



# Bulletin

of the Mahoning County Medical Society  
May - June 2002



## An Open Letter from the President

by Eugene L. Potesta, Jr., MD

What OMPAC does for me.

I am frequently challenged by area physicians as to what the Mahoning County Medical Society does for them. Generally this challenge arises when we ask people to consider joining the Society. I am first usually tempted to respond, "ask not what your medical society does for you but ask what you have done for your medical society." The point being, we are all in this together as physicians and, instead of looking outward for solutions, it would be my hope that our colleagues who are non members would look to become active members and to make efforts to facilitate solutions to problems we all face as physicians.

I traditionally have found it distressing to hear that physician members are unwilling to contribute money to OMPAC which certainly actively pursues our collective agenda in a legislative and political way. It is my personal belief that entities such as OMPAC need to be well funded and indeed, in the political world, this does provide access to those who can affect our agendas. In my opinion, this is as it should be. Whether or not one agrees with this is irrelevant in that this clearly is the way of the world that we live in at this time.

Certainly OMPAC does not request large sums of money, nor do they require commitments of time. They do request contributions at a level of approximately \$300 per year. They do accept contributions to lesser levels.

The average physician contributes \$7 per year to a political action committee. The average trial lawyer contributes \$1000 per year to a political action committee. In addition, we are severely outnumbered by trial lawyers.

Of interest, our average salary considerably exceeds the average salary of trial lawyers in America. The point being made here is that if we are unwilling to contribute relatively smaller portions of our income to fund those who politically lobby for and pursue our agenda, we only get what we deserve.

It is my opinion that most physicians would not give a second thought to stopping off and purchasing a new driver for a golf outing priced at \$300. I would submit to you that the price of that driver would be well spent to compete with political action committees representing trial lawyers association and insurance companies.

It is certainly my hope that physicians will increasingly awaken to the fact that being politically engaged is imperative. It is certainly understandable that we would voice our complaints to one another about dwindling insurance reimbursement rates and skyrocketing medical malpractice premiums. It is certainly understandable that we will console each other through these times. It is, however, my belief that we do need to pick ourselves off the ground and step forward into the arena to battle these issues.

In the modern era this does not require individual time commitments by the majority of our membership. We certainly do require an effective minority to represent us. Clearly, however, we do need to provide competitive funding to highlight and represent our viewpoints in the legislative and political arena. At the OSMA, we are fortunate to have Tim Maglione, Director of Legislation, who was recently named the Lobbyist of the Year by the Republican Caucus of the Ohio House of Representatives. It is to our advantage to have someone of Tim's caliber to coordinate our political affairs and develop strategies to address public policy, but he can only be as effective as the support he receives from the members and their contributions to OMPAC.

Please consider continuing your support to OMPAC, and for those who have not been traditional supporters, we would like you to reconsider your decision in this area.

# Bulletin

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The Bulletin reserves the right to edit all contributions for clarity and length, as well as to reject any material submitted, including advertisements.

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## CALENDAR

- May 28 *Society Dinner, Holiday Inn, Boardman*
- June 12 *Fundraiser for Justice Evelyn Stratton and Lt. Gov. Maureen O'Connor Antone's, Boardman*
- June 13 *Breakfast for Canfield Fair exhibitors, Pepper's Catering*
- June 20 *OSHA Workshop, Antone's, Boardman*
- July 11 *OSHA 10-Hour Workshop for "Distinguished Partners" Managers and Supervisors*
- August 29 - September 2 *Canfield Fair*

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

Denise L. Bobovnyik, MD



Welcome to the newly reformatted version of the Mahoning County Medical Society *Bulletin*. It has been nearly 15 years since my last editorship and suffice it to say many things have changed! It's refreshing to know that the MCMS has continued to change also.

In working with the Ohio State Medical Association and other county medical societies we have learned that physicians want succinct information in a timely manner. We hope that by changing the format of the *Bulletin* we will be better able to serve our members. We hope to increase the frequency from quarterly to bi-monthly. We also recognize the need to keep you aware of all pertinent happenings, i.e., updates on the malpractice crisis, state and local election information, HIPAA regulations, benefits of membership, etc.

