Dear all:

Please allow this to be an update of MAG’s activities over the last few weeks. Please feel free to forward this email to others. Also, previous updates can be found at http://www.mag.org/resources/executive-directors-message.

Retirement
It is with great sadness that I make the following announcement. After 27 years with MAG, Cam Grayson, Director of Third Party Payer, has decided to retire effective January 1. Cam has been an integral part of MAG her entire career and her successor will have big shoes to fill. I will personally miss working with Cam every day. However, we intend to work closely with Cam on a part time basis, if she can fit us into her busy retirement schedule. We will make a more formal announcement in the next few weeks when her successor is named. Cam can be reached at cgrayson@mag.org.

MAG Membership
Please welcome the Compass IPA as MAG’s newest group member. Compass IPA is based in Rome, Georgia and has nearly 60 physicians in their independent physician’s group. This is great news as we continue to build our membership in Rome. A special thanks to Dr. Raymond Howard, Pamela Miller and Impact for growing MAG’s membership.

MAG Town Hall with Senator Saxby Chambliss
On December 4, we held a Town Hall meeting with U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss to address the impending fiscal cliff. A special thanks to Senator Chambliss for participating in this well attended call. Please see the following link (http://www.mag.org/news/articles/chambliss-townhall) in the event you missed the call.

Physician’s Day at the Capitol
Just a reminder that MAG and multiple medical societies will have Doctor’s Day at the Capitol on January 30. I have attached the flyer and would encourage you to attend this event. Please contact Liz Bullock at lbullock@mag.org if you plan to attend.

Physicians Foundation
The Physicians Foundation prepared the attached report “A Decision Maker’s Guide to Scope of Practice.” The report presents great information as to the educational background of those providers attempting to increase their scope of practice. Please note that MAG has a seat on the Physicians Foundation board of directors and our representatives are Walker Ray, MD and Alan Plummer, MD. This is another example of the outstanding work being done by the Physicians Foundation. For other reports of the Physician Foundation, please go to http://www.physiciansfoundation.org/.

Georgia Composite Medical Board
The Georgia Composite Medical Board met earlier this week and addressed the proposed telemedicine rules which can be found at http://medicalboard.georgia.gov/sites/medicalboard.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/telemed.pdf. The board decided to table the rules and address them at a later date. We will keep you informed as this matter is further discussed.

Leadership Georgia
Congratulation to Marcus Downs, Director of Government Relations, for being named to the next class for Leadership Georgia. In case you missed the announcement in the E-Newsletter, it can be found at http://newsmanager.commpartners.com/mag/issues/2012-12-03/6.html. This is a great honor for Marcus and MAG and we are excited about Marcus’ involvement in this leadership program.

Prompt Pay
The litigation continues. We are awaiting the court’s decision on whether MAG/AMA will be allowed to intervene in the case as parties. We will let you know when a decision is reached by the court. In
addition, please see the following editorial (http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2012/11/26/edsa1126.htm) about the prompt pay case and organized medicine’s participation.

Insider Advantage/James Magazine
In the recent publication of James Magazine, MAG was noted as one of the “Top Trade or Business Associations” in Georgia. This is a great honor and an example of what organized medicine can accomplish when we all work together. A special thanks to the physicians, county and specialty medical societies, and Marcus Downs and his department for the excellent work they have done at the General Assembly. Again, thank you all for your work to make this recognition possible.

American Academy of Neurology
We received the following information from AAN about payment cuts to neurologists:

Physicians who provide nerve conduction and needle EMG services will face dramatic pay cuts of more than 50% for some services starting January 1, 2013. The AAN knows this drastic cut will be especially hard on neurology practices – large and small, many of which rely on these services to meet their bottom line. Patients may also be negatively impacted by decreased access to these services. Private health insurers often follow Medicare payment rules as well.

Although the ruling goes into effect January 2013, the American Academy of Neurology is looking at every possible avenue to alter the ruling for 2014. In response to a CMS initiative, the AAN worked with the American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine (AANEM) and the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPM&R) to propose higher values for these services, and will continue to work with those societies to advocate for better reimbursement. We are committed to advocating on behalf of our members and helping our members prepare for these changes.

We will keep you apprised as this matter moves forward.

Have a great weekend. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Donald

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