Approval of Minutes – On motion, duly seconded, the minutes of the March 20, 2016, meeting were approved.

Report of the President – MSMA President, Dr. Ravi Johar, reported that he had attended the Annual Convention of the Iowa Medical Society, and some members there are not happy about no longer having a House of Delegates. He also attended the Tennessee Medical Society’s Convention. They meet across four days, with meetings scheduled around social events; they review all resolutions prior to meetings. Dr. Johar also attended the Tri-County Medical Society meeting in Augusta.

After attending the AMA Annual Meeting in Chicago, Dr. Johar reported he was impressed and surprised by how much work the delegates do, and said that they should be commended. He encouraged all to attend the AMA meetings.

Report of the Executive Committee – Dr. Johar reported the Committee met on July 16, and discussed among other things the minutes of the March 17 meeting; the Kansas Medical Society’s health information exchange and the potential for a partnership with Kansas in creating an HIE for Missouri; membership information; the sale of Primaris; the ongoing Williston lawsuit; and the Aetna-Humana merger.

A motion was made by the Executive Committee to set up an advisory committee to investigate setting up a health information exchange for Missouri. The motion, duly seconded, carried. Dr. Johar welcomed volunteers to serve on the advisory committee.

Dr. Johar reported on the Department of Insurance denial of the Aetna-Human merger, and stated that the Department of Justice is looking at MSMA’s opposition statement.

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 the Committee met on Saturday. There is currently $11.1 million in MSMA’s long-term reserves. Dues revenue is down $85,000 from this time last year, and off $316,000 over the past three years. Total income this year to date is $1.48 million, which is up almost $51,000 over last year to date. But that includes a $250,000 transfer from long-term reserves to short-term reserves. Total expenses year to date are down $55,000 from the same time last year.

Exhibit Hall income at the 2016 Annual Convention fell $6,000 short of budget estimates, and it may soon cost more to have the Exhibit Hall than the income it generates. MSMA will soon get $100,000 from the Health Education Foundation to support educational activities at the Annual Convention.

Dr. Pohl reported that MSMA recently signed an administrative services agreement with the Missouri College of Emergency Physicians. He encouraged other specialties to have MSMA provide staffing services.

The Physicians Health Program currently has a six-month reserve. But donations and participant fees are down from last year. Part of the problem is that an increasing number of residents and students are being referred to the program, and they often do not have sufficient financial resources to support their treatment.

The Committee recommended that Council not change the current dues schedule for active members in 2017. On motion, duly seconded, the Council approved that recommendation.

There was further discussion regarding an increase in student member dues. Dr. Stanley stated that this had been discussed by the Membership Committee, which found the current combination of MSMA and AMA student dues works well. Dr. O’Dell suggested that a “check-box” could be put on member dues statements to allow members to sponsor a student membership. Staff was instructed to work on that.

On motion, duly seconded, the Report of the Budget and Finance Committee was approved.

Report of the Executive Vice President – Mr. Tom Holloway introduced Cheri Martin, the new MSMA Office Manager. He reported that membership numbers are down currently, and directed the Council’s attention to the 2016 Legislative Review in their folders. He pointed out that advocacy is one of the most important services that MSMA provides to its members, and encouraged Council members to share the Review with their non-member colleagues.

Mr. Holloway reported that the sale of Primaris is essentially done. MSMA’s share of the proceeds will go to the MSMA Health Education Foundation. Primaris will continue to operate as in the past, but MSMA’s role is now removed. Mr. Holloway thanked the Council for its patience on the long sales process, and commended Mr. Pat Mills for staffing Primaris for the past two decades and playing an instrumental role in selling the business.

Mr. Holloway offered an update on the Williston lawsuit. He also mentioned the recently-signed administrative services agreement between MSMA and the Missouri College of Emergency Physicians (MoCEP), and reported that MSMA staffer Sarah Luebbert now serves as the MoCEP Executive Director. Mr. Holloway wants to get more specialty societies under the MSMA tent.

Mr. Holloway reported that MSMA will likely lose a delegate to the AMA House of Delegates next year, due to declining AMA membership numbers in Missouri.

He reminded everyone of the MSMA Insurance Conference coming up on July 26, in St. Louis.

Mr. Holloway reported that, in response to the Council’s wishes, the July 2017 Council meeting will be held at the Tan-Tar-A resort at the Lake of the Ozarks.
Report of the MSMA Insurance Agency – Mr. Ronnie Staggs talked about changing markets in Missouri. He provided members with information on a new product, Private Client, from Nationwide. More information on this will be provided to MSMA members in the coming weeks.

Report of the Commission on Continuing Education – Dr. Sandra Ahlum stated that the committee had reviewed evaluations on speakers at the 2016 Annual Convention, and will get ideas for future speakers from that input. Topics under consideration for next year’s convention are primary care patient engagement, physician burn-out, and ABIM-MOC.

The Commission will continue to survey hospitals that provide CME themselves.

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

Report of the Physicians Health Program – Mr. Bob Bondurant reported that finances were an ongoing problem, as participant fee revenues are down and donations are increasingly difficult to get. He reported the MPHP has been asked to help with some hospital wellness committees, and encourages systems to reach out to MPHP for help with their wellness committees. The Program welcomes more of these partnerships.

Mr. Bondurant commented that the treatment of substance abuse and suicide prevention were early goals for the Program, but now, problems of stress and burn-out are increasingly common. He asks MSMA members to reach out to their colleagues and encourage them to contribute to MPHP.

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

Report of the Committee on Legislative Affairs – Dr. Johar presented the report. The Committee met on Saturday, July 16. They heard a recap of federal issues, and a summary of the 2016 Legislative Session.

