

Bulletin

JAN/FEB 2009

MEMBER MAGAZINE FOR THE POLK COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY



2009
Annual Meeting

Invention of
the Calendar

Legislative
Report

Announcing

The Volunteer Physician Network Video

The Volunteer Physician Network Video was unveiled at the Polk County Medical Society's Annual Meeting January 25th.

The PCMS Volunteer Physician Network video was developed as a fundraising tool to help sustain the program. The PCMS is also offering the VPN video to doctors and their staff who would like to learn more about the volunteer process and to promote awareness of the specialty care referral program. The VPN video will be used in fundraising as we ask the community for support from foundations, businesses, and community leaders to sustain the program.

The VPN video is now available. The VPN staff is available to meet with doctor groups to present the video and talk about the program. To schedule an appointment with staff or to receive a copy of the video, please contact the VPN office at 288-6346 or email vpn@pcms.org.

*Official Publication
of the Polk County
Medical Society*

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Des Moines, Iowa
January/February 2009

2009
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JAN/FEB 2009

MEMBER MAGAZINE FOR THE POLK COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

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ON COVER: 2009 President, Robin W. Barnett, D.O., presents plaque to outgoing President, Craig R. Mahoney, M.D.

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“ Outstanding Service ” AWARD

Congratulations to Kathie J. Lyman, Executive Director of the Polk County Medical Society, who was presented with an Outstanding Service Award from the Polk County Medical Society.

Senator Charles Grassley presented the award to Kathie on behalf of the doctors who recognized Kathie's 19 years of dedicated commitment to the Polk County Medical Society physicians and the Iowa medical community. It also expressed the Society's appreciation for Kathie's tireless efforts in organizing advocacy activities at the Iowa Capitol and Washington, D.C. The physicians of the Polk County Medical Society are grateful to Kathie for her remarkable efforts to make this community a better and healthier place.



“It Is A New Day!”



Robin W. Barnett, D.O.

It is a new day! Change is upon us. At our annual meeting, January 25th, we had the honor of Senator Charles Grassley as

a keynote speaker. He spoke of the future of healthcare. It is the first time since 1993 and Clinton's administration that healthcare reform has a chance for change and improvement. This gives each and every one of us an opportunity and a responsibility to be heard and make a difference in medicine, but we need your help! Polk County Medical Society Board of Directors, our lobbyists: Justin, John and Kathie Lyman cannot do it alone. If we do nothing – nothing will change. It is time now for us to stand together and let our voices be heard in Washington and at the State Capitol on what is right for medicine and right for our patients. We are stronger together!

Now is your chance to help the uninsured and underserved. There are 47 million uninsured people in the United States. With the worsening recession and layoffs, these numbers are expected to increase. For every 1% rise in unemployment, there are 1 million people that become uninsured. Patients are in a panic. They want “it all” before their insurance runs out (such as colonoscopies, mammograms, prescriptions filled, etc). Some patients feel as if they are free falling. It is quite frightening to them.

PCMS is a part of the Volunteer Physician Network. The VPN serves the uninsured and the underserved. PCMS is almost 1,000 members strong. We challenge you to see just one uninsured patient a week. If you do this, just imagine the difference we can make. If each of us sees one uninsured patient a week that is 52,000 people that have access to quality care. In 5 years, the number is over one-quarter of a million patients seen! Imagine the difference you can make in these patients lives by helping them to retain their dignity, their pride and have access to quality medical care. Together we are stronger! Call Kathie Lyman today to sign up for the Volunteer Physician Network that allows you to integrate the uninsured and underserved patients into your practice in a seamless manner.

As we look forward to the next year, there are many advocacy issues, which Polk County Medical Society will continue to try to address. These include Medicaid. With recent budget cuts, a possible 4% decrease in your payment, we are lobbying congress for the Federal Match Program to increase dollars for the State Assistance Program.

Medicare remains a constant challenge for providers to get paid fairly in Iowa. Payment reimbursement needs to reflect the increasing costs of the practice of medicine. Our ability to get paid fairly in Iowa will have a trickle down effect to our

continued on page 6

ability to recruit students into medicine and our maneuverability to get partners into our practice and retain our current partners in the state of Iowa. We continue to advocate in Washington to fix Iowa's Medicare payments to physicians.

In 2009, PCMS will continue efforts to look at the regulation of the insurance companies and their current Pay For Performance Programs. PCMS is striving for the **doctor** to establish the standard of care and quality of care for management for our patients' medical needs, **not** the insurance company dictating to us the standard of care. In the mean time, we need to teach our doctors the rating and measures that are currently used by the insurance company, so the providers can continue to receive and maintain an above average grading.

