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The American Medical Association (AMA) Alliance elected new board officers at its annual meeting held June 15-17 in Chicago.

The following were elected to the AMA Alliance Board of Directors for one-year terms:

- Nancy Kyler, President-elect Staunton, VA
- Kathy Lariviere, Secretary Coralville, IA
- Susan Todd, Treasurer Fort Worth, TX
- Dinah Goldenberg, Director Fargo, ND
- Patricia Hyer, Director Fort Worth, TX
- Jo Terry, Director Knoxville, NT
- Julie Weir, Director Kearney, NE

We Touch Your Community



County Alliances across the state are gearing up for another year of improving the health of Iowans and supporting the family of medicine.

Is your county looking for an inspiring program to energize your Alliance for 2008-09?

Visit the IMS Alliance Web site or click on the above graphic for [We Touch Your Community](#), a power point presentation extolling the merits and benefits of belonging to the Alliance.

The presentation can be personalized with photos of your own county's members.

Check it out today!

7th Annual Physicians Golf Challenge

September 22, 2008
Tournament Club of Iowa
10:00 a.m.

Visit the [Iowa Medical Society Web site](#) to view brochure and register. *Deadline to register is August 24.* Questions? Call Deb Potter at 515.223.1401 X202

Focus on Membership

August Member of the Month – [Sharon Andresen](#)

Sharon has been a member of the Alliance since her husband finished residency, in 1992. At her first meeting, she volunteered to be secretary! Sharon particularly enjoyed her year as county president; she had a fabulous health projects chair who single handedly raised the funds for 80 Baby Think It Over dolls for Scott County. During Sharon's IMS Alliance presidency (2006-2007), she enjoyed visiting the county alliances; she notes that meeting and welcoming new medical student and resident spouses was particularly rewarding, since she had trod that path when her husband decided to go back to school to be doctor. In addition to her activities at the county, state and nation levels of Alliance, Sharon volunteers at her church and has recently become a member of the Tri-City Garden Club, working in a variety of Quad-City public gardens. An avid pianist and reader of books, Sharon notes that there is "nothing better than playing with the grandkids!"



Are *you* informed about the presidential candidates' health care proposals?

As health care reform is shaping up to be one of the most important issues in the 2008 presidential election, a page on the [AMA Web site](#) now provides links directly to each declared candidate's health care proposal. The AMA's [2008 Advocacy Agenda](#) includes efforts to

- expand health coverage for the uninsured,
- reform the Medicare physician payment system,
- reform the medical liability system,
- improve the health of the public, and more.

Remember to keep these issues in mind when you're evaluating the proposals and platforms of the 2008 presidential candidates.

Article taken from [AMA Alliance Web site](#)

Re-elected to the AMA Board for one-year terms as Directors were:

Emma Borders,
Bernice, LA
Barbara Hanas,
DeWitt, IA
John Lovin,
Newton, NC
Jeanie Owen,
Omaha, NE

Links

[IMS Alliance](#)

[IMS Alliance Coordinator](#)

[AMA Alliance](#)

[Click on our name to contact us](#)

[Debbie McCalla](#)
President

[Maureen Lyons](#)
President Elect

[Sheila Drevyanko & Jane Patten](#)
Vice President/Membership

[Patti Walden](#)
Secretary

[Bonnie Green](#)
Treasurer

[George Riesen](#)
FOCUS Editor

[Barb Hanas](#)
Health Promotion

[Barb Savage & Suzan Stewart](#)
Legislative Advocacy Co-Chairs

Fall Board meeting – plan to attend! October 23 at the Royal Amsterdam Hotel in Pella

Fall Board, open to all IMS Alliance members, will feature a presentation by Kathy Lariviere entitled *How to Develop Followers Who Will Lead*. An excerpt:

"Are you a leader or a follower? In reality most of us fulfill both roles simultaneously. Even great leaders don't lead all the time. Most of today's effective leaders first *learned* to be good followers before they acquired the skills, opportunity and experience to lead others. Wise leaders are beginning to understand that it is their responsibility to develop followers by encouraging *wider* participation in goal setting and objectives. It is important to remember that today's followers will become tomorrow's leaders!"

Today's volunteers are looking for different relationships with leaders than those of the past, and we need to adapt how we engage them, train them, and eventually pass leadership onto them. This presentation will help you to understand various types of followers, what motivates them, and what they want from their leaders."

A past president of the IMS Alliance, Kathy currently serves as Secretary of the AMA Alliance. She credits most of her computer and technology skills to taking leadership positions within the Alliance. She notes that one significant benefit of her service at the national level has been travel to Chicago for ongoing leadership development and the subsequent opportunity to bring the best ideas back to Iowa to share with our state and county leadership as well as the Iowa Medical Society.

Congress passes Medicare fix over presidential veto

The U.S. House and Senate voted on July 15 to override President Bush's veto of H.R. 6331, the "Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008." In the House, the override passed with a vote of 383-41. In the Senate, the override passed by a vote of 70-26. From Iowa's Congressional Delegation, Senator Harkin and Representatives Braley, Latham, and Loeb sack voted for the override. Representative Boswell missed the vote for health reasons.

The bill provides an 18-month Medicare physician payment fix by stopping the 10.6 percent Medicare physician payment cut on July 1, 2008, and the 5.4 percent cut scheduled for January 1, 2009. The bill also extends the June 2008 rates through December 31, 2008, and provides an additional 1.1 percent update for 2009. The law also extends the Work Geographic Practice Cost Index (GPCI) floor through 2009.

IMS President Patricia Hoffmann, DO, stated that IMS is pleased that Congress voted to ensure that America's elderly, disabled, and military families have access to care. "Unfortunately, we'll have to begin working immediately with lawmakers to implement a permanent fix that will stop these outrageous reimbursement cuts from occurring year after year," she said. "This has been a long and exhausting fight, but this situation must be resolved so that we can concentrate solely on what we're trained to do, and that's care for our patients." Hoffmann added that on behalf of the 4,600 members of the Iowa Medical Society, she would like to thank those members of Iowa's Congressional Delegation who voted to preserve access to care for Iowans.

Article taken from *IMS Advocate*, August 8, 2008



VoiceForTheUninsured.org

Because 1 out of 7 is 47 million too many.

Be an advocate for the uninsured. Check out important information about this issue, and sign a petition showing your support for AMA's plan to cover the uninsured. To follow the link, click on the image above.

10.3.08 IMS Reading Retreat UPDATE

IMS will host a weekend reading retreat October 3-5 at The Royal Amsterdam Hotel in Pella. Participants will discuss patient/doctor communications, relationships, obligations, and other issues in biomedical ethics, all arising from situations depicted in works of literature. Participants will read selected short works and discuss the issues they present. For more information and to register, visit www.iowamedical.org/reading.

The Iowa Medical Society encourages IMS Alliance members to attend *with or without* spouse!