2011 Regular Legislative Session Recap

The 2011 regular session of the Louisiana Legislature adjourned on Thursday, June 23, closing the door on another robust meeting of Louisiana’s elected representatives and senators following a contentious Redistricting Special Session. Although deemed a fiscal session, LSMS’ Governmental Affairs team represented LSMS members on issues ranging from medical malpractice and scope of practice debates to changes in medical education, Coordinated Care Networks (CCNs) and major public health issues.

The session’s primary goal was to craft the state’s budget for fiscal year 2012 as the state faced a monumental $1.6 billion shortfall due to decreases in federal funding and state tax revenues. At the beginning of the session, Gov. Jindal introduced House Bill 1, the administration’s budget. The original version of HB1 contained no cuts to Medicaid providers. However, it soon became abundantly clear that the administration had tied physician reimbursement through the Medicaid program directly to the sale of three state prisons, which was never supported by the LSMS. As more and more people rallied against the sale of prisons, the House amended the budget bill by cutting $121 million from the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) in order to plug the shortfall, with $81 million of that cut dedicated to the implementation of CCNs. While House members were trying to protect health care providers with their amendment; Gov. Jindal and DHH Secretary Greenstein interpreted the amendment as an $81 million (plus the federal match of 69.34%) cut for fiscal year 2012. DHH claimed that private providers would see a 6.45% to 8.2% rate cut, with physicians being cut nearly $25 million. The House members maintained that this amendment would not impact provider reimbursement; however, DHH Secretary Greenstein disagreed and emphasized that this amendment would impact provider fees. Both parties did agree that the amendment would delay the plan to transform Medicaid from a fee-for-service to a managed care model using CCNs.

After weeks of working directly with House and Senate leaders, LSMS is happy to report that the Senate Finance Committee heard our message and voted to restore ALL of the previous cuts made to health care. This was later approved by the full Senate and concurred upon by the House. Thanks to the concerted efforts of many of our members, lawmakers received a clear and consistent message: health care providers cannot sustain any more cuts!

Medical Malpractice Liability

Senate Bill 61, introduced by Sen. Mills on behalf of the LSMS, was heard on Tuesday, May 24 in Senate Judiciary A Committee. The intent of the constitutional amendment was to declare that the legislature has the right to establish a medical malpractice cap, which would have in turn required a vote by the citizens of Louisiana. As you know, this was an uphill battle and unfortunately we were defeated in committee by a vote.

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of 4-2. However, the LSMS leadership gleaned valuable information from this exercise that will be used in the future. There is still much work to be done on this issue and the LSMS will continue to work diligently on your behalf. Sen. Mills represented LSMS’s perspective well on this critical issue and his efforts are appreciated greatly.

The Patient’s Compensation Fund (PCF) fared well in this session, with many favorable changes coming soon, pending a vote of the people in the fall. House Bill 341 is the constitutional amendment and House Bill 287, now Act 263, is the enabling legislation by Rep. Hazel that would protect the funds of the PCF from being appropriated by the legislature and would prevent the state from being liable for the debts of the fund. PCF funds are 100% generated by surcharges paid by doctors, hospitals, nursing homes and others. This legislation clarified that the funds are available only to pay the claims of those injured in medical malpractice; the state is not responsible for the liabilities of the PCF and no support from the state would be forthcoming unless it is approved by the legislature.

House Bill 69 by Rep. Ligi provides for investment procedures for the PCF and is now Act 160 of 2011. The bill permits the PCF Board to invest in funds outside the State Treasury under limited circumstances and hire a chief investment officer with the expectation of increasing the PCF’s investment earnings.

Socioeconomic Legislation
Senate Bill 176 by Sen. Heitmeier requires DHH to develop and maintain an upper payment limit (UPL) supplemental financing methodology for all health care providers licensed by DHH. Subject to waiver and/or state plan approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, this legislation further refines DHH alternative financing of medical services derived from a supplemental federal match and allows fund transfers among certain non-state facilities entering into “cooperative endeavor agreements” for a “public purpose” benefiting Medicaid patients and the uninsured.

