MSMA Council
October 15, 2017
DoubleTree Hotel
Jefferson City, Missouri

Presiding: James DiRenna, Jr., DO, Gladstone, Chair

Present: Drs. Warren Lovinger, Jr., MD, Nevada; Joseph Corrado, MD, Mexico; David Pohl, MD, Town & Country; Ravi Johar, MD, Chesterfield; Lancer Gates, DO, Kansas City; James DiRenna, Jr., DO, Gladstone; George Hruza, MD, Chesterfield; Robert Brennan, Jr., MD, St. Louis; Kevin Weikart, MD, Lake St. Louis; George Hubbell, MD, Lake Ozark; Betty Drees, MD, Kansas City; Alexander Hover, MD, Ozark; Peggy Barjenbruch, MD, Mexico; Sri Kolli, MD, Fenton; Robert Weigand, MD, St. Joseph; Sandra Ahlum, MD, Hannibal; Keith Ratcliff, MD, Washington; Clark Andelin, MD, Mexico; Lisa Thomas, MD, Columbia; Sharon Wallace, MD, Cape Girardeau; James Conant, MD, St. Joseph; Mr. Alex Goodson, Columbia; Ms. Shannon Tai, Lisle, IL; Ms. Diana Corzine, St. Joseph; Mrs. Donna Corrado, Mexico; and MSMA Staff - Tom Holloway, Pat Mills, Kenny Jackson, Jeff Howell, Liz Fleenor, Benita Stennis, Haley Wansing, Sarah Luebbert and Cheri Martin, Jefferson City.

Approval of Minutes – On motion, duly seconded, the minutes of the July 16, 2017, meeting were approved.

Report of the President – MSMA President, Dr. Warren Lovinger, Jr., reported that in the past six and a half months he and his wife have visited all 114 Missouri counties and the City of St. Louis. And he has met the challenge of taking pictures of each courthouse to prove it. They have also visited several rural and urban hospitals, and learned of the financial challenges that they are facing.

Dr. Lovinger has attended the meetings of several components, and offered his thanks to societies in Lake Ozark, Washington, Hannibal and Rolla. In West Central, he and Mrs. Lovinger hosted a barbecue at their home, and the society president smoked the meat.

Report of the Executive Committee – Dr. Lovinger gave an update on the partnership with the Kansas Medical Society to develop an MSMA-branded health information exchange and data analytics program in Missouri. He asked Mr. Pat Mills to provide additional details. Mr. Mills reported that a Technical Advisory Committee has been created to give direction to the project, with Dr. Alex Hover as chair, and Drs. John Stanley, Charles Van Way, and Jim Schell as members. The program will be named the Show-Me Health Information Network (SHINE). A press release announcing the project will follow in the next week or so.

Dr. Lovinger mentioned the enthusiasm of the new MSMA Resident and Fellow Section leaders, and introduced Joanne Loethen, MD, who is spearheading the resident membership effort. He also introduced Mr. Alex Goodson and Ms. Shannon Tai, Medical Student Section leaders, and thanked them for their excellent work.

On motion, duly seconded, the report of the Executive Committee was approved.

Report of Budget and Finance Committee – MSMA Treasurer, Dr. David Pohl, reported that MSMA’s long-term
reserves stand at $12.9 million, and there is about $3.8 million in the MSMA pension fund. He then referred members to the proposed 2018 budgets for MSMA and the Physicians Health Foundation. The 2018 MSMA budget anticipates revenues of $1.72 million, and expenses of $1.80 million. The Foundation’s budget anticipates $553,100 in revenues, and $553,025 in expenses. On motion, duly seconded, the MSMA budget was approved. On motion, duly seconded, the MPHP budget was approved.

Report of the Executive Vice President – Mr. Tom Holloway welcomed members to Jefferson City. He reported that the Medicare Quality Payment Program is new this year, and MSMA is trying to educate physicians as to what they need to do in 2017 to avoid penalties in 2019. Educational information and an educational video is on the MSMA website.

Mr. Holloway reported that the Kansas City Star had re-named its healthcare beat “Bad Medicine.” MSMA and several other physician and hospital organizations formally objected to this, and the Star abandoned the change.

Mr. Holloway reminded the Council of an ongoing battle with Anthem over a new policy that denies coverage for emergency department services if, after the fact, Anthem decides the services were not for a true emergency. This policy appears to violate the “prudent layperson” standard contained in both state and federal law. In recent weeks, Anthem has announced two additional policies that are causing concern. Effective November 15, Anthem will begin denying coverage for emergency department imaging services if it decides later that there was not a bona fide emergency. And Anthem is now denying certain out-patient imaging services provided in hospital-owned facilities, and using aggressive prior authorization to push patients to independent imaging facilities. MSMA has partnered with the Missouri Hospital Association, MAOPS, and MoCEP to work on these issues, and will meet with the director of the Department of Insurance on October 25. And MSMA is preparing remedial legislation for when the General Assembly reconvenes in January.