We also hope to be more interactive and welcome comments both in terms of letters and articles that you may wish to contribute. We also hope to provide current and future advertisers with more opportunity to reach their audience.

In a time when many medical organizations are dealing with decreased membership and decreased revenue, we are trying to become more fiscally responsible by curbing costs and keeping this publication an "in-house" project.

Lastly, I would like you all to welcome Karyn Frederick, our new Executive Director, who came on board in January after the retirement of Eleanor Pershing. She will be working very hard for all of us as we continue to keep the Mahoning County Medical Society the quality organization it has become.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Denise L. Bobovnyik".

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# WHAT DOES MY MEDICAL SOCIETY DO FOR ME?

A question frequently asked when people are approached about joining the MCMS is "what do I get for that?". This is an understandable question from a consumer-oriented public. Membership in and of itself is a strong political statement that facilitates our strength in the political and legislative arena. For some physicians, the political and legislative haranguing is mercurial and too distant to appreciate. There are, however, a few concrete services that currently are available to MCMS members as a result of their membership in MCMS and the Ohio State Medical Association.

## 1) OSHA PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

As many of you are aware, the OSHA Partnership Agreement has been circulated to you. The Partnership Agreement is of considerable benefit to those who have been offered it. The Agreement removes physicians from the random audit list. It creates a non-adversarial procedure for physicians to be in compliance with OSHA standards. In addition, it provides the opportunity of correcting shortcomings in this area prior to any punitive actions. This agreement was recently signed by the MCMS and OSHA. To qualify for this agreement, you must first and foremost be a member of the MCMS. This is a new pilot program that we feel will be well taken care of by OSHA in an attempt to expand these type of partnering arrangements nationwide. To our knowledge we are the first medical society in the nation to be offered this agreement. This partnering agreement, however, has been generally covered by the industrial and workplace communities. This program alone is worth the cost of membership to the MCMS.

## 2) GROUP INSURANCE POLICIES

In addition to the OSHA Partnership Agreement, membership in the Ohio State Medical Association qualifies physicians for OSMA group insurance policies. Many of our members participate in health insurance coverage plans for their employees at discounted rates through the Ohio State Medical Association. Of course, one is required to be a member of this organization to participate. Similarly, there are workers' comp group ratings that are available through the Ohio State Medical Association. We do have members who have joined our organization primarily to achieve this rating.

## 3) OFFICE/MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Ohio State Medical Association members are able to order both office equipment and medical supplies through Allegiance/Cardinal Health at group discounted rates. Options available for ordering range from paper to suture. The company also indicates that in your particular specialty area specific order forms will be created for your particular needs to facilitate your ability to access this resource. As an Ohio State Medical Association member you can anticipate considerably discounted rates due to the group buying power associated with being a member of the Ohio State Medical Association.

## 4) *athenahealth*

*athenahealth* is a billing and business service with an Ohio State Medical Association portal. This service is available to Ohio State Medical Association members at discounted rates. In addition, it is HIPAA compliant. This service may or may not fit your particular needs in your office, but it is available at discounted rates for your consideration.

## 5) REFERRAL SERVICE

There are additional reasons for joining the MCMS, including referral services. Frequently the Medical Society is contacted directly by patients new to the area, or by businesses seeking referrals. We have the ability to pass on to these people the information provided by you and that you are a member in good standing. We see this as a practice building service. In addition, members of the MCMS are available to our peer review process. This service frequently allows complaints issued against physicians to be handled at the level of the MCMS. When complaints are issued concerning nonmembers we are unable to address these complaints within our organization. Generally these matters end up being pursued at the State Medical Board level. The form of local peer review is potentially less adversarial and generally less punitive.

In short, membership in your local medical society provides some valuable concrete services. Hopefully, these services will continue to expand. If you would like more information on any of these programs, or know of a nonmember physician who would like membership information, call the Society office at 330-758-1624, or log on to our website, [www.mahoningmed.org](http://www.mahoningmed.org), and click on the link to the OSMA.

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## Ohio State Medical Association

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### Here's what *you* would gain by membership in the OSMA:

#### Advocating: Your position

- You have a voice in the legislative arena and an opportunity to affect change at the Statehouse and at the Capitol in Washington through:
  - **OMPAC**... The bipartisan political action committee that supports legislators friendly to medicine.
  - **PLAN**... The Physician Legislative Action Network, the grassroots political arm of the OSMA.