Public Health Legislation
Other than HB1, the most talked about bills of the session were the tobacco tax bills, House Bill 63 and House Bill 591 by Rep. Ritchie. Both of these bills were supported by the LSMS in accord with LSMS policy. HB 63 increased the current tax on cigarettes from 36 cents to $1.06 and never made it out of committee. Not surprising, since Gov. Jindal indicated that he would veto all attempts at raising taxes.

HB 591 was less ambitious, aiming to keep the current tax structure in place. It simply removed the June 30, 2012, termination date for levying a tax of four-twentieths of one cent per cigarette, making that portion of the tax permanent. This bill was passed favorably out of committee, as well as both chambers. However, Gov. Jindal vetoed the bill indicating that he considered this renewal a tax increase as well.

Given health care budget constraints, the veto seemed counterproductive to both public health interests as well as balancing the state’s budget next year, since the $12 million generated by this tax renewal would be used to draw down $36 million in federal funding through the match program. All $48 million in funding is dedicated to providing health care services. The House attempted to override the governor’s veto, but failed by 11 votes. Although two-thirds majorities in the House and Senate had initially agreed to pass the bill, 11 House members who supported the original bill defected in the override vote.

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In a surprise tactical move by Rep. Ritchie in the last days of the session, the four-cent tobacco tax reappeared, tacked onto Senate Bill 53 by Sen. Alario. SB 53, a constitutional amendment, provides that once the balance in the Millennium Trust Fund reaches $1.38 billion, 100% of the annual Tobacco Tax Proceeds shall be dedicated to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) college scholarships and now the tobacco tax renewal proceeds will be dedicated to the Health Excellence Fund. The move protects the tax from gubernatorial veto, since constitutional amendments require a statewide vote of the people. Public polls during the session indicated that the tobacco tax renewal was supported by 80% of the voting public.

Senate Bill 207 by Sen. Mount garnered much support from physicians, as well as hospitals and other health care providers by creating the Louisiana Medicaid Coordinated Care Program Transparency Act. The bill passed the legislature unanimously, but again the governor threatened to veto, claiming that the legislative oversight and reporting requirements were unnecessary. Health care providers supported this bill since it requires detailed reporting from CCNs and DHH in order to ensure the program meets its goals of improved quality of care, health outcomes and access to Medicaid services. The LSMS urged Gov. Jindal to sign SB207 into law. Nevertheless, the governor vetoed the measure before the 4th of July holiday.

Scope of Practice Issues
A highly controversial bill, Senate Bill 60 by Sen. Mills, would have allowed pharmacists to administer certain immunizations. Many physicians, especially primary care physicians and pediatricians, were concerned about patient safety and the ability of pharmacists to adequately prepare and respond to adverse reactions on site. After being confronted with data that other surrounding states allowed for pharmacist immunizations for an average age of 14, and some as low as 7, Sen. Mills asked all the parties to reach a compromise on his legislation. At one point, all sides had agreed to amend the bill to only allow certain vaccinations for those over the age of 18. After this amendment was offered by Sen. Mills, and adopted by the Senate Health and Welfare Committee, the LSMS joined the pediatricians in withdrawing their opposition to the bill. After serious deliberation in the House Health and Welfare Committee, this bill was involuntarily deferred and was not brought back for consideration this year. Sen. Mills is expected to resubmit the bill in 2012 and introduced Senate Resolution 122 calling for an interim study to identify the appropriate scope of the immunization issue by the LSBME, Louisiana Board of Pharmacy and DHH.

Study Resolutions
Senate Resolution 81 by Sen. Mills and House Resolution 108 by Rep. Lebas create a legislative workgroup to study and make recommendations concerning electronic prescribing. Senate Resolution 97 by Sen. Mills requests a study of the effects of local sales tax on complex biologics administered in a physician’s office, infusion clinic or outpatient settings. The LSMS supported both study resolutions by Sen. Mills and the one by Rep. Lebas and will have a seat at the table for both groups.

