

In This Issue:

COUNTY ACTIVITIES

- ScreenOut!
- Christmas Tea
- Community Kitchen
- Meals on Wheels
- Nutrition Education
- Festival of Trees
- Stocking Stuffer
- Doctors' Day
- Christmas Party
- Night Eyes
- Reach Out and Read
- Sharing Card
- Younkers Community Day Coupon Book Sale
- Women's Health Issue Panel
- Basket Auction



Members of the Polk/Warren County Alliance enjoy a Holiday Open House at Chris Korte's in December. (photo courtesy of Jane Patten)

February: Focusing on County Activities

Michael Blackmore, MD, president of **Cerro Gordo County's** Alliance, writes, "We wanted to attract resident spouses and others with young children so we've arranged baby sitting during the meetings. This has been well used at a majority of meetings. Rebecca Schimming, an active resident spouse, has rallied her ranks. The last two Society/Alliance joint meetings, we've had 3 resident couples attending. We had a Christmas Tea with 26 in attendance, [including] 6 men. Most of our *ScreenOut!* activity will be this spring. We've staffed the Community Kitchen and delivered Meals on Wheels and will do this again in the spring. Edna Oakley, a long-time member and partially retired dietitian will involve us in a variety of nutrition-education activities associated with our local Farmers' Market."



Clay County Alliance coordinator, Jeanne Anderson, offers that, "We participated in the Annual Festival of Trees that supports the Spencer Regional Health Care Foundation . . . Funds raised help to purchase equipment and supplies to better serve the patients in the region."

Patti Walden, president of the **Johnson County** Alliance, reports, "A repeat Stocking Stuffer Social event in December was canceled due to inclement weather, although we received donations totaling \$163 for AMAF and \$65 for IMSEF. A Doctors' Day Dinner to recognize residents is being considered."

"The **Marshall County** Medical Alliance hosted a well attended Christmas party at the home of Larry and Kathy Beaty. Marshall County Alliance continues to support several local projects with donations," notes organizer Maureen Lyons.

In addition to the Night Eyes at the Blank Park Zoo project (see Nov.07 *IMS Alliance eFocus*), **Polk/Warren County** Alliance co-Presidents Barb Savage and Tess Young report that their alliance has "worked with *Reach Out and Read*, a literacy program utilizing physician offices at well baby checks to get books into the home and encourage reading." They also note generous contributions to their holiday sharing card, which raises money for a Community Resources grant nominated and chosen by [their] membership. This year [the Alliance] raised over \$3800. "Plans are in place for another Younkers Community Day Coupon Book Sale to benefit the AMA Foundation. . . Future events include a Women's Health Issue Panel in February."

Sharon Andresen of **Scott County** writes, "Our annual basket auction raised \$8K for Scott County Boys and Girls Clubs and \$6K through our holiday sharing card, which will be granted for health projects throughout Scott County. The *Reach Out & Read* program continues to do well at our family practice residency program site and has been very well received by both physicians and patients."



SCMSA's Mary Stewart and Missy Dippel and helpers set up for the Silent Auction. (photo courtesy of James Entwistle)

STATE ACTIVITIES

- North Central States Leadership Development Conference
- Call for Nominations
 - Member of the Year Award
 - Outstanding Achievement Award

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

AMA ALLIANCE CAPITOL CONFERENCE & AMA NATIONAL ADVOCACY CONFERENCE

Links

IMS Alliance
AMA Alliance

Click on our name to contact us

Darshini Jayawardena
President

Debbie McCalla
President Elect

Maureen Lyons
Treasurer & Vice President

Patti Walden
Secretary

George Riesen
FOCUS Editor

Barb Hanas
Health Promotion

Kathy Lariviere
Membership

Barb Savage
& Tess Young
Legislative Advocacy Co-Chairs

North Central States Leadership Development Conference

*There's still time – register to attend! **Deadline is February 5.*** Download the complete registration form at the [IMS Alliance](#) website. Questions? Contact [Barb Savage](#), conference coordinator.



Call for Nominations:

IMS Alliance Member of the Year IMS Alliance Outstanding Achievement Award

For nomination requirements and official nomination forms, visit our website. **Deadline for submissions is March 1.** Awards to be presented at Annual Meeting in April.

ADVOCACY ON CAPITOL HILL

AMA Alliance Capitol Conference & AMA National Advocacy Conference

The **AMA Alliance Capitol Conference opens on Monday, March 31**, with a full day of Alliance-focused advocacy, health promotion, fundraising and membership marketing sessions and concludes with Hill visits in conjunction with our state medical societies/associations.

The **AMA National Advocacy Conference continues on April 1-2**. The AMA Alliance and the AMA are joining

together to help you make a difference for your family in medicine, your community and your country's health care. Register by clicking on our [Advocacy](#) website. Please identify yourself as an Alliance member when registering; this allows us to measure response. **February 26 is the cut-off date for room reservations** at the Hyatt to insure group rates apply and that room is available in the AMA room block.



Five \$1,000 scholarships to AMA Alliance members to attend NAC will be awarded to members who have shown exceptional participation and action on the ScreenOut! campaign in their local communities. **Applications for scholarship due February 20.** Download application at www.screenout.org and send all applications, questions or concerns to [Melissa Walthers](#).

Importance of IMPAC: Mike Abrams



The most successful advocacy efforts have three features: a compelling case, engaged grassroots, and a strong political action committee that can marshal resources into campaigns. If you study the effort of Iowa physicians, you will conclude that we miss one of those three features by a huge order of magnitude. If every Iowa Medical Society member gave only \$125 to IMPAC, we would raise nearly one-half million dollars to spend on campaigns. As it is, we currently raise approximately \$80,000 every year. I can assure you that, if we raised \$500,000 annually, the practice of medicine would be very different in our state in some meaningful, positive ways. In ten months, Iowans will elect 100 members of our state house, 25 members of our state senate, five Congressmen, and a U.S. Senator. Those elected will decide if you enjoy a certificate of merit system of medical liability, what you get reimbursed for providing Medicaid services, and whether to ban smoking in public places. Now is the time to show unity in the family of medicine by following the lead of Alliance members like Barb Hanas, Curt Meeks, Barb Savage, Tess Young, Diane Trimble and many others by supporting yourself by supporting IMPAC.