158th HOUSE OF DELEGATES PROCEEDINGS

A SUPPLEMENT TO THE JOURNAL OF THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA
The first session of the 2012 House of Delegates was called to order at 8:36 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency Savannah in Ballroom A-B-C. The presiding officers for the assembly were Speaker of the House John S. Harvey, M.D., and Vice Speaker of the House E. Frank McDonald Jr., M.D.

Dr. Harvey called on Joy A. Maxey, M.D., to give the invocation. He then introduced the Second Battalion First Brigade of the Georgia State Defense Force to present the colors. Afterwards members of the assembly stood and sang the National Anthem. All remained standing for the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and the Pledge of the Georgia State flag.

Dr. Harvey introduced the following people on the dais: President-elect Scott Bohlke, M.D., Immediate Past President Dan Deloach, M.D., President Sandra Reed, M.D., Vice Speaker Frank McDonald Jr., M.D., MAG CEO Donald J. Palmisano Jr., Secretary Manoj Shah, M.D., and MAG Executive Assistant Donna Glass. He recognized the Parliamentarian, Dr. Maxey, and said that assisting her in these duties this year would be Maurice Sholas, M.D. He reported that MAG shall use Sturgis Rules of Order for this year’s meeting. He also introduced Trey Reese, attorney for Hall, Booth, Smith & Slover, PC, who will serve as legal counsel for the meeting.

A series of questions that addressed some major issues of the day were asked and members gave their answers using the keypad system provided to delegates by Padgett Communication. These poll questions were asked throughout the two-day meeting. Results were as follows:

1. Will you see Medicare patients five years from now? 95 delegates said yes; 31 delegates said no; 8 said not applicable
2. Will you see Medicaid patients five years from now? 69 said yes; 64 said no; 14 said it is not applicable
3. Is the Medicaid program in Georgia sustainable? 43 said yes; 111 said no
4. Will “comparative effectiveness” help or hurt patients? 54 said it will help; 72 said it will hurt
5. Should the state or federal government create the state exchange in Georgia? 102 said it should be the state government; 17 said the federal government; 3 were not sure
6. Do you have plans to join an ACO? 27 said yes; 74 said no; 39 said they were not sure; 11 were already in ACO
7. Which MAG program creates the most value for you? 114 said state legislative advocacy; 7 said legal advocacy (e.g., court briefs); 7 said federal legislative
advocacy; 7 said practice tools (e.g., medical staff bylaws); and 28 said third party payer advocacy.

8. Do you consider yourself to be “employed” 56 said yes; 100 said no
9. If you’re “employed, “are you employed by a…17 said hospital; 11 said private company; 19 said multi-specialty practice; 15 said none of these and 71 said not applicable
10. Is prior authorization getting better or worse? 7 said it is better; 96 said worse; 39 said about the same.
11. Are you taking steps to qualify for the EHR incentives? 105 said yes; 48 said no
12. Do you support the Medicare Patient Empowerment Act (i.e., right to contract)? 113 said yes; 31 said no
13. Do you think the Medicare Patient Empowerment Act will pass? 57 said yes; 75 said no
14. The Medicare Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) is…18 delegates said a reasonable way to control costs; 112 delegates said it’s a way for the government to ration care; 30 said they were not familiar with IPAB
15. Did you read this year’s HOD handbook? 70 said yes; 28 said no; 67 said they scanned the handbook
16. Does your practice have a social media strategy? 45 said yes; 49 said no
17. Have you recruited any new MAG members in the last year? 51 said yes; 42 said no
18. Is Georgia’s practice environment better, worse, or about the same? 8 said better; 63 said worse and 38 said about the same.
19. How long have you been a MAG member? 6 said one year; 24 said two or five years; 14 said six to 10 years; 72 said 11 years or longer.
20. Are you a GAMPAC member? 74 said yes; 40 said no
21. Can you name your state senator & representative? 115 said yes; 29 said no
22. Where do you get most of your CME? 18 said from a hospital or health system accredited by MAG; 28 said from medical specialty society accredited by MAG; 79 said at a national medical association meeting; 25 said from online vendors like Medscape or Free CME.
23. What CME topic would you value the most? 44 said ICD-10; 9 said electronic health records; 45 said PPACA provisions; 13 said prescription drug abuse; 39 said legal and ethical issues.
24. Would you participate in an advocacy day at the capitol? 101 said yes; 49 said no
25. As for tort reform, MAG’s greatest priority should be…92 said caps; 12 said collateral sources; 17 said statute of limitations; 25 said calculation of damages.

The minutes of the 2011 House of Delegates were approved by the Board of Directors in January 2012. The minutes of this 2012 House of Delegates will be considered by the Board of Directors in 2013.

The 2013 House of Delegates will meet on October 19-20, 2013 at the Legacy Lodge & Conference Center at Lake Lanier Islands Resort in Buford.
RECOGNITION

Dr. Harvey recognized the following sponsors and exhibitors of this year’s meeting: MAG Mutual Insurance Company, Amerigroup Community Care; Answer All USA; Atlanta Capital Group; GAMPAC; Georgia Drug Card; Georgia Physicians Health Program; Georgia State Defense Force; HealthPac Computer Systems; MAG Foundation; Medical College of Georgia Alumni Association; SunTrust Banks and U.S. Army Medical Recruiting.

Dr. Harvey recognized AMA President Jeremy Lazarus, M.D., and announced that Dr. Lazarus will be participating in the Forum on Health Care to be held at the close of this session. He then welcomed county medical and specialty society executives, and other guests attending this session of the meeting. Special guest MagMutual Chairman of the Board Joseph Wilson, M.D., was recognized by members of the House of Delegates.

Dr. Harvey recognized the following students of the current class of the Georgia Physicians Leadership Academy, a program of the MAG Foundation: Victoria Clements, M.D., Mitch Cook, M.D., Edmund Donoghue, M.D., Sreeni Gangasani, M.D., Michael Groves, M.D., Steve Jarrard, M.D., Keith Johnson, M.D., Bo Lewis, M.D., Puthugramam Natrajan, M.D., Danny Newman, M.D., James Velimesis, M.D., and Michelle Zeanah, M.D.

The following members receiving Certificates of Appreciation this year were recognized by members of the House of Delegates: Sandra B. Reed, M.D., E. Dan DeLoach, M.D., William E. Silver, M.D., Jules Toraya, M.D., Stephen A. Noller, M.D., W. Scott Bohlke, M.D., Sid Moore Jr., M.D., John O. Bowden, M.D., Jill Hauenstein, M.D., C. Gary Lodge, M.D., E. Anthony Musarra II, M.D., William P. Brooks, M.D., Aaron H. Davison, M.D., William R. Hardcastle, M.D., Steven A. Muller, M.D., Robert J. Albin, M.D., Robert D. Schreiner, M.D., Donnie Dunagan, M.D., Jefferson U. Davis, M.D., Edward A. Lloyd, M.D., Joy A. Maxey, M.D., Sandra B. Reed, M.D., John S. Harvey, M.D., Michael E. Greene, M.D., Jimmy Lewis, Bernard Maria, M.D., Catherine Dragstedt, M.D., Andrew Reisman, M.D., Mimi Collins, Robert P. Jones, M.D., Robert B. Remler, M.D., Mary Hsieh, Patton Smith, M.D., Marc O. Wall, M.D., Brenda Wall, John A. Goldman, M.D., Joel L. Fine, M.D., Magdi Hanafi, M.D., Alvin R. Sermons, M.D., Daniel T. McDevitt, M.D., Mohammed Y. Abubaker, M.D., Albert F. Johary, M.D., J. Leonard Lichtenfeld, M.D., Richard A. Wherry, M.D., Lisa A. Perry-Gilkes, M.D., Thomas E. Bat, M.D., and Steven M. Walsh, M.D.