This is an exciting and rewarding time to be in medicine. One of the biggest innovations currently at hand is electronic medical records. It is difficult for many of us to scrap a medical chart, an efficient system that is time tested, to now look at a system that is painful to learn. As we watch our teenagers simultaneously watch a big screen TV (split ½ football game the other

½ video game) with computer on their lap searching the Internet, iPod earplugs in, while text messaging someone on their phone - all while doing their homework and maintaining 4 point grade averages, the future of medicine is going to explode in technology as these bright students become our future doctors.

But, when it's all said and done, a patient still needs a doctor when they are laying flat on their back on a gurney in the emergency room suffering a heart attack and the attending doctor asks, "Who is your doctor"? Let's hope a patient never says, "Dr. Kiosk at Walgreens on 86th Street"!

Our patients still need a compassionate, caring provider to look into their eyes as they share their health concerns. Patients still need the caring hand of their doctor on their shoulder as they grieve the loss of a family member. And our patients still need us to hold their hand compassionately as we help lead them to better health. I encourage you to get involved with PCMS this year! Make a difference! Choose to do something!

We, at PCMS, look forward to seeing you this year!



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Polk County Medical Society

“Legislative Report”

January/February 2009



Justin Hupfer
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SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

The 2009 session of the Iowa Legislature convened January 12th facing difficult economic challenges on the heels of natural disasters that impacted nearly every corner of the state. Clearly, the focus this session is on disaster relief and putting together a state budget that works. Democrats control the Governor's office and the Legislature (House has 56 Democrats to 44 Republicans and the Senate has 32 Democrats to 18 Republicans).

In his Condition of the State speech, Gov. Culver proposed appropriating \$43 million from the state's Economic Emergency Fund to provide financial support to communities and individuals impacted by the record flooding and tornadoes of 2008. The Legislature approved \$56 million for these purposes. The Governor is expected to approve this legislation.

Iowa faces a \$779 million budget gap in FY2010 according to the Legislative Services Agency. This means authorized or anticipated expenditures exceed projected revenues by \$779 million in the coming fiscal year. Additionally, Gov. Culver has ordered \$167.7 million in budget cuts for the current fiscal year, FY2009, to keep pace with falling revenues.

Of particular interest to the members of the Polk County Medical Society, the Department of Human Services announced it may reduce Medicaid payments to providers by 4% in order to meet the Governor's FY2009 cut. The reduced provider payments would be put into effect on March 1st unless the Congress approves additional Medicaid money for the states in the economic stimulus legislation under consideration.

Gov. Culver's proposed FY2010 budget reduces General Fund net expenditures by \$88.5 million as compared to FY2009. The Governor's FY2010 budget applies the 6.5% cut to the Medicaid budget along with most state programs. Congress is considering additional money for Medicaid in FY2010. We will be working with legislators involved in appropriations for Medicaid to address the needs of health care providers.

Sen. Hatch unveiled SF48, a health care reform bill, in late January. It includes a provision that will indemnify providers that provide specialty care in their offices. This provision will enhance the medical services doctors offer through the Volunteer Physician Network. PCMS leadership discussed the idea with Sen. Hatch prior to the session. We worked with Sen. Hatch to include the provision in his health care reform bill.

Other areas of interest to PCMS in SF48 are:

- Healthcare workforce shortage initiative – Creates a fund under the control of the College Student Aid Commission to provide grants to support medical residency training, a health care professional loan repayment program, a nurse educator forgivable loan program and nursing faculty fellowship programs. The fund may receive public and private funds.
- Prohibition and disclosure of gifts – Prohibits gifts from manufacturers and wholesalers of prescription drugs, biologics and medical devices to healthcare practitioners who participate in

state health programs. Allowable gifts must be reported to the state by the manufacturers and wholesalers.

- Transparency – The Department of Public Health will adopt rules to direct hospitals to submit data on inpatient, outpatient and ambulatory information to the Iowa Healthcare Collaborative.

A regulatory issue impacting scope of practice is also under review by the Legislature. In December, the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Board of Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy proposed a rule regarding physician ownership of physical therapy/occupational therapy services. PCMS is opposing the rule, which would not permit doctors to hire physical/occupational therapists or have a financial interest in a physical therapist/occupational therapist group. The Legislature's Administrative Rules Review Committee certainly had concerns with the rule as proposed, and referred it to the Legislature for its review. To be clear, the rule will continue through the rulemaking process (the referral to the legislature didn't end the process). However, there will be further discussion with the Department of Public Health and the Board of Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy. PCMS will be involved in these discussions.