#### Saving: You time and money

**Practice efficiency**... Access to "best of breed" products and services to reduce costs and improve your practice's effectiveness. Most participants will save more than the cost of their annual OSMA membership dues by taking advantage of:

- **Cardinal Health/Allegiance**... A group purchasing service with savings of up to 20% on medical/surgical and other supplies; up to 30% on office supplies.
- **athenahealth**... a claims management and electronic filing system that can increase the speed at which you receive reimbursement.
- **Education on important topics**... Choose from a broad range of practice management topics, including human resource management, coding, compliance and more.
- **Help with HIPAA compliance**... The tools and resources you need to bring your practice into HIPAA compliance.
- **Personal assistance with third-party problems**... Confidential, *personal* assistance with reimbursement, coding and other insurer issues.
- **OSMA Insurance Agency**... Tailoring the best carriers and insurance program for you and your practice.
- **Worker's Comp Group Rating Program**... Reduce your annual premium payments by pooling together employers in similar industries with good safety records.

#### Promoting: Your profession

The business of the OSMA is helping you in your day-to-day practice so you can return to the business you do best – taking care of patients.

- **News you can use**... Stay up-to-date on news affecting you through:
  - **www.osma.org**... The OSMA Web site keeps you updated 24 hours a day seven days a week on timely issues affecting medicine.
  - **OHIO Medicine and OSMA This Week**... Articles with information you can *use* today.
- **Answers to your questions**... Our information resource center, provides prompt, professional help in answering questions on a variety of health-care topics.

The Ohio State Medical Association is dedicated to making the practice of medicine less complicated and more satisfying by advocating your position, saving you time and money, and promoting your profession.

For more information about member benefits, contact the Ohio State Medical Association in any of the following ways: Call: (800) 766-OSMA (6762) or (614) 527-OSMA (6762), fax: (614) 527-6763, e-mail: [asktheosma@osma.org](mailto:asktheosma@osma.org) or visit online at: [www.osma.org](http://www.osma.org).

## Eleanor Pershing Honored at Retirement Dinner

Eleanor Pershing, Executive Director of the Medical Society since 1988, was honored at a dinner commemorating her retirement at Tippecanoe County Club on Thursday, February 28. Over 80 friends and family members joined in the celebration of Eleanor's service and contributions to the Society. Drs. Chris Knight and Denise Bobovnyik spoke of Eleanor's accomplishments as Executive Director, and of the kindness and caring she has shown to members over the years. Dr. Hai-Shiuh Wang, who was President of the Society when Eleanor was hired, told how impressed the search committee was with Eleanor's interview and, since no other members of that committee were in attendance, Dr. Wang took credit for her hiring. He then presented her a bouquet of roses from he and Mrs. Wang. Piano music was provided by Paul Rossi, a longtime friend going back to Eleanor's college days at Westminster. Typically, Eleanor rarely sat down during the evening and went from table to table thanking everyone for coming. Escorted by her daughter and son-in-law, Eleanor left laden with flowers, gifts and cards, tokens of appreciation and esteem from her friends.



Eleanor celebrated her retirement with her first Council president, Dr. Hai-Shiuh Wang and Mrs. Wang (above left) and her last president, Dr. Ron Yarab (right).

## Pushing Hard to Elect Fair and Impartial Supreme Court Justices

OMPAC and the OSMA are fighting hard to change the makeup of the Ohio Supreme Court. Justice Andrew Douglas, who has consistently sided against Ohio's physicians on many issues, is constitutionally prevented from running for re-election because of his age. This has created an open seat. OMPAC is already very active in this race.

OMPAC will be supporting Maureen O'Connor, the current Lieutenant Governor, in her bid for the open Ohio Supreme Court seat. O'Connor's prior judicial experience has proven she will be a fair and impartial justice.

The first step in passing meaningful tort reform is electing the right Supreme Court justices. The current Supreme Court has overturned the Ohio Legislature's previous attempts at passing meaningful tort reform.