The following members achieving Life Member status in the Medical Association of Georgia were recognized by members of the House of Delegates:

Oscar E. Aguero, M.D.
Alfredo Alarcon, M.D.
Marshall Bonner Allen Jr., M.D.
Joseph M. Almand Jr., M.D.
Henry Marvin Althisar Sr., M.D.
John H. Angell, M.D.
Murray C. Arkin, M.D.
Gerson Harvey Aronovitz, M.D.
Cirilo A. Aseron Jr., M.D.

Harold Asher, M.D.
George Jeff Austin Jr., M.D.
Henry Faver Ball, M.D.
Crawford F. Barnett Jr., M.D.
Joseph Carl Barnett Jr., M.D.
William Lawrence Barnwell, M.D.
Benjamin Bashinski Jr., M.D.
William Ward Baxley Jr., M.D.
Ernest W. Beasley Jr., M.D.
Benjamin F. Moss Jr., M.D.
Steven A. Muller M.D.
William Bernard Mullins, M.D.
Alexander T Murphey, M.D.
Darrell W. Murray, M.D.
Hamil Murray, M.D.
Dearing A. Nash, M.D.
Joe L. Nettles, M.D.
Maury C Newton Jr., M.D.
William Lanier Nicholson, M.D.
Benjamin Boyd Okel, M.D.
James Lawton O'Quinn, M.D.
William W. Orr Sr., M.D.
William W. Osborne, M.D.
John Anthony Page, M.D.
Joseph L. Parker, M.D.
Prentiss E. Parker Jr., M.D.
Jesse Lyle Parrott, M.D.
Thomas Corley Paschal, M.D.
Robert Marion Patton, M.D.
Peter Michael Payne, M.D.
Jesse R. Peel, M.D.
William Jefferson Pendergrast Sr., M.D.
Claude L. Pennington, M.D.
Henry Stone Pepin Jr., M.D.
Edwin C. Pound Jr., M.D.
William E. Pound, M.D.
Stuart Holmes Prather Jr., M.D.
Carol Graham Pryor, M.D.
Norman B. Pursley, M.D.
James Leroy Rabb, M.D.
Harold Smith Ramos, M.D.
Alfred Henry Randall Jr., M.D.
William Rawlings, M.D.
Otis Grey Rawls, M.D.
Albert A. Rayle Jr., M.D.
Charles Joseph Rey Jr., M.D.
Donald Wallace Rhame, M.D.
Sterling H. Richardson, M.D.
Henry C. Ricks Jr., M.D.
Wells Riley, M.D.
Robert Arthur Robbins, M.D.
Michael Frederick Roberts Jr., M.D.
Ralph Donald Roberts, M.D.
Harvey B. Roddenberry, M.D.
Howard Stephen Rosing, M.D.
Julius Thornton Rucker, Jr., M.D.
Edward Kinzel Russell, M.D.
Ferrol Aubrey Sams Jr., M.D.
Helen F. Sams, M.D.
John Keith Schellack, M.D.
Philip Thomas Schley, M.D.
Elbert William Schmitt Jr., M.D.
Robert Ira Schwartz, M.D.
Sidney L. Sellers, M.D.
George P. Sessions, M.D.
Edwin C. Shepherd, M.D.
Eloise Baim Sherman, M.D.
Charles M. Silverstein, M.D.
Robert Webb Simmons, M.D.
William Crawford Simmons, M.D.
Julian J. Sizemore Jr., M.D.
Howel William Slaughter Jr., M.D.
Hugh F. Smisson, Jr., M.D.
Charles Walter Smith, M.D.
Chester M. Smith, Jr., M.D.
Henry Wilder Smith, M.D.
Luther J. Smith II, M.D.
Patton Paul Smith, M.D.
Samuel Raymond Smith, M.D.
William Hill Somers, M.D.
John Aziz Souma, M.D.
Stephen Danny Spain, M.D.
Jacob Aaron Spanier, M.D.
Raymond F. Spanier, M.D.
Oscar Smith Spivey, M.D.
Irving Teague Staley, M.D.
Michael Stebler, M.D.
John Edward Steinhaus, M.D.
Elma Mera Steves, M.D.
Joe Calvin Stubbs Jr., M.D.
Robert L. Stump Jr., M.D.
Yung-Fong Sung, M.D.
Jonathan S. Swift, M.D.
Panagiotis N. Symbas, M.D.
David E. Tanner, M.D.
Robert Pierpont Taylor, M.D.
David C. Thibodeaux, M.D.
Donald Ray Thomas, M.D.
William Robert Thompson, M.D.
William A. Thrilekeld, M.D.
John Nicholas Tiliacos, M.D.
Ralph A. Tillman, M.D.
William Clyde Tippins Jr., M.D.
Robert P. Tucker, M.D.
Mildred Virginia Tuggle, M.D.
David Allen Turner, M.D.
Carroll S. Tuten, M.D.
Karl Henry Ullman, M.D.
Charles R. Underwood, M.D.
Charles Bell Upshaw Jr., M.D.
Herbert E. Valentine Jr., M.D.
The following deceased members were honored with a moment of silence by members of the House of Delegates: Jack L. Austin, M.D., Henry W. Bailey, M.D., Harry B. Bechtel, M.D., Rodney M. Browne, M.D., Zeb Lee Burrel Jr., M.D., Albert A. Carr, M.D., Sarah L. Clark, M.D., Raymond F. Corpe, M.D., Thomas H. Curtis, M.D., Leila D. Denmark, M.D., Walter S. Dunbar, M.D., Albert Hugo Fregosi, M.D., Frank Leslie Gibson, M.D. Howard Clark Glover Jr., M.D., Edgar B. Horn, M.D., Gordon Walker Jackson, M.D., Cleon Denton Johnson, M.D., Richard Hardin Johnson, M.D., Alexander Paul Keller Jr., M.D., Stanley Harris Levine, M.D., Theodore McGee Jr., M.D., Edmund M. Molnar, M.D., Ralph Georgia Newton Jr., M.D., Robert Neil Poole, M.D., Julian K. Quattlebaum Jr., M.D., William Archer Reed, M.D., James S. Reynolds, M.D., Marion Hobson Rice, M.D., Luther J. Roberts, M.D., Floyd Roscoe Sanders Jr., M.D., Martin Henry Smith, M.D., Robert Howard Vaughan, M.D., James W. Ward, M.D., and Ray Darwin Webb, M.D.

BUSINESS SESSION

Dr. Harvey called on the Chairman of the Credentials Committee to confirm a quorum for the business session of the meeting. A.J. Jain, M.D., reported that 160 delegates and five alternate delegates were currently registered and that the quorum of 40 registered members was met. He recognized all those delegates and alternate delegates who were attending for the first time.

PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS

GOOD MORNING. IT IS MY HONOR TO DELIVER THIS YEAR’S STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION ADDRESS. I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN BY THANKING YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE AS YOUR PRESIDENT FOR THE PAST YEAR. IT HAS BEEN A GREAT PRIVILEGE.