Two bills – SSB1001 and SSB1092 -- allowing physician assistants, nurse practitioners and others to form limited liability companies are being closely monitored by PCMS.

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Congratulations to **Nader Ajluni, D.O.**, who was featured in the Des Moines Register December 31, 2008, for his knowledge in treating children's colds.



Congratulations to **David Drake, D.O.**, who was appointed to the Human Rights Commission at the recommendation of Mayor Frank Cownie.



Congratulations to **Neil Mandsager, M.D.**, who was featured in the Des Moines Register December 17, 2008, for his use of photography to help raise money for children affected by the war in Uganda and his work as a perinatologist.



Congratulations to **Gregory Schmunk, M.D.**, who was featured in the Des Moines Register January 31, 2009, for his expert witness in a homicide case.



Congratulations to **Craig Stevens, M.D.**, who was featured in the Des Moines Register January 14, 2009, for the opening of the new Iowa Health Cardiology satellite location in Ankeny.



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Volunteer Physician Network

Meet VPN Staff



Nicci Dean has been hired as the administrator for the Polk County Medical Society Volunteer Physician Network. She has more than 10 years of experience working with those in need.

She developed a passion for helping people while working for MidAmerican Energy Company as manager of the Customer Service Office. Her leadership role was defined by her desire to make an impact with families who needed help with the basic needs of electricity and heat. She coordinated efforts with the Department of Human Services, local churches, and charities to assist customers with their bills. Through this experience, she is bringing the expertise and focus necessary to execute the VPN's mission and further development of the program.

Nicci believes that the greatest levels of contentment and self-satisfaction are experienced by working with doctors and others who have found a way to help those in need. She is very happy to be a part of an important program that makes a profound difference in the lives of others.

Rachel Rockwell is the Volunteer Physician Network Referral Coordinator; she currently works part time while attending American Institute of Business. She will graduate in February with an Associate in Applied Science degree in Office & Business Administration. Rachel is looking forward to joining VPN full time after graduation.

Congratulations

To the PCMS Members Elected as 2009 Hospital Medical Staff Officers

IOWA LUTHERAN HOSPITAL



John Heffernan, M.D.
Chief of Staff



Amar Nath, M.D.
Secretary/Treasurer

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Philip Bear, D.O.
Chief of Staff



William J. Yost, M.D.
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Bruce Hughes, M.D.
President



Carol Kuhle, D.O.
President-Elect



Maxwell Cosmic, M.D.
Secretary/Treasurer



Jose Angel, M.D.
Past President

Broadlawns Medical Staff election has not been held for 2009.

POLK COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING & INSTALLATION OF 2009 OFFICERS



The Polk County Medical Society held their Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 25th at the Des Moines Golf and Country Club. The 2009 PCMS officers were elected and installed.

Over 150 PCMS members, hospital administrators and guests were pleased to hear first hand from United State Senator Charles Grassley on the latest in health care information from Washington.

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L-R: Craig Mahoney, M.D., Senator Grassley, and Michelle Mahoney.



PCMS members enjoy camaraderie at dinner.



L-R: Ravinder Agarwal, M.D.; Rachel Ong; Robert Beherns, M.D.; Mark Westberg, M.D.; Randall Hanson, M.D.; Corrine Ganske, M.D.; and Greg Ganske, M.D.



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The Wise Invention of the “Calendar”



**Monica Hanson,
M.D.**

My family and I had a quiet, joyful Christmas. On the night of the 24th, we went to the late service at my

husband's church, which we typically attend twice a year. When we got there, I thought of my friend Barbara, a wonderful organist and choir director, because there was a musician soulfully playing the harp, like she plays the organ, and that temple was filled with a resonant, serene beauty.

The service was simple and short. I always get teary-eyed when we light the candles and sing Silent Night at the end. This scenario - the darkness brightened by candles, the music, the sparkling snow outside illuminating the silence of the night - evokes memories of my family and friends, especially the ones far away. I feel the chronic longing that I have for my sunny, lively, native Brazil, and for my extended family there. I remember the many relatives to whom I did not say good bye before they died. I ponder the shortness of life and how arduous, yet rewarding, are some of the roads we take. I reflect upon the importance of families because they are, indeed, our foundation. I muse about how perfect it feels when peace fills up our hearts, as in that brief, precious moment of communion at church. I meditate upon the richness of life, despite all of its obstacles. I contemplate the resilience and the greatness of the human spirit, particularly expressed in all forms of art.