OMPAC is also fighting hard to re-elect Justice Evelyn Stratton to the Ohio Supreme Court. Stratton has consistently sided with Ohio's physicians on tort reform.

A group of physicians from Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana Counties will be hosting a fundraiser on June 12th at Antone's Banquet Center in Boardman to help raise the funds needed for these two candidates to be successful. Invitations to this event have been sent to county medical society members, hospital executives and business leaders in the tri-county area. The two candidates will be attending this event. If you have not received an invitation, or know of someone you would like to invite, call the Mahoning County Medical Society at 330-758-1624, or the Trumbull County Medical Society at 330-394-4556 for more information.

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# NEW MEMBERS

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Dermatology

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Boardman, OH 44512

Medical Education: Northeastern Ohio Universities College  
of Medicine

Internship: University of Florida, Gainesville, FL  
Residency: University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

**Nicholas P. DePizzo II, DO**

Family Practice

4991 Belmont Ave.  
Youngstown, OH 44505

Medical Education: Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Med.  
Erie, PA

Internship: St. Joseph Health Center, Warren, OH  
Residency: St. Joseph Health Center, Warren, OH

**Leslie J. Schwendeman, MD**

Orthopaedic Surgery (Hand)

Youngstown Orthopaedic Center  
6470 Tippecanoe Road  
Canfield, OH 44406

Medical Education: Ohio State University College of Med.

Internship: University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA  
Residency: University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA  
Fellowship: Hand Surgical Assoc., Cincinnati, OH

**Sudhir K. Nallapaneni, MD**

Internal Medicine

Primary Care Associates  
602 Parmalee Avenue, Suite 400  
Youngstown, OH 44510

Medical Education: Gunter Medical College, Gunter, India

Internship: Government General Hospital, Gunter, India  
Residency: St. Elizabeth Hospital, Youngstown, OH

**Steven A. Chismar, MD**

Obstetrics and Gynecology

815 Southwestern Run  
Poland, OH 44514

Medical Education: Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine

Internship: St. John Hospital Medical Center, Detroit, MI  
Residency: St. John Hospital Medical Center, Detroit, MI

**Peter M. DeVito, MD**

General Surgery

550 Parmalee Avenue, Suite 400  
Youngstown, OH 44510

Medical Education: Northeastern Ohio Universities College of  
Medicine

Internship: St. Elizabeth Health Center, Youngstown, OH  
Residency: St. Elizabeth Health Center, Youngstown, OH

**Scott B. Tofil, MD**

Internal Medicine

Primary Care Associates  
602 Parmalee Ave., Suite 400  
Youngstown, OH 44510

Medical Education: Ohio State University College of Medicine

Internship: Mt. Carmel Hospital, Columbus, OH  
Residency: Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN  
St. Elizabeth Hospital, Youngstown, OH

**David J. Corallo, DO**

Dermatology

18586 West 5th Street  
Beloit, OH 44609

Medical Education: New York College of Osteopathic Medicine

Internship: Union Hospital, Union, NJ  
Residency: Union Hospital, Union, NJ  
Cuyahoga Falls General Hospital, Cuyahoga Falls, OH

**Bicher Barmada, MD**

Thoracic Surgery

Yoon & Hunter Cardiothoracic & Vascular Associates  
500 Gypsy Lane, Suite 101  
Youngstown, OH 44501

Medical Education: French Faculty of Medicine, Beirut, Lebanon

Internship: Cook County Hospital, Chicago, IL  
Residency: Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, MI  
Pontiac General Hospital, Pontiac, MI  
Fellowship: Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA  
St. Joseph Hospital, Phoenix, AZ

## A Look Back...

### 50 Years Ago.....1952

Officers were: **C.A. Gustafson**, President; **V. L. Goodwin**, President-elect; **G. E. DeCicco**, Secretary; **A. K. Phillips**, Treasurer. **W. J. Tims, MD**, wrote on poliomyelitis and said "we haven't more than scratched the surface". He gave the incidence of polio in the city from 1930 to 1950. The worst year was 1933 with 40 cases.

**Nathan Belinky** was in the Philippines. He was later in the death march.

**Hugh N. Bennett, MD**, wrote on rheumatic fever and the effectiveness of a streptococcal control program.

Americans spent \$8.3 billion on medical care in 1950.