I AM PROUD TO REPORT THAT MAG MEMBERSHIP HAS GROWN TO MORE THAN 7,000 PHYSICIANS – THE HIGHEST LEVEL IN 15 YEARS. WE ARE CLOSING IN ON 5,000 ACTIVE DUES PAYING MEMBERS, WHICH IS THE MOST SINCE 2006. AND WE HAVE RECEIVED MORE THAN $1.9 MILLION IN DUES REVENUE – $110,000 MORE THAN 2011 AND ABOUT $185,000 MORE THAN WE BUDGETED FOR THIS YEAR. MAG’S MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT DESERVES A LOT OF CREDIT, BUT THIS INCREDIBLE GROWTH SAYS A LOT ABOUT MAG’S VALUE PROPOSITION.
AND BEFORE I MOVE ON FROM MEMBERSHIP, I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THE
WELLSTAR MEDICAL GROUP – WHICH HAS MORE THAN 350 PHYSICIANS – RECENTLY
BECAME THE LATEST LARGE GROUP TO JOIN MAG, SOMETHING THAT DONALD WILL
ADDRESS IN A LITTLE MORE DETAIL IN HIS REPORT.

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE LARGER AND MORE DIVERSE WE BECOME AS AN
ORGANIZATION, THE MORE EFFECTIVE WE WILL BE AS ADVOCATES FOR PATIENTS AND
PHYSICIANS IN THE STATE. IT IS ALSO CLEAR THAT MAG’S BRAND AND REPUTATION IS
GROWING STRONGER BY THE DAY – AND I BELIEVE THAT MAG HAS SOLIDIFIED ITS ROLE AS
THE LEADING VOICE FOR EVERY PHYSICIAN IN EVERY SPECIALTY IN EVERY PRACTICE
SETTING IN THE STATE.

MAG WAS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE PHYSICIAN AUTONOMY BILL THAT PASSED IN
2012 THAT WILL ENSURE THAT MEDICAL LICENSURE CONTINUES TO BE A FUNCTION OF
SKILL AND COMPETENCE – AND NOT CONTINGENT ON PARTICIPATING IN GOVERNMENT OR
PRIVATE PAYER PROGRAMS.

MAG WAS ALSO ACTIVE ON A NUMBER OF OTHER KEY BILLS THAT WERE RELATED TO KEY
ISSUES LIKE TORT REFORM, INSURANCE REFORM, SCOPE OF PRACTICE, AND GRADUATE
MEDICAL EDUCATION. AND MAG CONTINUED TO PROTECT PATIENTS BY OPPOSING
LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ALLOW BLANKET WAIVERS FOR GIVING VACCINATIONS AND BY
OPPOSING LEGISLATION THAT WOULD HAVE GIVEN APRN’S THE AUTHORITY TO ORDER
RADIOGRAPHIC IMAGES AT THEIR DISCRETION.

OUR SUCCESS IN THE LEGISLATIVE ARENA WAS THE RESULT OF SOME GREAT TEAMWORK
BETWEEN MAG AND A NUMBER OF MEDICAL SOCIETIES AND PHYSICIANS IN THE STATE. I
BELIEVE THAT WE IMPROVED THE PRACTICE ENVIRONMENT IN GEORGIA THROUGH THE
LEGISLATIVE PROCESS, AND WE DEMONSTRATED THAT WE CAN BE AN EFFECTIVE AND
POWERFUL ADVOCATE IN THE STATE WHEN WE STAND TOGETHER.

MAG’S THIRD PARTY PAYER ADVOCACY DEPARTMENT HAS HELPED MORE THAN 200
PRACTICES IN A NUMBER OF SPECIALTIES RESOLVE PAYMENT OR PRACTICE MANAGEMENT
PROBLEMS IN 2012 FROM AN ADVISORY STANDPOINT. AND IN ABOUT A THIRD OF THOSE
CASES, MAG INTERVENED IN A MORE DIRECT WAY TO HELP OUR MEMBERS CONTEND WITH
HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANIES.

WE ESTIMATE THAT WE HAVE SAVED SOME $300,000 FOR PHYSICIANS IN GEORGIA IN 2012 AS
A RESULT OF OUR THIRD PARTY PAYER PROGRAM. IT IS ALSO WORTH NOTING THAT MAG’S
THIRD PARTY PAYER COMMITTEE IS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO ADDRESS IMPORTANT ISSUES
LIKE PRIOR AUTHORIZATION AND MEDICAID.

IN THE LEGAL ARENA, MAG FILED A NUMBER OF AMICUS BRIEFS THAT SUPPORTED
PHYSICIANS – SPECIFICALLY WHEN IT COMES TO THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
IN THE STATE REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT. AND WE CONTINUE TO WORK WITH DR. PAT
O’NEAL WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ON A DISASTER
PREPAREDNESS PLAN FOR THE STATE.

I AM ALSO PLEASED TO REPORT THAT MAG LAUNCHED ITS NEW WWW.MAG.ORG WEBSITE IN
APRIL. THIS GREAT COMMUNICATIONS RESOURCE HAS ENHANCED MAG’S BRAND AND
REPUTATION – AND IT IS FULLY ALIGNED WITH OUR FIVE-YEAR STRATEGY. IT IS MORE
PLEASING TO THE EYE, AND IT IS EASIER TO USE. THE NEW WEBSITE IS GOING TO PAY DIVIDENDS FOR YEARS TO COME, AND I COULD NOT BE MORE PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK DR. STAN SHERMAN FOR HIS ONGOING EFFORTS TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE MAG’S QUARTERLY JOURNAL.

MAG CONTINUES TO ACCREDIT NEARLY 40 CME PROVIDERS IN THE STATE. IN ADDITION, MAG HOSTED SEVERAL KEY CME EVENTS IN THE LAST YEAR – INCLUDING A WELL-ATTENDED LAW AND THE PHYSICIAN SEMINAR. MAG ALSO CONTINUES TO ACCREDIT THE HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS FOR EIGHT JAILS AND 33 PRISONS IN THE STATE.

THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT MAG IS ON A SOLID FOUNDATION. WE ARE FOCUSED, WE HAVE GROWN AND DIVERSIFIED OUR BASE, AND IT IS CLEAR THAT OUR VALUE PROPOSITION IS RESONATING WITH PHYSICIANS IN THE STATE. WE OBVIOUSLY FACE SOME VERY REAL AND SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES AS A PROFESSION, BUT I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL PREVAIL IF WE REMAIN UNIFIED IN OUR EFFORTS.

MY SINCERE THANKS FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION. THAT CONCLUDES MY STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION ADDRESS, MR. SPEAKER.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GOOD MORNING. I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN BY THANKING YOU FOR CARING FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THIS GREAT STATE. AS PATIENTS, OUR QUALITY OF LIFE IS BETTER AS A RESULT OF YOUR EFFORTS. I AM ESPECIALLY PROUD TO REPRESENT THE LEADING VOICE FOR PHYSICIANS IN THE STATE – AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT THROUGH OUR EFFORTS TO BECOME MORE DIVERSE AS AN ORGANIZATION WE HAVE SOLIDIFIED OUR ROLE AS THE LEADING ADVOCATE FOR EVERY PHYSICIAN IN EVERY SPECIALTY IN EVERY PRACTICE SETTING IN GEORGIA.

WITH YOUR LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT, MAG HAS ACHIEVED A NUMBER OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE WE MET IN CALLAWAY GARDENS ONE YEAR AGO. IN ADDITION TO OUR PHYSICIAN LEADERS, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK MAG STAFF – ONE OF THE MOST DEDICATED, HARD-WORKING GROUPS I’VE EVER MET. THEY ARE TRUE ADVOCATES FOR PATIENTS AND PHYSICIANS – AND THEY GENUINELY BELIEVE IN MAG’S MISSION. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH OUR GOALS AS AN ORGANIZATION AS A RESULT OF THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO THANK THEM, AND LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK WE’RE DOING RIGHT OR WRONG. WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO IMPROVE TO ENSURE WE CREATE THE MOST VALUE FOR YOU.

