

## MAG Alliance Pulseline April 2017

### **Session Summary**

We recognize and thank MAG Alliance members who, in January, participated in the MAG Physicians' Day at the Capitol: Eve Tidwell, Mal Hollander, Kirsten Scott and Merrilee Gober. Additionally, our MAG Alliance member Deborah Silcox was there too, but in her official capacity as Representative Deborah Silcox. The legislative session is now OVER! Physicians had to contend with a number of challenging bills at the Capitol this year. This included a bill that would have imprisoned physicians for failing to check the prescription drug database before writing a narcotic script for a patient and a bill that would have given hospitals the authority to enter into binding contracts with insurance companies on behalf of physicians with privileges at the facility--without the consent of the physicians. It was certainly a year of defending against bad bills. **OUR** work, in sending e-mails and making phone calls to legislators, was **CRUCIAL**. We made a significant impression. At one point, a high-ranking legislator asked Donald Palmisano to "call off the docs." The grassroots pressure was unprecedented. It was only because of the constant barrage of e-mails and calls that these bad bills were amended, pulled or failed to pass. Donald and Derek Norton, MAG's Director of Government Relations, have expressed their sincere gratitude for our contributions on behalf of our family of physicians. We thank them for their tremendous work too.

### **AMA Alliance Annual Meeting**

The AMA Alliance Annual Meeting, celebrating its 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary, will be held in Chicago on June 11-13, 2017. We hope that you will consider joining our Georgia Alliance members Merrilee Gober and Dave Street in the Windy City. You can get more information at: <http://www.amaalliance.org/annual-meeting> or e-mail [Merrilee](mailto:Merrilee) and [Dave](mailto:Dave) with questions or for additional information.

### **MAG Legislative Education Seminar**

MAG is encouraging its member physicians and spouses to reserve a room for MAG's 2017 'Legislative Education Seminar,' which will take place at the Brasstown Valley Resort in Young Harris on the evening of Friday, June 23 and Saturday, June 24. MAG members/spouses can call 800.201.3205 and ask for the "Medical Association of Georgia" discount to reserve a room for \$189 per night. The discount will be available until May 17 or until MAG's block of rooms sells out. More than 25 state legislators attended this event in 2016. It is a great way to personally get to know members of the General Assembly, connect with other Alliance members, and relax in the beautiful North Georgia Mountains. Monitor [www.mag.org](http://www.mag.org) for additional details, and contact Derek Norton at [dnorton@mag.org](mailto:dnorton@mag.org) or 678.303.9280 with any questions.

### **MAG Alliance Annual Meeting and Luncheon**

Please mark your calendar for our MAG Alliance Annual Meeting and Luncheon. The MAG Alliance Board has reserved Tuesday, **September 19, 2017. PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE.** We changed the date by one week because of an unavoidable conflict. More details, including keynote speaker information, will follow later in the year.

### **Dave Street nominated by Alliance Board to be next MAG Alliance President**

The MAG Alliance Board is pleased to announce that it is nominating Dave Street (Cobb County) for the office of MAG Alliance President at the September Annual meeting. We hope that you do not miss your chance to vote for this amazing candidate who the Board believes, if elected, will serve us well!

**MAG Alliance Membership**

Beginning in October, the Alliance will be reinstating annual membership dues in the amount of \$25.00. For those of you whose spouses are MAG members, please alert your spouse to that line item for payment with his/her invoice. If your spouse is not a MAG member, you can still be a MAG Alliance member. There will be a link on our [webpage](#) for online payment and information for payment by mail.