Dear all:

Please allow this to be an update of MAG activities since my last update. My previous updates can be found at http://www.mag.org/resources/executive-directors-message.

**MAG Foundation Think About It Campaign**
The MAG Foundation is promoting a concert that will feature Nashville singer/songwriters, hosted by the John Jarrard Foundation on the lawn at Brenau University in Gainesville from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, September 21. The event will raise funds for the MAG Foundation’s ‘Think About It’ campaign to prevent prescription drug abuse, as well as other worthwhile causes in North Georgia. Individual tickets are $20.00 and can be purchased at www.johnjarrardfoundation.com.

**Membership**
We have concluded the membership collections for the 2013 membership year. Great news that we have achieved another increase in membership, which brings our total increase to over 30% since 2010, as well as our highest numbers since 1998. In addition, we have started to bill for 2014 and would like to acknowledge our two newest members -
- 100 new physicians from Emory
- The Primary Care Association.

We would like to thank Doug Morris, MD for his work with Emory. We would also like to thank John Crew, Lasa Joiner and Travis Lindley for their efforts in bringing the Primary Care Association to MAG. Finally, congratulations to Scott Bohlke, MD and Kate Boyenga for their work in increasing membership for the third straight year.

**HIPAA**
As you know, there were changes to HIPAA set to go in effect in less than a week. We previously provided an article from Sidney Welch and there will be follow up articles in our upcoming MAG Journal. In addition, please see the following tool kit provided by the AMA - http://www.mag.org/resources/legal-resources.

**Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR)**
AMA has started a grassroots effort with Congress to repeal the SGR. A website has been produced and more information can be found at http://www.mag.org/news/articles/ama-medicare-campaign. AMA has held many conference calls on how to address the SGR, which is focused on the following:
- Repeal of the SGR
- Five years of stable payments
- Time/funding to try alternative payment models
- National specialty guidelines to determine quality.

In addition, we have advocated for the right to privately contract in any package. Please see the attached letter we sent to Congress advocating our position.

**Obesity**
A special thanks to Michelle Zeanah, MD for representing MAG at a tri-state summit, which included North Carolina and South Carolina. The purpose of the summit was to share our efforts on combating obesity.

**CMS and Claims Data**
MAG and a number of organizations signed onto a letter requesting CMS develop policies to regulate the reliable and productive use of Medicare claims data. More information can be found at http://www.mag.org/news/articles/RFI.

**Meaningful Use**
We are currently working with U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson’s office to obtain a one year extension for physicians and providers that are not yet ready to transition to Stage 2. This extension would mitigate
any penalties for one year for failing to demonstrate compliance with Stage 2 meaningful use. We will keep you informed as this matter progresses.

**Forums**
Please see the following link (Click for recording) for a recording of our forum last night on recoupment issues with former Commissioner of Insurance John Oxendine. You can contact Oxendine at 404.734.5738 or Jwolaw@gmail.com. Our next forum will be in October featuring our two candidates running for President Elect of MAG - Manoj Shah, MD and Jules Toraya, MD. Be on the lookout for that information.

**Tort Reform**
If you are interested in how Georgia tort reform compares to Texas and Louisiana, please see a comparison prepared by Trish Yeatts at http://www.mag.org/sites/default/files/downloads/ga-tx-la-tortlaws.pdf.

**Georgia Trend**
We would like to bring your attention to the latest Georgia Trend article addressing health care reform. MAG board member - Dr. Quentin Pirkle- was featured in the article. Congratulations to Dr. Pirkle.

**Fundraising**
This time of year is fundraising for legislators, state and federal. Ryan Larosa prepared a list of events that are being held. For example, some physicians are holding an event for Phil Gingrey on Monday, September 23. We will have this information in the event you would like to attend. In this case, the contact person is Margaux Espy who can be reached at 404.408.8445. Other events include the following:

- **Rep. Mickey Channell (R-Greensboro)**
  Golf Tournament
  Wednesday, September 18 @ 10 a.m.
  Great Waters Golf Course at Reynolds Plantation, 110 Plantation Drive, NE, Eatonton
  Suggested minimum contribution: $275

- **Sen. David Shafer (R-Duluth)**
  Meet & Greet
  Thursday September 19 @ 6:00pm to 8:30
  Home of Dr. Hal & Debra Silcox, 725 Tanglewood Trail NW, Atlanta
  Suggested minimum contribution$250

- **Rep. Carl Rogers (R-Gainesville)**
  Golf Tournament
  Monday, September 23rd @ 10:00am
  The Kingwood Country Club, 401 Country Club Drive, Clayton
  Suggested Minimum Contribution: $275

- **Congressman Phil Gingrey (R-Marietta)**
  Meet & Greet
  Monday, September 23, 2013 @ 6:00pm to 8:00pm
  Home of Jacquie and Harvey Sacks
  Suggested Minimum Contribution: $250
  RSVP to Margaux Espy at 770.792.9799
  Or margauxespy@gmail.com

- **“Henry County Republican Delegation”**
  NASCAR Experience
  Thursday, September 26th @ 5:00pm to 7:00pm
Atlanta Motor Speedway, 1500 Tara Place, Hampton
Suggested Minimum Contribution: $500
GAMPAC has 8 tickets to this event.

- Rep. Tommy Benton (R-Jefferson)
  Golf Tournament
  Monday, September 30 @ 9:30 a.m.
  Athens Country Club, 2700 Jefferson Road, Athens
  Suggested minimum contribution: $175

- Rep. Terry England (R-Auburn)
  Golf Tournament
  Tuesday, October 8th & 9:00am
  Chateau Elan, 5473 Legends Dr, Braselton
  Suggested Minimum Contribution: $400

As always, if you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Donald

Donald J. Palmisano, Jr.
Executive Director/CEO
Medical Association of Georgia
1849 The Exchange
Suite 200
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
678-303-9290 (Phone)
678-303-3732 (Fax)
404-312-9030 (Mobile)

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