I AM GOING TO BE BRIEF THIS MORNING, BUT I DID WANT TO TOUCH ON SEVERAL KEY ACHIEVEMENTS – INCLUDING THE LANDMARK PROMPT PAY BILL THAT PASSED IN GEORGIA IN 2011, MAG’S FINANCIAL POSITION, AND OUR REMARKABLE SURGE IN MEMBERSHIP IN THE LAST TWO YEARS.

I WOULD LIKE TO APPLAUD THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION FOR SUPPORTING MAG WITH ITS PROMPT PAY BILL, WHICH WAS A HUGE VICTORY FOR PHYSICIANS IN GEORGIA. WE EMBARKED ON OUR SIX-YEAR PROMPT PAY JOURNEY IN 2005 AFTER WE DISCOVERED THAT INSURERS, WHICH WERE ACTING AS THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATORS OF SELF FUNDED
PLANS, WEREN’T PAYING THEIR BILLS ON TIME IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH STATE LAW – WHICH COVERED FULLY INSURED PLANS BUT NOT THIRD PARTY OR SELF-FUNDED PLANS. THE THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATORS ARGUED THAT FEDERAL LAW SUPERCEDED THE STATE LAW.

MAG WORKED HAND-IN-HAND WITH AMA TO DEVELOP THE FIRST MODEL STATE-LEVEL PROMPT PAY LEGISLATION IN THE COUNTRY THAT APPLIED TO THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATORS. WE FACED A NUMBER OF ATTACKS BY INSURERS AND EMPLOYERS IN THE LEGISLATIVE ARENA, BUT WE CROSSED THE FINISH LINE IN 2011 – WHEN THE PROMPT PAY BILL THAT WILL GO INTO EFFECT IN 2013 WAS SIGNED INTO LAW BY GOVERNOR NATHAN DEAL.

GIVEN THE STAKES, WE WEREN’T SURPRISED WHEN AMERICA’S HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS FILED A LAWSUIT IN FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT IN ATLANTA A FEW MONTHS AGO. AHIP – WHICH CONTENDS THAT THE NEW STATE LAW VIOLATES FEDERAL LAW – HAS HIRED A WASHINGTON ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT ITS MEMBER COMPANIES IN THIS MATTER. AND YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT THIS LAWSUIT IS GOING TO BE SIGNIFICANT IN TERMS OF PRECEDENCE SINCE THE APPLICATION OF FEDERAL LAW WILL CHANGE SUBSTANTIALLY IF THE COURT FINDS IN OUR FAVOR.

MOVING ON, I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT MAG’S FINANCIAL POSTION CONTINUES TO IMPROVE. WE CONCLUDED THAT WE WERE ON AN UNSUSTAINABLE TRACK THREE YEARS AGO. WE WERE EFFECTIVELY USING FUTURE YEAR DUES TO PAY CURRENT YEAR EXPENSES. SO IN 2010 WE PUT INTO PLACE A FIVE-YEAR PLAN TO SOLIDIFY OUR FINANCIAL BASE. I AM PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE ACHIEVED THAT FIVE-YEAR PLAN IN THREE SHORT YEARS. WE ACCOMPLISHED THAT WITH A REAL STRATEGIC FOCUS.

WE HAVE BEEN DISCIPLINED, WE HAVE LEARNED TO SAY NO, AND WE HAVE BEEN FOCUSED ON THE PRIORITY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS THAT CREATE THE MOST VALUE FOR OUR MEMBERS. WE CHALLENGE EVERY PROJECT TO ENSURE IT IS ALIGNED WITH OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES. WE DON’T SPEND MONEY OR STAFF RESOURCES ON PROJECTS OR PRODUCTS OR SERVICES UNTIL WE’VE DONE OUR HOMEWORK TO ENSURE IT IS WHAT’S BEST FOR OUR MEMBERS.

ALSO NOTE THAT WE HAVE BECOME MORE EFFICIENT BY ALLOCATING OUR STAFF RESOURCES IN A MORE STRATEGIC WAY – AND WE USE CONSULTANTS AS-NEEDED TO FILL ANY RESOURCE GAPS. IN FACT, OUR STAFF IS ONE THIRD SMALLER THAN IT WAS FIVE YEARS AGO – AND I DON’T BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE A LOST A STEP WHEN IT COMES TO PRODUCTION OR PERFORMANCE. OUR SUCCESS NOTWITHSTANDING, WE MUST CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN OUR FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE WAYS TO ENSURE THAT WE HAVE A SOLID FOUNDATION IN THE FUTURE. THAT’S WHY REFERENCE COMMITTEE F WILL CONSIDER A 2013 OPERATING BUDGET THAT WILL CALL FOR MAG TO INCREASE ITS SURPLUS BY $200,000. WE SIMPLY CANNOT AFFORD TO BECOME COMPLACENT.

FINALLY, I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT MAG MEMBERSHIP HAS SURGED BY MORE THAN 21 PERCENT SINCE 2010. THAT IS REMARKABLE WHEN YOU CONSIDER MAG MEMBERSHIP DECLINED BY A SIMILAR AMOUNT BETWEEN 2006 AND 2010. I AM PROUD TO KNOW THAT MAG IS THE ONLY STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY THAT HAS SEEN THIS KIND OF EXPLOSIVE GROWTH – WHICH CAN BE ATTRIBUTED IN LARGE PART TO THE ADDITION OF A NUMBER OF MULTISPECIALTY GROUPS – INCLUDING THE SOUTHEAST PERMANENTE GROUP, THE
LONGSTREET CLINIC, SOUTHCOAST MEDICAL GROUP, AS WELL AS THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA AT GEORGIA HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY. WE HAVE ALSO SEEN AN INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP AMONG INDIVIDUAL PHYSICIANS.

AND IF THAT WASN’T ENOUGH GOOD NEWS, I AM PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE WELLSTAR PHYSICIANS GROUP IS OUR NEWEST GROUP MEMBER. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK DOCTORS EMERSON, MUSARRA, THARP AND JANSEN IN PARTICULAR FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO HELP US RECRUIT WELLSTAR. THE ADDITION OF THESE LARGE GROUP MEMBERS WOULDN’T BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF INDIVIDUAL MAG MEMBERS AND THE COUNTY MEDICAL AND SPECIALTY MEDICAL SOCIETIES IN THE STATE. IT’S CLEAR TO ME THAT IF WE CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER, THE SKY IS THE LIMIT FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN GEORGIA.

BEFORE I END, I WOULD LIKE TO STRESS THAT MAG WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR NEW AND INNOVATIVE WAYS TO SUPPORT PRIVATE PRACTICE PHYSICIANS IN THE STATE. AS DR. HARVEY NOTED, WE RECENTLY UNVEILED A MAG-SPONSORED MULTIPLE EMPLOYER 401K PLAN – WHICH IS BEING ADMINISTERED BY THE ATLANTA CAPITAL GROUP. WE’RE EXCITED ABOUT THIS PROGRAM, AND WE BELIEVE THAT IT’S A GREAT WAY TO SAVE YOUR PRACTICE TIME AND MONEY. PLEASE TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO VISIT THE ATLANTA CAPITAL BOOTH LATER TODAY OR SOMETIME TOMORROW.