Another bill of note, Senate Concurrent Resolution 32 by Sen. Cheek, requests that DHH study the benefits of permitting physicians to apply fluoride varnish to the teeth of children under the age of seven who are enrolled in the Medicaid program. The results of this study will give you a call in number and password once you are scheduled.

Find out more about the product at www.LSMS.org/surveyyitals. If you need further information, please contact Communication Director Sadie Wilks at 225.763.8500 or via email at sadie@lsms.org.
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study will be shared with LSMS members as soon as data is available. The LSMS supported this effort by Sen. Cheek.

Medical Education

The LSMS Medical Student Section rallied against House Bill 628 by Rep. Leger, which gave the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors the authority to raise tuition and fees for Louisiana’s public medical schools and dental school by an additional five percent per year without a two-thirds vote of the legislature, on top of the 10 percent granted to the Board last year by the Louisiana Granting Resources and Autonomy for Diplomas Act, as long as the increase does not exceed Southern regional averages. Given that Louisiana medical and dental school programs are some of the most affordable in the nation, lawmakers felt it was appropriate to raise tuition in order to keep pace with similar programs in the region. With the support of the administrators of the schools and the governor’s office, the bill passed through both chambers and was signed into law.

Senate Bill 178 by Sen. Heitmeier establishes a fund for the purpose of funding the out-of-state tuition of certain students enrolled in specific medical education programs when such medical education programs are not offered in Louisiana. This legislation mandates that those students then return to practice in Louisiana and must accept Medicaid patients.

Abortion Issues

House Bill 587 by Rep. Labruzzo would have criminalized all abortion procedures and provided a direct challenge to Roe v. Wade. After discovering the bill would jeopardize more than $6 billion in federal funding, the bill was sent to Appropriations Committee where it died.

House Bill 636 by Rep. Hoffman was strongly supported by the governor and initially sought to provide for signage in abortion clinics. It was amended in committee to legislate conscience law and to deny the physical and mental health of a patient be considered by a physician when determining the patient’s ability to receive “right-to-know” information. While LSMS takes no position on abortion issues, hours of negotiation between the LSMS and proponents of the legislation were required to maintain and protect the extraordinarily complex medical practice prerogatives and privileges required by physicians in the course of such medical treatment of their patients. Following LSMS resolution, the bill was amended to address these critical issues so that physicians may continue to practice medicine in the best interest of both the physical and mental health of their patients. The bill ultimately passed in an acceptable form to medicine as well as the proponents of the legislation.

A detailed summary of the important bills and happenings at the state capitol is available online at www.LSMS.org under the Advocacy tab.

During this year’s session, LSMS Council on Legislation Chair Dr. Vincent Culotta was featured on the LSMS Advocacy section of the website in short YouTube video segments highlighting the current bills and calls to action. All videos are available on the LSMS YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/LouisianaStateMedSoc. Please let us know if you watched the segments and give us any suggestions for improving them for next year.

Again, many thanks to those who took time out of their hectic schedules to contact representatives and senators in response to LSMS calls to action, as well as those who attended committee hearings and testified when duty called.
Summary of the Actions of the Board of Governors

The Board of Governors (BOG) met on June 1 and took the following actions: (This is a description of the actions taken by the Board of Governors and does not reflect the exact language of motions acted upon at the meetings).

1. Accepted the annual audit of the LSMS financials as presented by L.A. Champagne, LLC.

2. Because of scheduling difficulties in securing a hotel, approved the recommendation from the Speakers to schedule the 2012 House of Delegates meeting in Baton Rouge and to schedule the 2013 House of Delegates in New Orleans.

3. Received an update from Mrs. Emma Borders, President-Elect of the AMA Alliance on Alliance activities and her upcoming installation as President during the AMA Alliance Annual Meeting in Chicago later this month.

4. Received an update from those participating in the meeting the previous evening with AMA Speaker of the House and candidate for AMA President-Elect Dr. Jeremy Lazarus and two additional AMA staffers on how the AMA can improve its relationship with Louisiana physicians.

5. Received an update on the current status of bills being considered by the Louisiana legislature including the budget cuts impacting physician reimbursement through the Medicaid program.