Mr. Holloway gave an update on the Williston lawsuit. MSMA won a motion to dismiss the lawsuit, but the plaintiff appealed. The Western District Court of Appeals in Kansas City heard oral arguments on October 11. A ruling is expected within 30-45 days.

Sales of the MSMA’s book on near-death experiences have earned $550 in royalties.

Mr. Holloway, who is retiring at year end, gave some brief farewell remarks and thanked the Council for allowing him to be a part of the MSMA family for 30 years.

Report of the MSMA Insurance Agency – Mr. Ronnie Staggs reported that Agency’s Board of Directors met on October 14, to review financial statements and conduct other business. He stated that in spite of the soft and constantly changing market in both health insurance and professional liability, the Agency’s equity position continues to improve.

Report of the Commission on Continuing Education – Dr. DiRenna directed members’ attention to the Committee’s written report, and the interim chair, Dr. Betty Drees, highlighted three items: (1) Planning for the CME portion of the Annual Meeting is nearly complete; (2) MSMA is due for re-accreditation as a CME provider, and there will be a conference call regarding that in early November; and (3) The Commission is down to only five members, and there is an open invitation to physicians who might be interested in serving.

On motion, duly seconded, the report of the Commission on Continuing Education was approved.

Report of the Physicians Health Committee – Dr. Lisa Thomas directed attention to the MPHP quarterly report.
The program continues to assist physicians at all levels, in areas that have broadened considerably since the program began. She encouraged all to consider donating to the program, as it is donor-dependent. Missouri’s program is considered to be a model program throughout the country, and is very highly-regarded.

Dr. Thomas reminded members that there are resources available for physicians who are impaired, but MPHP provides services at no cost to the physician or the program unless and until a physician enters the program. Initial assessments, referrals and even referrals to attorneys are provided by MPHP. They are looking at ways to become more cost-effective, for example, utilizing teleconferencing to minimize some of the initial travel and accomplishing initial assessments more quickly. Teleconferencing could also be used for follow-ups.

On motion, duly seconded, the report of the Physicians Health Committee was approved.

**Report of the Committee on Legislative Affairs** – Dr. Johar reported that the committee met on October 14. He mentioned MSMA’s Physician of the Day in the Capitol program and circulated a sign-up sheet for 2018. The sign-up sheet will also be available on-line.

The committee heard a brief update on federal affairs. There has been a lot of activity around the Affordable Care Act, and that is expected to continue.

The committee also received an update on state activities. Only 77 bills were passed by the state legislature this year, which is less than half of the usual number. The veto session saw only five vetoes, none of which were overturned. There continues to be a lot of discussion on PDMPs.

The committee discussed advance nurse practitioners, and will be advocating to give them licensure under the Board of Healing Arts. There also was discussion on comprehensive insurance packages, tanning bed prohibition for minors, and tort reform.

The committee discussed ways to increase the visibility of MSMA’s advocacy efforts, including an advocacy blog on the website and soliciting members’ opinions via email or the Legislative Report to get feedback on what MSMA is doing.

On motion, duly seconded, the report of the Committee on Legislative Affairs was approved.

**Report of the Membership Committee** – Dr. Johar reported that the committee met on October 15, and discussed the final membership numbers for 2017. The year ended with approximately 2,530 active members, and the student and resident members brought that total to slightly over 4,000. Renewals for the upcoming year are off to a good start, with more than 600 active members renewed already, and another 600 student members having renewed as well.

The new MSMA Student Mentorship Program is going well, and more than 85 members have signed up to be mentors. The first set of match-up letters went out this past week. Dr. Johar encouraged members to make sure they are signed up, as the program is very attractive to students at the University of Missouri, where the project is being piloted. Getting more mentors on board will allow the program to be expanded state-wide.

Dr. Johar directed members’ attention to the New Members list in their folders, and encouraged them to make a personal contact to anyone they know. He also noted that resident physicians are an untapped potential, and the committee is working with residency directors to look into options for enhancing membership in that area. The committee also is exploring some type of lifetime membership for retired physicians. On motion, duly seconded, the Membership Committee report was approved.
**MSMA Alliance Report** – Mrs. Marsha Conant, Alliance President, presented the report. She directed attention to the Holiday Sharing card in their folders, and welcomed all to contribute. She reported that she and Mrs. Kathy Weigand had represented the MSMA Alliance at the North Central Alliance meeting in Novi, Michigan.

The Alliance had its fall meeting October 4-5 in St. Joseph. In addition to attending to business, they enjoyed many of the activities that St. Joseph has to offer.

Mrs. Conant shared that the MSMA Alliance had made a donation to the Missouri State Medical Foundation in honor of Mr. Tom Holloway on the occasion of his retirement. The Alliance wishes him well!

Mrs. Conant thanked MSMA staff, especially their liaison, Liz Fleenor. The Alliance looks forward to a continued excellent working relationship with MSMA.