MY SINCERE THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN THE LAST YEAR, AND I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO BIGGER AND BETTER THINGS IN THE NEXT YEAR. THANK YOU.

ELECTIONS

Elections were held for the Office of the President-elect, Second Vice President, Speaker of the House of Delegates, Vice Speaker of the House of Delegates, one AMA Delegate, two AMA Alternate Delegates, one Judicial Council members and a special election for Second District Medical Society alternate director seat. Dr. Harvey reported that if any elections are contested, a ballot vote will take place during the third session of the House. Having no contested races, the following members were duly elected and installed receiving the oath of office from President Scott Bohlke, M.D., at the final session of the House of Delegates:

WILLIAM SILVER, M.D., PRESIDENT-ELECT
JULES TORAYA, M.D., FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
ANDREW REISMAN, M.D., SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
JOHN HARVEY, M.D., SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES
FRANK MCDONALD, M.D., VICE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES
JOY A. MAXEY, M.D., AMA DELEGATE
JOHN S. ANTALIS, M.D., AMA ALTERNATE DELEGATE
MICHAEL E. GREENE, M.D., AMA ALTERNATE DELEGATE
BARRY STRAUS, M.D., JUDICIAL COUNCIL
BILLY R. PRICE, M.D., SECOND DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY

Elections were received from district and county medical societies for directors and alternate directors. The following are the results of those elections:

FIRST DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY
AARON H. DAVIDSON, M.D., DIRECTOR
MICHELLE R. ZEANAH, M.D., ALTERNATE DIRECTOR
Elections were held during the meeting for section chairmen and vice chairmen. The results of those elections are as followed:

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES SECTION
Seree N. Gangasani, M.D., CHAIRMAN
Ali Shaikh, M.D., VICE CHAIRMAN

MEDICAL STUDENT SECTION
Jeffrey Birnbaum, (Emory), CHAIRMAN
Jonathan Gillig, (Emory) VICE CHAIRMAN

CONSENT CALENDAR

Members of the House of Delegates took action on the five-year policies that were reviewed for retention and reaffirmation or rescission and sunset or sunset with replacement of a new or revised policy. Results are as follows:
Policies for Reaffirmation

15.988
Cell Phone Use
MAG supports legislation that prohibits the use of a cell phone while operating a vehicle for drivers 18 years old and younger and allow only hands free use by drivers over 18 years old. (Resolution 318C.07)

35.982
Medical Assistants
MAG believes that the level of supervision in needed patient care should be based on the medical judgment of the physician responsible for the care. (Resolution 216B.07)

35.983
Disease Screening by Non-physicians
MAG opposes pharmacists or other non-physicians offering screening for specific disease states without specific physician involvement in, or supervision of, such screening. (Res: 107AB-07) (Reaffirmed 10/13/07)

55.998
Screening
MAG supports all efforts aimed at maintaining and increasing the rate of Pap Smears and cervical cancer screenings completed in Georgia; and opposes initiatives that would decrease access to and completion of Pap Smears. (Resolution 103A.07)

60.993
AMA Guidelines for Adolescent Prevention Services
MAG endorses the AMA Guidelines for Adolescent Prevention Services and encourages physicians to provide services to adolescents in Georgia. (Reaffirmed 05/2002) (Reaffirmed 10/13/2007)

85.993
Executions
MAG believes that physicians should be involved in the pronouncement of death at prison executions. (Resolution 217B.07)

100.999
Direct Consumer Advertising of Prescriptions
MAG strongly objects to the marketing of pharmaceutical products through direct media advertising to the general public. (Res: 102AB-02 and Res: 105AB-02) (Reaffirmed 10/13/07)

120.984
Step Therapy
MAG opposes any contractual requirement that requires the use of step therapy from any public or private third party payer. (Appendix III - Committee 01.07)

120.988
Physician Prescribing Information
MAG opposes access to individual physician's prescribing data by pharmaceutical manufacturers and their representatives. (Res. 305C-02) (Reaffirmed 10/13/07)
Disaster Volunteers
MAG supports utilizing the Division of Public Health's Physician/Health Professional Emergency Reserve Corps and the Georgia State Defense Reserve Corps, including qualified retired physicians, as volunteers to hospitals, local health departments, or other medical outpatient facilities in the event of a national disaster or any public health emergency situation. All emergency programs such as these must have a system to assure that those who are involved are legally certified and/or licensed and that the process can be implemented expeditiously. (Appendix III - Committee 01.07)

Chemical Attack and EMS Personnel
MAG supports allowing EMS personnel to self-administer and administer to others the Mark I kits in the event of an apparent chemical attack with nerve agents. EMS personnel should be able to assist in setting up the "push packs" from the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile and administer antibiotics, immunizations, and vaccinations at times of a declared disaster. (Comm: 9-02, Rec. 3) (Reaffirmed 10/13/07)

EMS Oversight
MAG supports the establishment of the EMS Medical Directors Advisory Council as the physician advisory and oversight body for the state EMS Medical Director and for the Office of EMS. (Comm: 9-02, Rec. 2) (Reaffirmed 10/13/07)

Declaration of Professional Responsibility
DECLARATION OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY: MEDICINE'S SOCIAL CONTRACT WITH HUMANITY
Preamble
Never in the history of human civilization has the well-being of each individual been so inextricably linked to that of every other. Plagues and pandemics respect no national borders in a world of global commerce and travel. Wars and acts of terrorism enlist innocents as combatants and mark civilians as targets. Advances in medical science and genetics, while promising to do great good, may also be harnessed as agents of evil. The unprecedented scope and immediacy of these universal challenges demand concerted action and response by all. As physicians, we are bound in our response by a common heritage of caring for the sick and the suffering. Through the centuries, individual physicians have fulfilled this obligation by applying their skills and knowledge competently, selflessly and at times heroically. Today, our profession must reaffirm its historical commitment to combat natural and man-made assaults on the health and wellbeing of humankind. Only by acting together across geographic and ideological divides can we overcome such powerful threats. Humanity is our patient.

Declaration
We, the members of the world community of physicians, solemnly commit ourselves to:
(1) Respect human life and the dignity of every individual.
(2) Refrain from supporting or committing crimes against humanity and condemn any such acts.
(3) Treat the sick and injured with competence and compassion and without prejudice.
(4) Apply our knowledge and skills when needed, though doing so may put us at risk.
(5) Protect the privacy and confidentiality of those for whom we care and breach that confidence only when keeping it would seriously threaten their health and safety or that of others.
(6) Work freely with colleagues to discover, develop, and promote advances in medicine and public health that ameliorate suffering and contribute to human well-being.
(7) Educate the public about present and future threats to the health of humanity.
(8) Advocate for social, economic, educational, and political changes that ameliorate suffering and contribute to human well-being.
(9) Teach and mentor those who follow us for they are the future of our caring profession.
We make these promises solemnly, freely, and upon our personal and professional honor.