The end of the year is undoubtedly a time of celebrations and reflections. And for me and many others, it is also a time of some vague sadness. With maturity comes the realization of our mortality, the nostalgia of many loved ones who are no longer with us, the awareness of the passage of time and of its effects on our bodies, and the recollection of resolutions and plans that we made but, for various reasons, were unable to accomplish. In addition to these personal ruminations, old and new wars, worldwide violations of the most basic human rights, unjust suffering (especially of children) and inequality of life, collectively, affect the way some of us feel when another yearly cycle ends. However, I also count all my blessings and appreciate in awe the splendors of nature.

All this considered, I have come to the conclusion that the invention of the calendar was, aside from having the obvious advantages of marking the chronology of personal and historical events, very wise and useful. The illusion that we can begin our lives anew with the onset of a new year is remarkably beneficial, because it restores within us HOPE, that essential nutrient that transforms the soul. With another new year, we are once again the architects of new dreams and we move on, weaving the colorful and beautiful tapestry of life.

I sincerely wish a healthy and joyful 09 to all of you, your families and friends. And I go on, hopefully dreaming of peace in the world.

ANNUAL MEETING CONTINUED



L-R: David Saggau, M.D; Hillary and Jared Nielsen, M.D.; and Cyrene and Nader Ajluni, D.O.



L-R: B. Chandramouli, M.D., Jaya Bilgi, M.D., and Kelly Reed, D.O.



John Bardole, M.D. and wife, Dena.



L-R: Robert Lee, M.D., Robin Barnett, D.O., and Senator Grassley.

Legislative Priorities **for 2009**

Support

- Medical malpractice tort reform.
 - A. Certificate of Merit
This would require an affidavit or certificate of merit from a medical expert to be submitted by a claimant when a malpractice complaint is filed.
- Cap on noneconomic damages
- Prevention and wellness
- Chronic illnesses
- Increased Medicaid funding
- Health care coverage for all Iowans
- New quality of care initiatives

Monitor

- Restrictive health plans
- Scope of practice legislation
- Medical reimbursement reform
- Iowa Board of Medicine legislative agenda
- Health care workforce legislation
- Recommendations from the 2008 health legislative commission

Oppose

- Bills related to natural healing art
- Legislation repealing the statutes of limitation in medical malpractice cases



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IMSA Winter Board Meeting



Barb Savage, Councilor

In November we had a very successful general membership meeting at the home of Loretta Siemen where we had a wonderful cooking demonstration and centerpiece ideas for fall and winter. Following that event, we successfully held our annual Holiday Coffee at the home of Bonnie Zittergruen. Both of these meetings showed an increase in attendance that we were very glad to see even though our membership has not increased. The Holiday Sharing card raised over \$3400 for our Community Outreach Grant. 52 families participated in this fundraiser.

Having just mentioned a sluggish membership, we are embarking on a process to see if change might be just what is needed to revitalize and re-energize the PCMSA. We are planning a very comprehensive strategic planning session. In fact, there will be three of them. Gabrielle Cahalan is heading this up and it will be lead by a professional facilitator. She will lead the groups in a discussion of PCMSA to gather honest opinions about the organization: its programs, activities, communications, structure, recruitment and community presence. We want to know what they really think about the PCMSA today, their insights into why PCMSA was so successful during the time they

were actively involved and would value their ideas/input as to what they think the future direction of the organization should be. We are very interested in knowing their ideas and insights as to what changes may be helpful to make the organization more worthy of their time and more appealing to its current and potential members.

The three groups are:

Group One - past presidents, board members, committee chairs and any members who were active in PCMSA no less than ten years ago or more.

Group two – individuals who have some relationship with PCMSA, but were not/ are not active members.

Group three – Women/spouses who are eligible for membership but who have never been members.

As a gesture of appreciation for your time, everyone who attends will have their name placed in a drawing to receive one \$100 gift card to 801 Grand Steak and Chop.

We hope these strategic planning sessions will give us the information we need to bring PCMSA back to where it once was.

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Doctor's Day

On October 30, 1990, President George Bush signed a resolution designating March 30th as National Doctor's Day. In fact, the first Doctor's Day observance was held on March 30, 1933, by the Barrow County Auxiliary in West Georgia, the 91st anniversary of the day that Dr. Crawford W. Long first used ether anesthesia in surgery.

Since the days of the Hippocratic Oath, the physician has been held in high esteem as healer, trusted confidant and patient advocate. The relationship between physician and patient is invaluable during times of crisis. Technological breakthroughs have done much to advance the science of medicine; however, the patient-physician relationship remains the fundamental tenant of medicine. Patients depend on their doctors. And for good reason.