The Legislative Committee also considered the following resolutions referred from the 2016 MSMA House of Delegates:

Resolution #1: License Parity for IMGs – The Legislative Committee recommended MSMA take no position on licensure parity between United States and foreign medical graduates. The committee on Legislative Affairs recommends Council not adopt the resolution. On motion, duly seconded, the Council voted to not adopt the resolution.

Resolution #5: Non-Compete Clauses – The Legislative Committee recommends MSMA maintain current policy. The Committee on Legislative Affairs recommends Council not adopt the resolution. By motion, duly seconded, the Council voted to not adopt the resolution.

Resolution #9: Nurse Practitioners – The Committee on Legislative Affairs recommends the Council adopt this resolution. On motion, duly seconded, the Council voted to adopt this resolution.

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

Report of the Commission on Medical Economics – Dr. Alexander Hover presented minutes from the Commission meeting on June 21.

The Commission proposes that MSMA refer the issue of Resolution #13 – Parental Leave – to the AMA for further study. There was discussion about the potential economic and health implications of modifying various aspects of the federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). The resolution calls on MSMA to support expanding FMLA coverage to employers with 10 employees (instead of the current 50), and to employees with 1,000 hours of work history (instead of 1,250). It also would extend the length of allowable leave from 12 to 24 weeks, and make that leave paid, rather than unpaid. The Commission recommends that the issue be referred to
the AMA for further study. That motion, duly seconded, was approved.

On motion, duly seconded, the Council approved the report of the Commission on Medical Economics.

Report of the Membership Committee – Dr. Stanley reported that there are 2,661 active members as of July 16. A letter was sent out following the Aetna-Humana merger decision, and it proved to be a great influence on membership, as it shows what MSMA does for members.

Dr. Stanley reported on the Member-Get-a-Member campaign, which is set to launch in October and run through April of 2017. He cited percentages of how members typically are led to join MSMA: 46% by word-of-mouth; 32% by email; 22% by the MSMA website.

Sarah Luebbert outlined some details of that campaign: Members will receive a $15 reduction in dues for every new member they recruit, with a limit of ten new members ($150). Dr. Cabbabe suggested that all members place copies of the campaign information in their lounges. Dr. O’Dell brought up the subject of including a check-box on member dues statements to allow members to sponsor a student. Dr. Stadnyk inquired whether sponsorship monies would go into a general fund, or if each contribution would be targeted toward a student. Dr. Johar stated that further study was needed. On motion, duly seconded, the issue was referred to the Membership Committee for further development.

On motion, duly seconded, the Membership Committee report was approved.

MSMA Alliance Report – Alliance President, Mrs. Jana Wolfe, reported on recent activities of the Alliance: Planning for “Day at the Legislature,” the “Drugs are Not for Me” campaign, and plans for the next Annual Convention in Kansas City. Mrs. Wolfe reported on installations of several Presidents and Co-Presidents during May and June.

Eleven Alliance members attended the AMA meeting in Chicago in June. She extended congratulations to Dr. Barbe for his election as President-elect of the AMA.

Mrs. Barbara Hover has recently unveiled the Opioid Abuse/Addiction campaign. Pamphlets on the campaign were distributed, and the Council was shown the campaign video on DVD.

Mrs. Wolfe stated that members’ spouses are needed to grow the Alliance, and encouraged members to follow the Alliance on Facebook and Twitter. For more information, please contact her.

AMA Report – Dr. Edmond Cabbabe offered congratulations to Dr. David Barbe upon his election as AMA President-elect. He complimented the AMA Annual Meeting report written by Dr. Van Way, and thanked the delegates who provided information to him.

Dr. Barbe thanked the Council for its support and funding, and the AMA delegates for their work on the campaign, and thanked MSMA staff for its efforts and support. Dr. Barbe will be the fifth AMA President from Missouri, and the first Missourian elected in ninety years.

Councilor District Reports

District #1 – Dr. Schaaf stated that the Missouri General Assembly will hold its annual veto session on September 14.

District #3 - Dr. Hruza reported on the Cortex Center for Emerging Technologies. He stated the SLMMS has set up an Innovation Committee to help collaborate with the biotechnology incubators in the area. He also reported that the 14th Annual Hippocrates Lecture, “From Volume to Value … to Values,” will take place on October 27, at Spazio’s Westport in Maryland Heights.
District #5 – Dr. Corrado reported that the state Certificate of Need program has approved development of a new 72-bed psychiatric hospital in Columbia.

District #8 – Dr. Hover gave an update on the medical school partnership the MU School of Medicine has formed with the CoxHealth and Mercy Systems in Springfield. He also stated that the AMA Alliance materials on opioid abuse/addiction are designed to be used in the community, and will be posted on the Greene County Medical Society website shortly. He encouraged members to seek opportunities to use them in their communities.

Organized Medical Staff Section – Dr. Barjenbruch discussed recent revisions to the requirements for reporting to the National Practitioner Data Base. Under the new rules, any leave of absence from a hospital or other reporting entity is considered a “surrender of privileges,” and thus subject to reporting. Something as innocuous as a leave for the birth of a child is now considered a surrender of privileges.

Dr. Barjenbruch also suggested that the AMA’s website contains comprehensive and very helpful information on MACRA.

Appointment of Councilor Advisors to Commissions - Dr. Schaaf announced the following appointments as Councilor Advisors to Commissions: Commission on Medical Economics: Dr. Alexander Hover; Commission on Continuing Education: Dr. Peggy Barjenbruch; Commission on Public Affairs: Dr. Joseph Corrado; Physicians Health Committee: Dr. Lisa Thomas.

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

Next Council Meeting – The next meeting will be held October 16, 2016, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jefferson City.