6. Approved endorsing the efforts of eQHealth Solutions, the Medicare QIO for Louisiana, concerning its three-year contract with CMS for its Tenth Scope of Work. Additionally, agreed to provide a link on the LSMS website to eQHealth Solutions.

7. Received an update on the possible lawsuit against the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals concerning Medicaid reimbursement cuts over the last several years and approved an additional $7,500 to defray legal expenses. Also, authorized the Executive Committee to take any appropriate action concerning the lawsuit should circumstances warrant.

8. Presented Ms. Amy Phillips, LSMS General Counsel, with a letter of commendation from the BOG in recognition and with gratitude for her 15 years of service to the Society.

9. Approved the President appointing an ad hoc committee to develop a plan regarding Act 817 to comply with the recommendations of those present at the 2011 House of Delegates meeting which stem from the current judicial challenges to the medical malpractice cap.

On June 1, LSMS General Counsel Amy Phillips announced her resignation from the LSMS, effective June 21. Ms. Phillips plans to work on her many volunteer efforts and spending more time with her family. All of her colleagues and friends here at the LSMS wish her well in all her future endeavors!

Pictured above, Ms. Phillips receives a letter of commendation presented by LSMS President Dean Griffen from the BOG in recognition and with gratitude for her 15 years of service to the Society.
Physicians: Share Your Experience and Concerns About EMR

In an effort to discover the factors that contribute to physicians’ reluctance to adopt electronic medical record (EMR) technology, the LSMS has partnered with Drs. Andy and Colleen Schwarz with the Louisiana State University E.J. Ourso College of Business to conduct research, in the form of a focus group and an electronic survey. The focus group portion of the research is complete. Read the findings at www.LSMS.org. Go to the Advocacy tab and click on Electronic Health Records (EHR/EMR), or email publicaffairs@lsms.org.

In the next phase of the research, LSMS physicians are being asked to complete a questionnaire, emailed earlier this month. All respondents who participate are eligible for the prize drawing for a Kindle or an autographed football by LSU Football Coach Les Miles. The LSMS will update you on the progress of this important research. If you need additional information, contact Sadie Wilks at 225.763.8500 or via email at sadie@lsms.org.

CMS Proposes Changes to Medicare Electronic Prescribing (eRx)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) 2011 eRx Proposed Rule was posted to the eRx website on May 26 and the rule was published in the Federal Register on June 1. The proposed rule includes significant changes to the e-prescribing penalty program by adding more exemption categories so that physicians are not unfairly penalized for failing to meet the requirements.

Beginning in 2012, CMS is required to subject eligible professionals (see www.cms.gov/ERxIncentive/downloads/2011eRxIncentiveProgramUpdatefor2012PaymentAdjustment05-09-11.pdf) who are not successful electronic prescribers under the eRx Incentive Program to a payment adjustment. This payment adjustment applies to all of the eligible professional’s Part B-covered professional services under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS).

From 2012 through 2014, the payment adjustment will increase with each new reporting period. Accordingly, for 2012, eligible professionals receiving a payment adjustment will be paid 1.0% less than the MPFS amount for that service. In 2013 and 2014, the payment adjustment increases to 1.5% and 2.0% respectively.

Eligible professionals may be exempt from the application of the payment adjustment if CMS determines that compliance with the requirement for being a successful electronic prescriber would result in a significant hardship. The deadline to apply for an exemption is October 1. Also, the hardship exception is subject to annual renewal. Go to www.cms.gov/erxincentive to find out what you need to do to be on-line and prescribing by January 1, 2012.

CMS Louisiana QIO Prepares for Leadership Transition

On June 3, eQHealth Solutions Executive Director Scott Flowers announced his resignation from the Louisiana Medicare QIO, effective July 8. Debra Rushing, a quality improvement director on the Louisiana Medicare contract for eQHealth since 2009, has been named the executive director for the company’s Medicare quality improvement contract for Louisiana. For more information visit www.eqhealthsolutions.org.
LaPOST Document Aids in End of Life Care Planning

After several years of research and collaboration from health care and legal professionals, the Louisiana Physician Order for Scope of Treatment (LaPOST) document received final approval by the Louisiana Legislature and became legal and able to be used on June 20.