155.997
Translators
MAG should work with the appropriate government agency to eliminate the burden of payment by physicians for translations services and other barriers to medical care. (Resolution 113A.07)

160.985
Access to Care
MAG encourages its members to provide medical services to active duty military families as much as feasible. (Resolution 101A.07)

160.986
Physician-specific Data
MAG supports the position that any physician-specific data which is published by health plans or other entities be limited to appropriate data concerning quality of medical care, access to care, and cost of care that is based on a full and complete understanding of the patient's clinical record, their full diagnostic profile, their medical history, age and geographic and social history; and MAG opposes the publication of physician-specific data that do not meet these criteria. (Resolution 106A.07)

180.985
Health Insurance Tax Preference
MAG supports legislation that gives individuals the same tax preference as job-based health insurance when individuals purchase their own insurance plans. (Reaffirmed 05/2002) (Reaffirmed again 10/2007)

180.986
Tax Equity
MAG supports tax equity of employer-based medical insurance, individual-paid medical insurance, unreimbursed out-of-pocket medical care, and individual medical savings accounts. (Reaffirmed by the Board of Directors on 4/14/07)

185.983
Peach Care
MAG supports eligibility for the provisions of Peach Care for Children at its current threshold of 235% of the Federal Poverty Level. (Resolution 204B.07)

185.984
Indigent Care
MAG supports development of a statewide system for documenting uncompensated indigent care provided by physicians similar to the Health Access Initiative created by the Hall County Medical Society; and supports legislation which provides tax credits for uncompensated indigent care provided by physicians. (Resolution 201B.07, Resolves 1 & 2)

185.985
Deductibles
MAG supports legislation and/or regulatory reform that require insurance companies to credit deductibles only after fees are paid by the patient to their physician. (Resolution 212B.07)
185.986
Point of Service
MAG opposes health benefit plans that restrict access to physicians to annually offer enrollees the opportunity to obtain coverage for out-of-network services through a point of service option. (Appendix III - Committee 01.07)

190.983
National Provider Identification
The Medical Association of Georgia supports legislation that would penalize Georgia Medicaid for its failure to pay claims within 15 days and interest to physicians from the date of the original clean claim regardless of NIP-related problems. The Medical Association of Georgia supports federal legislation that reduces the compensation to Medicare carriers administering government health plans for their failure to meet the NPI deadline. Resolution 205B.07 - resolves 1-3)

190.984
Universal Payment Reporting Form
MAG supports the use of universal and uniform claims and payment reporting forms which contain the same essential information used by all payers. (Appendix III - Committee 01.07)

205.988
Physicians Orders
MAG advocates that Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) be coordinated with Advance Directives and/or a Durable Power of Attorney for healthcare. (Resolution 211B-07)

205.990
Advance Directives
MAG supports federal financial incentives through use of a one-time refundable tax credit of three hundred dollars ($300.00) to those individuals who prepare their Advance Directives and Durable Power of Attorney for healthcare decisions. (Resolution 211.07, Resolve 2)

215.991
Exclusive Contracts
MAG is opposed to the use of exclusive contracts between insurance companies and hospitals throughout the state, and supports legislation which prohibits it. (Res: 308C-02) (Reaffirmed 10/13/2007)

230.996
Physician Licensure
MAG opposes any legislation, rule, or policy that requires hospital staff participation as a condition of physician licensure. (Resolution 204C.07)

235.998
Physicians Protections
MAG continues to advocate as a top tier priority for the protection of the rights of physicians as allowed by the laws of the State of Georgia, including 1) the right to practice medicine without usurpation in any way by hospital boards or any entity not licensed to practice medicine; 2) the medical staff rights to self governance; and 3) MAG supports legislation to prohibit economic credentialing by hospitals, insurance companies or other entities. (Resolution 307C.07)
270.980
Provider Tax
MAG opposes any new tax on physician practices or any new tax on any ancillary services provided by physicians or their practice. (Resolution 314-07)

270.981
Present on Admission
MAG supports efforts by the AMA to repeal the "Present on Admission Policy" as contained in the Deficit Reduction Act. (Resolution 109A.07)

270.982
Sales Tax
The Medical Association of Georgia opposes imposing a tax on professional services or alters legislation to exclude physician services or, in the alternative, permitting physicians to pass the cost of the tax on to their patients without violating their contractual obligations to insures. (Resolution 317C.07)

285.981
Prior Approval
MAG opposes the use of prior approval policies that are inappropriately based on economic factors without the support of clinical evidence. MAG urges regulators, insurers, and others, in both the public and private sector, to reduce and eliminate such policies; MAG urges legislative or regulatory action, at the state level, to prevent the further utilization of inappropriate prior approval of pharmaceuticals. (Res: 300C-02) (Reaffirmed 10/13/2007)

285.989
Financial Incentives
MAG opposes the use of managed care techniques which adversely impact patient care and the physician/patient relationship through the use of financial incentives designed to limit a patient's choice of physician or patient's choice of services and recommends the continuation of fee for service and a doctor/patient relationship. (Reaffirmed 05/2002; 10/13/2007)

285.992
Due Process
MAG supports legislation which requires managed care entities to hold a due process hearing on any issue involving the appropriateness of medical care, before any sanction can be taken against a physician for such action. (Reaffirmed 05/2002; 10/2007)

285.994
Managed Care - Liability
MAG supports legislation that would require liability on the part of any managed care entity for any decision it makes which breaches the acceptable standards for medical care. (Reaffirmed 05/2002; 10/13/2007)

290.977
Dual Eligibility
The Medical Association of Georgia supports 1) legislation and/or use administrative change in the Georgia Medicaid Program which allows payment levels for dual-eligible Medicare patients to be reversed to the full 20% Medicare co-insurance and deductibles level; 2) The Medical Association of Georgia supports legislation and/or administrative changes in the Georgia Medicaid Program which requires Georgia Medicaid to accept paper claims for secondary coverage on dual eligible Medicare claims without the 90-day holding period if the Medicare EOB clearly shows no "cross over" occurred 3) The Medical Association of Georgia supports
legislation and/or administrative change in the Georgia Medicaid Program which requires Georgia Medicaid to pay any secondary claim if the EOB from Medicare is attached and no further extra information is needed on the CMS billing form and 4) The Medical Association of Georgia supports legislation and/or administrative change in the Georgia Medicaid Program which requires Georgia Medicaid to accept modifiers on secondary claims consistent with Medicare on duel eligible claims. Resolution 207B.07 Resolves 1-4)

290.978
CMOs
MAG opposes continued implementation of Medicaid CMOs.

295.991
Medical Student Training
MAG supports standardized Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) training for all medical students prior to clinical clerkships and strongly encourages medical schools to fund ACLS training for medical students. (Res: 113AB-02) (Reaffirmed 10/13/2007)

330.980
Coverage
MAG supports legislation which requires a hospital to obtain prior authorizations required by all health plans for inpatient services so as to insure proper reimbursement [payment] for hospitals and physicians. (Res. 208B-07)

330.981
Physician Orders
MAG opposes Medicare's promotion with hospitals and state Quality Improvement agencies allowing hospital administrations to set standing orders for influenza and pneumococcal immunizations, in place of specific physician orders and directives. (Attachment III)

360.996 Prescriptive Authority for Advance Practice Nurses
MAG fundamentally opposes independent prescriptive authority for advanced practice nurses. Physician supervision and oversight for using "protocols" is essential. (Reaffirmed 05/1999 and 05/2002; 10/13/2007)

385.997
Billing and Payments
MAG opposes state legislation that dictates how a physician must bill for medical services, that inhibits fair market contracting between physicians, and that inhibits physicians from freely practicing medicine within acceptable professional standards. MAG opposes any state legislation that limits billing and payment for a defined medical services or group of services to a single medical specialty. (Resolution 215.C)

390.985
Payment Formula
MAG and the AMA will continue to work with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services to insure the correctness of the formula calculations for Medicare payment. (Attachment III - Committee 01.07)

405.991
Use of the Term Physician
The Medical Association of Georgia supports legislation which limits the identification of a person as a physician only to individuals licensed under the Medical Practice Act. The Medical Association of Georgia urges the Composite State Board of Medical Examiners to enjoin the unlawful use of the terms "physician"
and/or "doctor" and will assist the Composite State Board of Medical Examiners in its efforts to enjoin the unlawful uses of these terms. (Res. 310C.07, Resolves 1-3)

