will include reviewing resolutions from regional medical societies, spending time with colleagues from around the state, and hearing some great speakers. If you are interested in the activities of the TMCMS and WSMA, let us know, we are always interested in physicians who want to participate in this meeting or as a board member.

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2013 Membership Directories Now Available

The 2013 Membership Directors have been mailed and delivered, but if you have not yet received yours, please contact the medical society at jlayton@tmcms.org or (360) 352-1417.

WSMA Annual Meeting – September in Spokane

It is not too late. Plan now to attend the annual meeting of the House of Delegates, September 28-29, 2013. The meeting will be held at the Davenport Hotel in Spokane

and all members are invited to participate. For additional information and to register, please visit www.wsma.org

WSMA October Workshop for Medical Staff Leaders

WSMA is sponsoring a special one-day workshop in October designed specifically for medical staff leaders. The topic is "Peer Review" and this will be an "interactive" workshop featuring Dr. Ed Walker from the UW and WSMA's own Physician/Attorney Dr. Denny Maher. Given the unique role-play aspect of this course, the class will be limited to 36 members so everyone will have the opportunity to fully participate in the interactivity. It will be held at the SeaTac Hilton Hotel on Friday, October 18. **This workshop has been approved for 8 hours of CME credit.** For more information visit the WSMA webpage at:

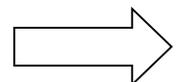
<http://wsma.org/medical-staff-leaders-workshop>

2013 Project Access Golf Tournament

The Thurston Mason Medical Society and Thurston County Project Access, a program of CHOICE Regional Health Network hosted their 2nd Annual Project Access Charity Golf Tournament at Indian Summer Country Club in Olympia on July 26th. Thurston County Project Access helps Thurston County adults who are 200% below the federal poverty level, and have an urgent or acute medical issue receive medical care. This last calendar year Project Access helped over a 1,000 individuals and they received about 9 million dollars in donated care.

TMCMS and Project Access want to thank all the golfers who came out, had a blast and made a difference. We also offer special, deep heart felt gratitude to our sponsors who made this a worthwhile event.

1800 Cooper Point Road SW, #7-A
Olympia, WA 98502
(360) 352-1417



Project Access Awardees:

- Best Score: Physicians Insurance Team
 - Mike Jones, Jeanne Jones, Bob Leonard, and Todd Greinch
- Hole in One Champion: Mike Jones
- Closest to the Pin Men: Scott Tibbits
- Closest to the Pin Women: Medrice Coluccio
- Top Raffle Prize (Nike 9 Irons): Dr. Rodney Joe

A Special Thanks to Our Project Access Tournament Sponsors

ACS Translations
Andrew J. Kapust, DDS
Austin R Smith III, DDS
Capital Medical Center
Gastroenterology Associates
GHB Insurance
Inspire Physical Therapy
Kathy Thompson REMAX
Kiley Juergens
Lucky Eagle Casino and Hotel
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Panowicz Jewelers
Obie Credit Union
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Panorama City
Peter Mattich (State Farm)
Physicians Insurance
Providence St. Peter Hospital
South Sound Radiology
Thurston Mason Medical Society
Venables Pest Management
Yelm Physical Therapy

Legislative Update from WSMA

SGR Repeal Bill Progresses Act Now to Urge Continued Work

Surprisingly efforts to address Medicare SGR are happening prior to holiday wares coming out on our local stores' shelves. Usually efforts to stave off the cuts happen in the midst of the DC shutting down for winter break. Not so this year. Last week H.R. 2810, the "Medicare Patient Access and Quality Improvement Act" passed out of the House Energy and Commerce Committee by a vote of 51-0.

The bill repeals the SGR and provides for a five year period of stability while a new quality reporting program is developed. The bill provides for updates of 0.5% and the ability to earn additional updates under the new reporting requirement beginning in 2019. Furthermore, the bill creates a pathway for the implementation of new and innovative delivery and payment models. (Absent a permanent fix to the SGR formula or other Congressional short term remedy, the 2014 conversion factor will drop by 24.4%, from \$34.0230 to \$25.7109.)

Members of Washington's congressional delegation are now back in the state, making this a key time to reach out to your local congressperson and our two state senators to encourage them to support these bipartisan legislative efforts, urge improvements to the legislation, and build momentum toward repeal of the SGR formula.

The AMA has created an action kit to help prep you on the topic. Please take a moment over the next several weeks and reach out to your congressional representative and our two senators with the following messages:

- Congress must finally act this year to repeal the SGR.
- Payment updates must allow physician practices to keep pace with the cost of caring for our nation's senior and disabled population.
- Existing burdens and penalties must be reduced.
- New systems should not be overly burdensome or duplicative of current efforts.
- Physicians must have the opportunity to lead in the development of quality metrics and alternative payment and delivery models.

For membership information, please contact the Medical Society office at 360.352.1417.

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