LaPOST is a document that specifies patients’ wishes in the event they are unable to communicate. It is a physician order and is only recommended for patients with a life-limiting illness and a life expectancy of less than one year. The document transfers with the patient across care settings (hospital to home to nursing home to hospice).

LaPOST was created as a best practice model for advance care planning through the efforts of the LaPOST Coalition, a statewide network of Louisiana health care professionals. The document is one of several resources for end of life planning that can be downloaded through the LaPOST website at www.la-post.org.

According to a 2006 Pew Research Center study, 19% of Americans had not discussed their end of life wishes with anyone. LaPOST Coalition Chairwoman Dr. Susan Nelson says, “The resources available on the LaPOST website are meant to assist physicians in having this conversation with patients and their families and complete and implement the form. Health care professionals are encouraged to check our website for more information on end of life care that will be added in the coming months.”

Cardiovascular Institute of the South Physicians Make Headlines

Cardiovascular Institute of the South (CIS) cardiologist, Dr. Peter Fail, was the lead investigator of a study on heart-valve treatments, EVEREST II clinical trial. In April, results from his research were published in The New England Journal of Medicine and were presented at the American Cardiology conference, held April 2-5 in New Orleans.

The 2-year trial evaluated the safety and effectiveness of a non-surgical procedure that uses a small device to treat patients with mitral regurgitation, the most common heart valve problem. His research concluded that the less-invasive procedure, MitraClip repair, was safer and had similar outcomes as surgery.

In May, CIS cardiologist, Dr. Deepak Thekkoott, was the first physician in the Baton Rouge region to use the world’s smallest heart pump, the Impella. The Impella device temporarily relieves the heart’s pumping function and provides the time needed to initiate life-saving interventions.

For more details on Drs. Fail and Thekkoott or CIS, call 1.800.425.2565 or visit www.cardio.com.
Member Profiles

Dr. D. Luke Glancy, of New Orleans, organized and moderated in Baltimore on June 10, 2011, an academic program for the 50th reunion of his Class of 1960 of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Glancy has been the medical editor of the *Journal of the Louisiana State Medical Society* since 2002.

LSMS President Dr. Dean Griffen, of Shreveport, received the Allen E. Copping Excellence in Teaching Award at the LSU Health Shreveport Commencement activities on May 28.

Dr. David J. Holcombe, of Alexandria, was selected as the featured LSMS physician artist for the cover of the May/June issue of the *Journal of the Louisiana State Medical Society*. Visit [http://journal.lsms.org/](http://journal.lsms.org/) to read his bio in the current issue of the *Journal*. See more of Dr. Holcombe’s paintings at [www.holcombegallery.com](http://www.holcombegallery.com).

Dr. John E. Lemoine, of Bunkie, was honored by the State Senate during the ongoing legislative session in Baton Rouge. Dr. Lemoine serves as a current member of the LAMMICO Board of Directors. The recognition came in the form of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 83, sponsored by State Sen. Eric LaFleur. The resolution commends Dr. Lemoine “for his dedication in serving the healthcare needs of many patients, and as a tireless advocate for just and fair physician liability laws in the state.”

Dr. Harold “Skip” Ishler, of Denham Springs, has received the 2011 Louisiana Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Volunteer Recognition Award for his outstanding commitment to fighting health care fraud and abuse. He is one of only 10 SMP volunteers in the country to receive this award.

Dr. Chris Wolcott, of Shreveport, assisted in search and rescue efforts following the tornado that destroyed much of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. As medical director for the Louisiana Urban Search and Rescue Team, Dr. Wolcott was in charge of medical care for the 130 team members and eight K-9 search dogs that covered a half-mile wide, 8-mile long search for survivors and victims.