415.997
Credentialed
MAG asserts that any physician meeting the overall credentialing criteria applied to all other providers and agreeing to the same method of payment be accepted into any health plan network to provide medical care. (Attachment III - Committee 01.07)

435.992
Tort Reform
MAG aggressively supports meaningful tort reform at the state and national levels. (App. III, Comm. 01-07)

435.995
Collateral Source
MAG supports collateral source legislation that will enable the defendant to inform the jury about the plaintiff's access to funds that will pay for the plaintiff's damages, such as his or her health insurance or other insurance proceeds. (Special Report: 3-02) (Reaffirmed 10/2002; 10/2007)

450.991
Clinical Practice Guidelines
MAG believes that clinical guidelines are not a substitute for the experience and judgment of the physician; MAG recommends to all specialty and subspecialty societies and others that this reaffirmation be included as an addendum to each clinical guideline. (Attachment III – Committee 01.07)

490.992
Smoking
MAG supports legislation which increases the legal age to buy tobacco in Georgia to twenty-one and increases fines and enforcement efforts to prevent exposure of adolescents to cigarettes. (Res. 310C-02) (Reaffirmed 10/13/2007)

525.997
Breastfeeding
MAG supports protection of a mother's right to breastfeed in public and encourages all states to pass legislation which reaffirms the right to do so. (Attachment III - Committee 01.07)

530.893
Physician Payments
MAG shall, in all of its communications and publications, use the term "physician payment" in lieu of "physician reimbursement."

530.930
Stationary and Logo - MSS and YPS
The approved logo for the Medical Student Section and the Young Physician Section shall be kept at MAG headquarters. Written communications from the Medical Student Section and Young Physician Section shall be generated at MAG headquarters and such communications shall include MAG's name on the letterhead. (Reaffirmed 10/13/2007)
530.932
**MAG Directory**
MAG supports development of usable, complete and accurate membership/resource directories produced electronically. (Special Report: 3-02, Item 4) (Reaffirmed 10/13/2007)

530.968
**Policy Guidelines - Distribution and Modification**
MAG directs that all policy statements be maintained in a manner which will allow for easy distribution and modification to maintain a current reflection of MAG policy. (Reaffirmed 05/2002)

530.963
**Georgia Medical Group Managers Association**
MAG agrees to the appointment, as ex-officio members of MAG committees, the names submitted by the Georgia Medical Group Management Association, for a period of one year and upon acceptance by the chairmen of the requested committees. (Reaffirmed 05/2002; 10/2007)

530.970
**Communication**
MAG continues to encourage communication with component groups and allied organizations in order to advance our common goals. (Reaffirmed 05/2002; 10/13/2007)

535.984
**Component Society Meetings**
Members of the MAG Board of Directors should attend meetings of the component medical societies and specialty medical societies in their areas, and promote MAG membership at these meetings; members should work with MAG staff to obtain a pre-registration list of attendees at specialty society meetings in order to target non-MAG members while attending the meeting.

540.966
**Continuing Medical Education Committee**
The Continuing Medical Education Committee shall accredit organizations that desire to offer CME activities to Georgia physicians. The CME Committee shall review and approve applications for accreditation and reaccreditations, establish accreditations policies, provide supervision and guidance to surveyors, hold training sessions for MAG-accredited sponsors and keep all sponsors updated concerning MAG, ACCME and AMA policies related to CME. (Reaffirmed 10/13/2007)

540.989
**Finance Committee**
MAG authorizes the Chairman of the Board of Directors, in consultation with Treasurer, to appoint Finance Committee members to staggered 2-year terms. (Reaffirmed 05/2002 and 10/2007)

545.948
**Meetings**
Annual meetings of MAG should be held in late summer or early fall of each year. (Attachment III - Committee 01.07)

555.978
**Recruitment**
MAG asks that the student delegates to the MAG House of Delegates assume primary responsibility for recruiting student colleagues to MAG and asks that they submit an annual report on his/her progress in this area.
Dues
Beginning in 2008, MAG's dues structure is revised to include first year free memberships for newly licensed physicians excluding interns, residents and fellows; and group membership discounts. (Officer 05.07)

Dues Billing Procedure
MAG is the only entity that may bill MAG dues and MAG will offer to bill CMS dues for those CMSs that request it. (Reaffirmed 10/2007)

National Health Care
MAG supports AMA policies which oppose a national health care system, and supports an AMA national media campaign consistent with MAG's position.

Legislative Grassroots Program
MAG continues to emphasize expansion of the legislative grassroots programs of the Council on Legislation. (Comm: 12-98 Recs. 2 3 4 6) (Comm. 01-05 Appendix III)

CMS Legislative Meetings
Each component medical society should sponsor one function for its physicians and local legislators before the convening of the session of the Georgia General Assembly for the purpose of educating legislators on MAG priorities for the year and that the Legislative Team continue assisting component medical societies in those endeavors. (Comm.: 12-02, Rec. 6) (Reaffirmed 10/2007)

Continuing Education of Georgia's Legislators
MAG urges the physicians of Georgia to actively involve themselves in the continuing education of Georgia's legislators and other public officials on issues involved with health care policy. MAG believes that NO citizen is better qualified to educate a public official on complex medical issues. (Reaffirmed 05/2000 and 05/2002 and 10/2007)

Policies for Sunset

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New Policies from Sunset Policies

**Prevention**
MAG supports proven strategies and activities aimed at prevention of cervical cancer in Georgia, such as education, regular health exams and the use of cervical cancer preventing vaccines for all age groups.

**Proton Pump Inhibitors**
MAG opposes implementation of prior approval requirements for Proton Pump Inhibitors, as harmful to patients and an ineffective cost saving measure.

**Call Coverage**
MAG recognizes that access to specialists across the state’s hospital emergency departments has deteriorated, particularly in rural areas, while at the same time the number of patients accessing hospital emergency departments has increased. An increasing number of specialties are no longer aligned with specific hospitals or medical staffs making it more difficult to gain traditional coverage from medical staffs. Although hospital payment for emergency room coverage has improved, it is uneven throughout the state and is non-exist in some hospitals. MAG will continue to serve as an information clearing house for physicians in Georgia and to monitor emergency department call coverage for the provision of emergency services and disaster preparedness and for the adequacy of support of physicians providing this critical service. MAG strongly encourages physicians and hospitals to work collaboratively to develop solutions based on adequate compensation or other appropriate incentives as the preferred method of ensuring on-call coverage.

**Emergency Department Training**
MAG supports the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) policies, (ACEP Policy Compendium, 2012 Edition) which, in part, recognizes the roles of the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) and the American Osteopathic Board of Emergency Medicine (AOBEM) to set and approve the training standards, assess competency through board certification processes and establish professional practice principles for emergency physicians. Furthermore, MAG supports ACEP’s assertion that the specific process for physician credentialing and delineation of clinical privileges must be defined by hospital or organized medical staff and department bylaws, policy, rules, or regulations. These are also requirements of the Code of Federal Regulations for Hospitals and the Georgia Department of Community Health's, Office of Health Care Facility Regulation Hospital Rules and Regulations. Each member of the medical staff must be subject to periodic review as part of the performance improvement activities of the organization. ACEP believes that the exercise of clinical privileges in the emergency department is governed by the rules and regulations of the department. ACEP policy also states that certificates of short course completion in various cored content areas of emergency medicine, (i.e., Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Advanced Trauma Life Support, etc.) may serve as evidence of focused review; however, ABEM or AOBEM certification in emergency medicine supersedes evidence of the completion of such courses. ACEP strongly discourages the use of certificates of completion of such courses, or a specified number of continuing medical education hours in a sub-area of emergency medicine, as requirements for privileges or employment for physicians certified by ABEM or AOBEM.