Doctors do more than keep patients healthy. The Polk County Medical Society doctors volunteer over 1000 hours annually volunteering care through the Volunteer Physician Network and advocating for their patients. Every day, our doctors work to ensure that what is right for their patients will drive our state and national health policy in a direction that not only manages care, but also manages care ethically.

March 30th, National Doctor's Day, is a day set aside to show appreciation for the role of America's physicians in caring for the sick and advancing the art and science of medicine. The Polk County Medical Society would like to take this opportunity to recognize all the physicians in our community who provide access, outstanding quality care, and dedicate their lives to the health and well-being of their patients.



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2	Jonathan L. Fudge	16	Stephen A. Holt Eugene J. Cherny Visweswara R. Vennapusa
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8	Steven R. Herwig Alan D. Heberer	21	William Z. Maxson
9	Karen L. Drake	22	John Kuhnlein Kimberly A. Goerdts Mark Fish
10	Louise M. Convery Julia C. Goodin Marshall C. Greiman Cory B. Pittman	23	Siva P. Jagarlapudi
11	Daniel A. Hepplewhite Sam T. Greer	24	Katrina A. Guest
13	Liberato A. Iannone Jeffrey D. Stahl Alan L. Braun Michael J. Quinn Scott A. Meyer Maria-Stella Serrano	25	David J. Boarini David E. Drake Lynn K. Struck Mary Lou Hlavin
14	Marion E. Alberts Timothy R. Gutshall Lori L. Miller	26	Deborah A. Haines
		27	Michael W. Kent Kathleen M. Massop Tamas Otrók
		28	Shakuntala V. Advani
		29	James R. Swegle Marnix A. Verhofste
		30	Balasubramanyan Napa Lazaro Rabang Dapka N. Baccam Lisa A. Klock

ANNUAL MEETING CONTINUED



PCMS members enjoy camaraderie at dinner.



L-R: M. Claire Cumbie-Drake; John Clark, D.O.; Alan Koslow, M.D.; John Gambill, M.D.; and David Drake, D.O.

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APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1	Michael T. Pruchnicki Ellen B. Roose Neil R. Horning Steven A. Aviles	18	Thomas E. Becker Nargis Naheed
2	Kendall Reed Daniel J. Krejchi Angela E. Sandre	19	Lynn M. Nelson Sara L. Schutte-Schenck
3	Richard D. Wells Amerlon L. Enriquez	20	Ari Auron-Gomez
4	David K. Jones Konstantinos P. Lekkas	21	John R. Gambill Robert S. Shires Jon G. Van Roekel Geethanjali Bandla
5	Allen R. Kaufman Jose R. Borromeo Tracy L. Ekhardt	22	William M. Jagiello Donald L. Burrows
6	Colin Kavanagh	24	Michael J. Versackas Kelli C. Green
8	William C. Jacobson	25	James L. Gallagher Richard H. Marcus
10	John C. Heffernan David E. Swieskowski	26	Karen Kienker Marla Onishi David A. Vittetoe
11	Jerry Lehr Padmini Palat Stacey S. Roberts	27	James G. Piros Gerard A. Matysik John C. Jabour James P. Lovell Steven J. Bailin S. Rani Makkapati John G. Sweetman
12	Craig A. Stevens	28	Randall D. Miller John Houghton
13	Ronald K. Grooters	29	William W. Chase Jason M. Reynolds Ryan P. Melcher
14	Rodney R. Carlson Steven R. Craig	30	Harvey A. Giller Lester J. Yen
15	Ethel F. Faust		
16	Anna G. Sagebiel Scott Paulsen		
17	Samir Y. Alabsi Eric G. Garner Michael W. Agey Tamra Richardson John P. Palecek		

2009 Calendar of Events

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

**the third Tuesday of each month
in the PCMS Boardroom at 5:30 PM**

February 17th

March 17th

April 21st

May 19th

No scheduled meetings for June, July or August

September 15th

October 20th

November 17th

December 15th

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

Wednesday, March 4th

7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

State Capitol Legislative Dining Room

AMA ADVOCACY MEETING

March 8-10

Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON D.C. FLY-IN

September 15 & 16 (tentative)

PCMS SPRING TRIPS SCHEDULED

Rome & Florence

March 7 – 15 & March 21 – 29

Paris Highlights

March 28 – April 5

Treasures of China & Yangtze River

April 20 – May 2 & May 6 – 18

India

April 30 – May 9

PCMS FALL TRIPS SCHEDULED

Mediterranean Inspiration: Luxury Cruising

September 15 – 28

Bulletin

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