New Members, Welcome to the LSMS *(April 21 - June 20)*

Lacie Arnold Alfonso, MD  
Dana R. Ambler, DO  
Amy H. Broussard, MD  
Jeffrey M. Elder, MD  
Dennis Wayne Fletcher, MD  
Claudia P. Florian, MD  
Thomas B. Ford, MD  
Julia Garcia-Diaz, MD  
Hilma Lisa Green, MD  
Alok K. Gupta, MD  
Sarah Carroll Hamauei, MD  
Žojilt Herberth, MD  
Khanh Tuong Ho, MD  
Muhammad Atif Shamshad  
Jadoo, MD  
Vivek Kumar Khare, MD

Victor William Lucas, Jr., MD  
Gerald Mouton, MD  
Arvind J. Patel, MD  
Rodney Judon Posey, DO  
Irum A. Qureshi, MD  
Neva Ducote Seago, MD  
Morteza Shamsnia, MD  
Michael Paul Zeringue, MD

New Resident/Fellow Members, Welcome to the LSMS  
*(April 21 - June 20)*

Kelly S Cannon, MD  
Jeanne N. Gautreaux, MD  
Cherian Verghese, MD  
Keely Wyn Wheeler, DO

New Medical Student Members, Welcome to the LSMS  
*(April 21 - June 20)*

Michael Modica  
Jesse Michael Stephan
Updates from the LSMS CME Accreditation Program (CMEAP)
by LSMS CME Accreditation Program Committee Chair Pamela Parra, MD

The LSMS Continuing Medical Education Accreditation Program (CMEAP) recently partnered with the Texas Medical Association (TMA) to plan the 2011 TMA CME Conference. The conference was held June 9-10 in Houston, Texas, with nearly 200 attendees. Physicians and CME coordinators, whose educational programs are accredited by the LSMS, TMA or the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, received important updates that affect accredited CME.

American Medical Association Physician’s Recognition Award (AMA PRA) Standards and Policy Director Jeanette Harmon reminded conference attendees of the revisions to the AMA PRA and its related credit system. These revisions can be found in the 2010 revision of the AMA PRA Credit System Handbook. All accredited CME providers that certify educational activities for AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ are required to implement certain changes to their CME programs by July 1, 2011. For more information about these requirements, please visit the AMA’s website at www.ama-assn.org.

It is with regret that I inform you of two organizations that will not seek reaccreditation of their CME programs this year. The CME Committee of Acadia located in Lafayette and CHRISTUS St. Patrick Hospital located in Lake Charles have both experienced shortages in staff and limited financial resources, especially from commercial interests.

The LSMS CMEAP currently accredits 21 organizations that offer AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. For a complete list of CME providers in Louisiana and Arkansas or for more information about the types of programs that are presented by these organizations, please visit the LSMS website at www.LSMS.org or contact LSMS Medical Education Coordinator Wendy Newell at wendy@lsms.org.

CME Opportunity: LAFP 64th Annual Assembly and Exhibition

The Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians (LAFP) will hold its 64th Annual Assembly and Exhibition on August 4-7 at the Hotel Monteleone in New Orleans.

This activity is designed for the specialty of family medicine, but may also be of educational interest to the specialties of internal medicine, pediatrics and other primary care fields.

The program is being reviewed for Prescribed Credits by the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). This includes evidence based credit. AAFP Prescribed Credit is accepted by the American Medical Association (AMA) as equivalent to AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ toward the AMA Physician’s Recognition Award. When applying for the AMA PRA, prescribed credit earned must be reported as prescribed credit, not as AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.

In addition to the CME hours, the 64th Annual Assembly and Exhibition is featuring a Resident and Student Member Track on Saturday, August 6.

For more details or to register online, visit www.lafp.org/content/cme-a-events/annual-members-assembly/registration.

AMA Physician Recognition Awards

Antonio Edwards, MD
Michael S. Ellis, MD
Morris Hoffpaur, MD
Raoult Ratard, MD
Charles Simonson, MD
Linda Stewart, MD

Recognizing physicians for participating in continuing medical education, the American Medical Association (AMA) honors qualified physicians with the Physician’s Recognition Award (PRA). Listed above are the LSMS member recipients for April and May. The LSMS receives this list from the AMA.