**AMA Report** – Dr. James Conant reported that preparations are being made for the AMA Interim Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii. A number of resolutions will be considered at this meeting, and they are listed on the AMA website. AMA members can sign on and make comments on these items for consideration by the reference committees.

The President of the AMA is MSMA’s own Dr. David Barbe from Mountain Grove. Dr. Jerry Kennett serves as a member of the AMA Council on Legislation. Our delegation leader, Dr. Ed Cabbabe, is a member of the AMA Council on Long-Range Planning and Development.

**Councilor District Reports**

**District #2** – Dr. Sandra Ahlum thanked Dr. Lovinger for coming to their meeting in Hannibal, particularly given the distance and the roads. She reported that the battle continues in Hannibal between the hospital and the hospital-employed physicians.

**District #3** – Dr. George Hruza reported that AMA President Dr. David Barbe came to St. Louis and spoke at SLMMS’ Hippocrates Lecture on the topic “AMA – What Have You Done for Me Lately?” It was very well-received, and they were honored to have Dr. Barbe take time out of his schedule to join them.

SLMMS wrote a letter to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (9/24) regarding the imaging issue with Anthem and the inappropriateness of the approach.

In response to the opioid epidemic, SLMMS is joining with Clayton Behavioral Partners to present an opioid crisis symposium for practicing physicians early next year. It will be a half-day workshop focused on physician education and response to patients with opioid issues, and will promote St. Louis County’s PDMP.

United Health Care has introduced pre-authorization for the removal of foreign benign lesions outside of the office. Foreign body removal outside of the office also has to be pre-authorized.

**District #4** – Dr. Kevin Weikart is looking forward to seeing Dr. Lovinger at their meeting this month.

**District #5** – Dr. George Hubbell reported that Dr. Lovinger had attended their monthly medical society meeting last Wednesday night. Dr. Lovinger’s positive thoughts were well-received.

They are setting up a lectureship for Dr. Ted Groshong, who has served as a Councilor and Vice Councilor, and most recently as a retired AMA delegate. Dr. Groshong does not know it, but he will be receiving the award on November 3 at the alumni banquet. Anyone wishing to donate can make a check payable to the Missouri
Medical Alumni Association, and Dr. Hubbell will forward it. The district is grateful for Dr. Groshong’s more than five decades of service.

Dr. Lisa Thomas reported that there is a lot of talk in Columbia about Boone Hospital partnering with University Hospital.

**District #6** – Dr. Warren Lovinger reported that the financing crisis for rural hospitals is catching up with their district. The Barton County Hospital recently fell on hard times and was purchased by the Cox system. Dr. Lovinger testified – unsuccessfully – against the management of Nevada Regional Medical Center being turned over to Freeman Hospital.

**District #7** – Dr. Lancer Gates reported that the Kansas City Medical Society annual meeting will be held on Thursday, November 16, at the University of Kansas Hospital.

**District #8** – Dr. Alexander Hover reported that the Joplin medical school has opened with 162 medical students, and there has been a dean change.

The physician burn-out event in Springfield went well, and attracted several new members.

Dr. David Barbe will speak to community physicians at the Jordan Valley Community Health Center regarding the opioid crisis on October 24 at 7:30 p.m. The event is open to all, not just Greene County Medical Society members. Dr. Hover will send a flyer regarding the event.

**District #10** – Dr. Sharon Wallace reported that they are working out local leadership issues. She said a successful local campaign raised $16,000 for the ACS Cancer Unit. And she mentioned that District 10 has set up a lecture series.

Dr. Wallace also announced that they are making a donation to the Physicians Health Foundation in honor of Tom Holloway’s service.

**Resident and Fellow Section** – Dr. Joanne Loethen reported that the section is exploring future membership opportunities.

**Medical Student Section** – Mr. Alex Goodson thanked the Council for all its support – both by having Drs. Johar and Lovinger come and speak to them, and for the financial support to attend meetings and put on activities.

He reported on several recent student activities. Mizzou recently hosted a residency panel for undergraduates in coordination with Boone County Medical Society. They received a small grant for the free clinic that they run at Mizzou. They also have an upcoming event, “Pints and Politics,” that will focus on the opioid epidemic.

All schools except one have had their recruitment meetings; UMKC has been raising awareness about DACA; SLU has scheduled a roundtable discussion on December 6 regarding DACA, to include a letter-writing campaign; and SLU will also hold a resolution writing workshop, where Shannon Tai will share some of her expertise.

**Prerogatives of the Chair** – Dr. Johar made a motion to publish Mr. Holloway’s farewell comments in *Missouri Medicine*. On motion, duly seconded, the motion was approved.

Mr. Holloway requested that Council members remain briefly for a group photo.
Dr. DiRenna then thanked Mr. Holloway, and proposed a toast: “May you live as long as you want, sir, and never want as long as you live.”

Adjournment - On motion, duly seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Council Meeting – The next meeting will be held January 14, 2018, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jefferson City.