Eleven rooms on 1W, Northside unit, were opened at \$6 a day.

### 40 Years Ago.....1962

Officers were: **C. W. Stertzbach**, President; **Asher Randell**, President-elect; **A. K. Phillips**, Immediate Past-president; **C. E. Pichette**, Secretary; **H. P. McGregor**, Treasurer; **B. C. Berg**, Editor.

Youngstown has a population of 166,689; Mahoning County, 300,480.

Under the leadership of **Dr. Kurt Wegner**, the polio vaccination reached 136,000. In one Saturday, 90,000 were given the vaccine.

**J. N. McCann**, President of the Ohio Board of Medical Examiners, was made President-elect of the National Federation of State Board Examiners.

The artificial kidney became available. Consultation was provided by **Drs. Gust Boulis, C. J. Fisher, A. William Geordan and Willim D. Loesser**.

### 30 Years Ago.....1972

Officers were: **Henry Holden**, President; **J. F. Stotler**, Immediate Past-president; **C. E. Pichette**, President-elect; **K. M Lloyd**, Treasurer; **G. H. Deitz**, Secretary; **J. C. Melnick**, Editor.

This was the 100th anniversary of the Medical Society. *Bulletin* Editor **John C. Melnick** wrote monthly historical articles, culminating in his first book, "The History of Medicine in Youngstown and Mahoning County". Moments in medicine written by Dr. Melnick listed numerous "firsts" in each addition of the *Bulletin* during 1972.

### 20 Years Ago.....1982

Officers were: **R. M. Kiskaddon**, President; **P. J. Mahar**, Vice-President; **D. J. Dallis**, Immediate Past-president; **H. S. Wang**, Secretary; **A. Z. Rabinowitz**, Treasurer.

Excellent editorial on "The Selling of Youngstown" by **R. W. Juvancic, MD**.

The *Bulletin* proudly observed its 50th anniversary.

It took two years to cure syphilis with arsenic and bismuth. Three weeks to cure gonorrhea with argyrol.

**Dr. John Melnick** persuaded City Council to name Dutton Drive, leading to Youngstown's first hospital, after Youngstown's first doctor.

### 10 Years Ago.....1992

Officers were: **Jane F. Butterworth**, President; **Eric W. Svenson**, President-elect; **Douglas M. Goldson**, Secretary; **Danny Chung**, Treasurer; **Brian S. Gordon**, Immediate Past-president; **Chris A. Knight**, Editor.

The Distinguished Physician Award went to doctors **A. Riberi and Charles Waltner**.

**Dr. Jane F. Butterworth** became the first female President of the Society in its 120-year history.



*John C. Melnick, M.D.*

## Bits 'n' Pieces

The OSHA workshop on bloodborne pathogens will be held on Thursday, June 20 at Antone's in Boardman. Notices will be sent to all members.

The May Society Dinner will be held at the Holiday Inn, Boardman on Tuesday, May 28th. Reservations must be in by Friday, May 24.

A fundraiser for Ohio Supreme Court candidates **Justice Evelyn Stratton and Lt. Gov. Maureen O'Connor** will be held at Antone's Banquet center on Wednesday, June 12. Call the Society office for more information.

It's not too late to send in your OSHA Partnership Agreement. If you've misplaced it, call the Society office and one will be sent to you. The OSHA 10-Hour workshop for Distinguished Partners managers and supervisors will be held at the Holiday Inn Boardman on July 11th.

Canfield Fair volunteers are needed to work in the Society booth in the medical building August 29 through September 2. If you are interested, call the Society office.

The Society website, [www.mahoningmed.org](http://www.mahoningmed.org), has been updated. Check out the new info and your listing in the Physician Locator. This is just the first step in upgrading the website. Soon, member physicians will be able to access a "members-only" desktop. Watch for more news and let us know what you think of the new look!

In July, Invizeon Corp. will be coming to local hospitals to take photos for a new photo directory that will come out early in 2003. You will be contacted to set up a time to have your picture taken.

## In Memoriam

**Jane F. Butterworth, MD**

*August 3, 1937 – April 8, 2002*

**Frank Gelbman, MD**

*August 18, 1916 -- May 9, 2002*



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