Receive additional information about AMA PRA at www.ama-assn.org/go/pra, email pra@ama-assn.org or call 312.464.4672. You can also download the revised AMA PRA Credit System Handbook for more details about the program at www.ama-assn.org/resources/doc/cme/pra-booklet.pdf.
Alliance Day-at-the-Capitol, May 11, 2011

LSMS and Alliance members attended and observed hearings for the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare. Co-chairs, Rose Kuplesky and Dale DeSonier, and Alliance President Marci Freeman organized this year’s program. Make plans to attend next year to experience the legislative process and show your support of the important work of our physicians.

LSMS Alliance 81st Annual Meeting

The 81st LSMS Alliance Annual Meeting was held on May 12-13, at the Houmas House in Darrow, Louisiana. State American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation Co-Chair Conner Boyer reported on the AMA Foundation Scholars Fund. Parish AMA Foundation chairs were Simonic Jones, Shreveport; Deserae Saunders, Capital Area; and Sue Younces, Rapides. State and Parish Alliance members raised $7,955.99 for medical student scholarships from jewelry sales, holiday sharing cards and Doctors’ Day fundraisers.

The AMA Foundation recognized the following Parish Alliances for their fundraising efforts: Shreveport, $4730.49; Capital Area, $895.00; Rapides, $1,210.00; Orleans, $506.50; and Lafayette, $369.00. Connie Boyer presented the AMA Foundation Scholarship Awards to the following medical schools and students: Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC) School of Medicine-New Orleans medical student recipient Carrie Spangler, $2,076.50; LSUHSC School of Medicine-Shreveport medical student recipient Shannon Berryhill, $9,950.00; and Tulane Medical School medical student recipient Lori Guillot, $3,730.00.

On display at this year’s meeting was a board honoring emergency medicine physicians in the military (pictured right), put together by LSMSA President Marci Freeman and the residents and resident spouses of the Emergency Medicine Program at Earl K. Long. The board, sponsored by the Capital Area Medical Society Alliance won first place and $500 as a Medical Heritage Project for the Southern Medical Association Alliance.
On May 12 at the LSMS Alliance Annual Meeting, LSMS Alliance member, Donna B. Cavanaugh, was honored as the recipient of the inaugural LSMS Alliance Flame of Excellence Award for her safety advocacy efforts with the ThinkFirst National Injury Foundation. Mrs. Cavanaugh, Louisiana State Chapter director for ThinkFirst National Injury Foundation and the executive director of the Ark-La-Tex Chapter, has been an active member of the Shreveport Medical Society Alliance since 1989. Her advocacy efforts extend to all “arms” of safety from bicycle helmets, seat belts, shaken baby safety and water safety. Mrs. Cavanaugh says, “prevention is the key to saving lives and reducing injuries.” She was also recognized in The Shreveport Times in the article, “Safety with a Smile.”

The LSMS Retired Physicians Section (now, LSMS Senior Physicians Section) chaired by Dr. William J. Dimattia, initiated the creation of this award to annually honor an Alliance member “who makes a significant contribution to the enhancement of the health and welfare of their community.”

Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler - Physicians Picnic on the River

Jefferson Parish Medical Society (JPMS) and the Orleans Parish Medical Society (OPMS) hosted a picnic on May 15 for members and potential members in the metropolitan New Orleans area. Physician families enjoyed good food and fun while celebrating spring with colleagues. JPMS and OPMS want to thank LAMMICO, event sponsor, and Campus Federal, who donated a coveted wine basket door prize.
**LSMS Member Benefit: Paychex, Inc.**

LSMS partners with Paychex, Inc. to offer you a trustworthy, reliable option for payroll and human resource services. From calculating payroll and filing tax payments to administering retirement plans and workers’ compensation, Paychex gives its clients relief from administrative hassles so they can focus on their bottom line. With no contracts and easy set up, Paychex is a great choice for your practice.

LSMS members will receive a 15 percent discount on new account payroll services. Contact Dustin Prechter at dprechter@paychex.com or 225.200.6818 for additional information or to schedule an office consultation.