

Dear all:

Please allow this to be an update of MAG activities since the General Assembly concluded. As always, my previous updates can be found at <http://www.mag.org/resources/executive-directors-message>.

MAG Legislative Education Seminar

Please make plans to attend the MAG Legislative Education Seminar on June 23-25 in Brasstown Valley. This will be a great event educating physicians and legislators on issues important to patients. Please go to <http://www.mag.org/news/events/Save-June-23-25-for-MAGs-2017-Legislative-Education-Seminar> for more information.

2017 General Assembly

The General Assembly concluded on March 30. The Governor now has forty (40) days to sign legislation, veto legislation or just let the legislation become law. I have included the MAG summary to this email of the bills that MAG tracked and/or engaged during the legislative session. [Summary] Here are recent developments that we are following:

1. Surprise Insurance Coverage

The Commissioner of Insurance is currently studying our Top Ten List of Specialty Codes that we provided during the legislative session. The Commissioner of Insurance will then issue a data call to the health insurers in the State of Georgia. Once the Commissioner of Insurance receives this data, the Commissioner will study the data within the parameters of the SB 8 Substitute that MAG opposed due to the lack of data. We remain engaged on this issue with the Commissioner of Insurance and believe this process will take a number of months.

2. SB 153 – Optometric Scope of Practice

We are currently opposing SB 153 and asking Governor Deal to issue a Veto - <http://www.mag.org/news/articles/MAG-calling-on-physicians-to-urge-Gov-Deal-to-veto-SB153>. SB 153 would allow optometrists to perform injections in and around the eye once a certification training course is completed. We are opposing this bill on grounds it is not safe for patients.

HealthParadigm

HealthParadigm is MAG's data analytics and data repository tool intended to help your practices and the hospitals address the changing payment environment with an element of providing you the current information on your patients. HealthParadigm is offering free CME to all physicians in the metro Atlanta and Albany areas on May 23 and May 24. More information can be found at <http://www.mag.org/news/articles/Free-MACRA-events-set-for-Atlanta-Albany-on-May-23-24>.

We are proud to report that HealthParadigm is gaining traction and now has physicians being "on boarded." For more information on HealthParadigm, please go to <http://www.healthparadigm.com/Home.aspx>. Also the most recent newsletter can be found at http://myemail.constantcontact.com/Check-out-the-latest-from-HealthParadigm.html?soid=1126469770723&aid=iF_DXeX5nVA.

MAG Fly-In

Next week, MAG members will fly in to Washington, DC to discuss issues important to the physicians of Georgia. If you are interested in the MAG Fly-In, please contact Derek Norton at dnorton@mag.org.

MAG Elections

At the MAG House of Delegates in October, there are a number of offices that are open and physicians are declaring their intention to run for office. Some of the elections will occur at the House of Delegates and others will occur at the Board of Directors' meeting. Here is the current status of declarations and we anticipate others will declare their intent to run for office.

- President-Elect (Rutledge Forney, MD)
- Chair of the Board of Directors (Fred Flandry, MD)
- Vice Chair of the Board of Directors (Mark Huffman, MD)
- Second Vice-President (Debbie Dalton, MD and Stephen Jarrard, MD)
- Secretary (Andrew Reisman, MD)
- Treasurer (Tom Emerson, MD)
- American Medical Association (Four Delegate Seats/3 Alternate Delegate Seats)
 - Delegate (S. William Clark, MD)
 - Delegate (Sandra Reed, MD)
 - Delegate (Michael Greene, MD)
 - Delegate (Billie Luke Jackson, MD)
 - Alternate Delegate (Gary Richter, MD)
 - Alternate Delegate (John Goldman, MD)
 - Alternate Delegate (Ali Rahimi, MD and Manoj Shah, MD)
- Physicians Foundation
 - Walker Ray, MD
 - Alan Plummer, MD.

If you have an interest in any of these positions, please feel free to contact me directly. As you can see, there are a number of contested elections in October.

MAG Involvement

If you are interested in getting more involved with MAG, please contact me directly. We have a number of task forces and subsidiaries that would welcome your expertise. I can be reached via email or my cell at 404-312-9030.

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