Missouri State Medical Association Alliance

Report from the MSMA Alliance to the MSMA Council
Oct 11, 2018

The Alliance had a relatively quiet summer, with various health programs back in action once school started. Several counties acknowledged the first Physician Family Day held on Saturday, August 25. Plans are to continue to hold this event annually on the last Saturday in August. This is an AMA Alliance initiative to promote happy families and combat physician burnout.

The Alliance Fall Conference was held Oct 10-11 at Westminster College in Fulton. Donna Corrado did an excellent job as my appointed conference coordinator. Tuesday’s program focused on the opioid epidemic. After lunch, we received a warm welcome from Dr David Roebuck, the Dean of Academic Affairs, who was excited that we had chosen Westminster College as our venue. He shared some personal background on his interest in our topic. We had asked if we could invite some undergraduate students to attend the program and he had an immediate response with a waitlist!

The afternoon program comprised two different sessions. Identifying the Challenges Facing Missouri’s Criminal Justice System and The Addiction Epidemic: A Community Problem with a Community Solution. Our first speaker (Isaac Amon, JD, LLM) who until recently worked as Director of Legislative and Constituent Services at the Missouri Department of Corrections in Jefferson City, had a death in the family and had to cancel. Fortunately, he had already arranged to bring two of his colleagues from the Re-Entry program at the DOC and they did a fine job filling in. The second speaker (Lauren Zehnle, MA, LPC) is a licensed professional counselor who runs a private practice for addiction counseling in St. Louis. Kelly O’Leary joined the three speakers for an animated panel discussion with great audience interaction, especially from the students.

The guide for our private tour of the Marylebone Church and Churchill Museum was well-versed in British history and it was a worthwhile visit. The evening Dutch treat event was held in the “Banquet Room” at the Buckshot Saloon in Kingdom City. We were joined by several physicians, including Dr Corrado who gave us an update on what he has learned from his visits to medical societies within Missouri and the contiguous states.

The board meeting was held at the hotel on Thursday morning. Pertinent board issues discussed were the disbanding of the Boone Medical Society Alliance this summer, and the
concept of creating a new Alliance by reviving three now defunct mid-state Alliances. Interestingly, the major reason for the Boone demise was not lack of members but lack of anyone willing to step up to leadership positions.

The Alliance Holiday Sharing Card will be published with donor names in December in Show Me Alliance News, Missouri Medicine, and on the MSMA website. Proceeds from donations benefit the Foundations.

Future Alliance Meetings:
The Alliance Day at the Legislature will be held Feb 19-20 In Jefferson City. Our Legislative Vice President Kirk Doan is the organizer. Our winter board meeting is the following day.

We are already making plans for the Alliance Annual Meeting to be held in conjunction with the MSMA convention in Kansas City April 5-7. Please mark your calendars for the Alliance Foundation Fundraiser Dinner to be held on Friday April 5 at the Westin. In honor of my theme for this year Look on the Bright Side, it is called The British Invasion! Kathy Weigand is chairing the event.

We are also holding a Cabi Fashion Show (another small fundraiser) after dinner on Thursday night. This was very popular last year at convention. Proceeds from both events will benefit the MSMF.

Future Alliance board meetings are scheduled for February 20, and April 5. I plan to attend the MSMA Council meeting in Jefferson City in January and at convention in April.

Feel free to contact me with questions or comments.

Respectfully yours,

Gill Waltman
2018-2019 MSMA Alliance President

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