

WATERBURY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

June 2011

Newsletter

Annual Meeting/Dinner Held New Officers Elected

In February the Waterbury Medical Association held its annual meeting and dinner at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. **Dr. James E. Finn** was installed as President with **Drs. Ann-Marie Conti-Kelly** as President-Elect, **Andrea Needleman**, Secretary, and **John Conant** Treasurer.

Other members of the Executive Committee include **Drs. Stephen Torrey, Drew Edwards, Craig Czarsty, Stephen Holland, Prasad Sureddi, Dwight Miller, Neil Schiff,** and we would like to welcome **Dr. Laura Brenes** as the newest member of our Executive Committee, who will serve on the Membership Committee as well.

Matthew Katz, Executive Vice President of the Connecticut State Medical Society, gave an interesting talk on what's in store for medicine in 2011 and **John Tobin**, retiring Chief Executive Officer of Waterbury Hospital, was presented with the Distinguished Service Award.

WMA Hosts First Legislative Dinner

In March the Executive Committee hosted a very successful dinner at the Timexpo Museum for local legislators including, Senators Joan Hartley and Joe Markley, and Linda Towbin, Senator Crisco's aide; as well as Representatives John Piscopo, Rob Sampson, and Arthur O'Neill.

After the initial social gathering we had a very interesting roundtable discussion on multiple issues. It was a great opportunity to build relationships and to present our point of view. In the future we plan to continue to build strong personal relationships with our legislators.



Pictured above from left to right, Dr. John Conant, Treasurer, Dr. James Finn, newly installed President, Phyllis Darby, Executive Director and Dr. Stephen Torrey, Immediate Past President



Senator Joe Markley, left, discussed legislative issues with Dr. Drew Edwards, Legislative Chair, center, and Representative Rob Sampson.

2011 Legislative Update

Contracting Victory for Physicians In Omnibus Health Bill

HB 6308, An Act Concerning Healthcare Reform, has passed both chambers. HB 6308 includes the CSMS “Standards In Contracting” bill in the form supported by CSMS, County Medical Associations, WMA and several specialty societies. As passed by both chambers, **it includes all of our previously discussed sections:**

1. Timely payments for electronic claims
2. Network adequacy provisions
3. A ban on future product clauses
4. Standards for “denying” services previously authorized

The legislation includes CSMS-supported and lobbied-for legislation increasing regulation of Third Party Administrators; an expedited process for external appeals; and increased regulation of Utilization Review Companies. These are important victories for physicians.

Passage of the standards language is the culmination of three years of hard work by organized medicine, including WMA. It involved countless meetings with medical specialty societies and legislative leadership, as well as numerous negotiations and battles with various health insurer organizations. In addition, components of the legislation such as standards for TPAs, expedited external appeals processes and strengthened UR included aggressive efforts and coordination with the Attorney General, Office of the Healthcare Advocate and other supporters.

This bill also includes the establishment of a Sustinet Cabinet that will include “an active practice primary care physician.”

HB 6308 now awaits the governor's signature.

Other Legislation That Passed Includes:

House Bill 6471 An Act Concerning Most-Favored Nation Clauses in Health Care Contracts. This legislation prohibits the use of most-favored-nation clauses in contracts between health insurers and preferred provider networks and providers such as physicians and hospitals. CSMS worked closely with Bristol Hospital on this legislation.

Senate Bill 10 An Act Concerning Coverage for Mammograms. This legislation will provide insurance coverage for breast magnetic resonance imaging when an annual mammogram demonstrates heterogeneous or dense breast tissue.

Senate Bill 11 An Act Concerning the Rate Approval Process for Certain Health Insurance Policies. This bill establishes a new rate approval process for individual and small employer group health

Legislative Update 2011 Continued...

SB 18 An Act Concerning Appeals of Health Insurance Benefits Denials. This bill makes significant strides forward to strengthen the insurance claims denial statutes while adding transparency to the process through increased data reporting by managed care organizations (MCOs) and related entities. Language contained in this bill appropriately places the burden on the MCO to prove that the admission, service, procedure or extension of stay properly ordered by a licensed participating provider is not or was not medically necessary. Also, the bill contains language that will require a clear statement by the MCO to both the enrollee (patient) and provider of all documents and information used in a final determination not to certify services.

Legislation That Was Defeated:

HB 6487 An Act Concerning Certificate of Merit – This proposed legislation would have been a significant step backwards in addressing concerns regarding medical liability in Connecticut. Medicine opposed this bill.

If you have any questions concerning any bill that was included in this report or any other bill, please do not hesitate to contact Phyllis Darby at the WMA Executive Office at 203-753-4888.

Association Supports Research Day 2011

WMA has again supported Research Day 2011 which was held at Saint Mary's Hospital on May 27. Held on an annual basis, Research Day provides an opportunity for trainees in dental, medicine, and surgery residencies at both Saint Mary's Hospital and Waterbury Hospital a unique, local forum to share their scientific research and clinical vignettes with one another and the greater Waterbury medical community.

WMA Golf Club Events Planned

The Waterbury Golf Club is now in its fourth season. The 2010 season was our most successful to date, with the greatest number of golfers participating. We held events at The Fairview Farms Golf Course, The Great River Golf Club and The Golf Course at Yale.

Hoping to build on our past year's success, we are adding a fourth event for the 2011 season. The planned venues and dates for 2011 are: The Fairview Farms Golf Course-June 21; The Torrington Country Club-July 12; The Wintonbury Hills Golf Course-August 16 and the The Golf Club at Oxford Greens-September 20.

All members are invited to participate regardless of skill level, and we look forward to adding new golfers this season.

For more information, contact Dr. Neil Schiff at neilschiff@sbcglobal.net

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The Waterbury Medical Association is your voice in the medical community. If you have a problem that we can help you resolve, please contact Dr. James Finn, President, at jefinn@snet.net or 203-758-2253 - or - Phyllis Darby, Executive Director at 203-753-4888. While we can't solve every problem, we do have relationships with the county and state medical organizations as well as hospital and local government officials and we'll do our best.

Please encourage your associates to join WMA so that we may continue the great work this organization has done for so many years. Founded in 1857, we are one of the oldest city medical organizations in the country. The more members we have the stronger our voice can be and the more we can accomplish for our members.



Thimble Island Cruise Planned Saturday, July 23rd

**(The Sea Mist is located in Stony Creek, CT,
off of Exit 56 in Branford)**

On July 23 we are planning a two hour cruise of the Thimble Islands aboard the Sea Mist. Boarding time is 5:45 P.M. Hearty hors d'oeuvres will be served and there will be a cash bar. We shall try to arrange dinner to follow at a local restaurant for all who are interested. This will be a great opportunity to come together with other members of the medical community in a social setting.

Call the WMA Executive office at 203-753-4888 to register or fax the registration form below to 860-286-0787. Cost is \$20 per person with a limit of 4 registrants per member. Confirmation and details will be sent to you directly after registration is received.

Name: _____ # Attending _____

Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

Telephone (required): _____ Email: _____

Enclosed in my check. Made payable to WMA for \$ _____

Mail to: WMA, P.O. Box 30, Bloomfield, CT 06002

Please charge \$ _____ to my: Visa ____ or MasterCard ____

Account # _____ Exp. Date _____

Name as it appears on the Card _____

(Please Print)

(Signature Required)