**Non-physician Personnel**
As a matter of patient safety, MAG opposes the performance of medical procedures by non-physician personnel who are not medically trained and supervised. Actions such as the ordering of images, the administration of vaccines and other injectibles should not be performed by non-
physicians unless administration is done pursuant to a physician protocol and in the case of vaccine and injectible administration, a physician’s prescription.

**Medical College of Georgia**
MAG supports the position that the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta will continue to be the sole public medical education institution in Georgia and will be allowed to continue to expand its medical educational and residency programs in Georgia to ensure the outcome of an appropriate supply of physicians to take care of patients throughout the state. (Resolution 112A.07 Resolves 1 & 2)

**Recruitment**
Members of MAG’s Board of Directors, as a condition of their position, are required to actively engage in membership recruitment and other membership efforts adopted by the Board.

**NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Harvey announced that this evening’s events are sponsored by MagMutual and SunTrust and he invited members of the House of Delegates to the MagMutual Luncheon today at 12:30 p.m., to hear Dr. Victor Cotton, who is the president of the Law and Medicine organization. Members were reminded of the annual group photo in the hotel lobby. Members were encouraged to stop by the GAMPAC photo booth to receive a professional head shot, and were reminded that the GAMPAC lunch will feature former AMA President Donald J. Palmisano, M.D., as its keynote speaker tomorrow at the conclusion of the third session of the House of Delegates. Dr. Harvey reminded members to visit exhibitor’s booths.

The IMG Section members will meet from 4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Sloan Room, and members of the MSS Section will meet from 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the same location.

Dr. Maxey invited members of the House to join members of MAG Foundation for refreshments in the foundation’s lounge area.

Following a short break, Reference Committee A met in the Savannah Room, Reference Committee C in the Scarbrough 4, Reference Committee F in the Verelst Room and Reference Committee HC in this ballroom.

Dr. Harvey recessed the first session of the House of Delegates at 10:03 a.m., and called for a five-minute break before the beginning of MAG’s Health Care Forum.

**SECOND SESSION**
**INSTALLATION AND AWARDS CEREMONY**
Saturday, October 20

The Awards Ceremony commenced with a procession of former presidents and members of the Executive Committee being led to the front of the room by bagpiper Lynette Stoudt.
Dr. Harvey called the session to order at 6 p.m. and introduced outgoing president Sandra B. Reed, M.D., who called incoming president W. Scott Bohlke, M.D., to the podium to be sworn into office as MAG’s 160th president. After swearing in Dr. Bohlke to the office, she presented to him the president’s pin which is passed down from president to president and the president’s medallion that is to be worn at all special occasions. The official gavel was passed from Dr. Reed to Dr. Bohlke as a symbol bestowed on each president authorizing the power of the office of the president.

Dr. Bohlke gave the following presidential speech on his plans for the upcoming year:

THANK YOU FOR THE GREAT HONOR OF BECOMING THE 160TH PRESIDENT OF THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA. ON BEHALF OF MORE THAN 7,000 MAG MEMBERS, I ALSO WANT TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE THANKS TO DR. REED FOR HER INCREDIBLE LEADERSHIP DURING HER TERM AS MAG PRESIDENT. WE OWE HER A HUGE DEBT OF GRATITUDE. AND I WILL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO BUILD ON THE MOMENTUM THAT SHE CREATED, AND I WILL DO MY BEST TO CARRY MYSELF WITH THE SAME KIND OF DIGNITY AND RESPECT.

EVERY PHYSICIAN IN THIS ROOM HAS ANSWERED A CALLING. IT IS THE CALLING THAT MOLDS US INTO THE PHYSICIAN THAT WE ULTIMATELY BECOME. MY CALLING BEGAN WHEN I WAS EIGHT YEARS OLD. I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE ONE OF MY FATHER’S GOOD FRIENDS, WHO WAS A GENERAL PRACTITIONER IN SOUTH GEORGIA. I GOT A CHANCE TO WITNESS THE INTERACTION BETWEEN A PHYSICIAN AND HIS PATIENTS IN A VERY REAL AND PERSONAL WAY.

I CHOSE TO BECOME A FAMILY PHYSICIAN BECAUSE IT WAS MY CALLING. I FELT LIKE I COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE. AS A DOCTOR, I KNEW I COULD HELP PEOPLE IN THE MOST PROFOUND WAYS, AND I FELT LIKE I COULD ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE PEOPLE IN MY COMMUNITY.

AS I LOOK IN THE REARVIEW MIRROR, I KNOW WITH CERTAINTY THAT THERE IS NO GREATER CALLING. THAT EIGHT-YEAR-OLD BOY WAS WISE, INDEED.

THERE WAS PRESSURE TO GO INTO OTHER SPECIALTIES TO BE SURE. BUT IN MY HEART I FELT THAT THE BEST WAY FOR ME TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE WAS TO CARE FOR PATIENTS FROM A TO Z AND TO HEAL THEM AT EVERY STAGE OF THEIR LIFE. I AM TRULY PASSIONATE ABOUT THE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP THAT I HAVE WITH MY PATIENTS.

KEEPING OUR MEDICAL RECORDS ON FIVE-BY-SEVEN CARDS. WE WERE ALSO GETTING PAID WITH PRODUCE AND OTHER BASIC GOODS.

TIMES HAVE CHANGED, BUT THE ESSENCE OF THE PRACTICE THAT DR. BOHLER FOUNDED LIVES ON – AND I STRIVE TO CONTINUE HIS TRADITION OF PERSONAL CARE FOR EVERY INDIVIDUAL PATIENT THAT WALKS THROUGH THE DOOR.

WE FACE SOME INTERESTING AND CHALLENGING TIMES AS A PROFESSION. THAT INCLUDES AN HISTORIC ELECTION IN THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS THAT WILL SHAPE THE PATH OF HEALTH CARE IN THE UNITED STATES AND GEORGIA FOR GENERATIONS TO COME. YOU HAVE MY PROMISE THAT I WILL DO WHAT I BELIEVE IS BEST FOR PATIENTS AND PHYSICIANS DURING MY TERM AS MAG PRESIDENT.

I WILL STRIVE TO FIND WAYS TO REDUCE THE HASSLE FACTOR THAT HAS BEEN PLACED ON PHYSICIANS BY THE GOVERNMENT AND OTHER THIRD PARTY PAYERS – INCLUDING MEDICARE AND MEDICAID. THAT RUNS THE GAMBIT FROM PRIOR AUTHORIZATIONS TO PROMPT AND PROPER PAYMENTS TO ENSURING THAT WE HAVE A SUSTAINABLE PRACTICE ENVIRONMENT IN THE STATE.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK ON OTHER KEY ISSUES AS WELL, INCLUDING PHYSICIAN AUTONOMY, TORT REFORM, SCOPE OF PRACTICE, AND GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION. IF WE REMAIN FOCUSED ON WHAT REALLY MATTERS, WE WILL ENSURE THAT THERE ARE ENOUGH DOCTORS TO CARE FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THIS GREAT STATE.

I AM PROUD AND EXCITED TO KNOW THAT MAG MEMBERSHIP HAS INCREASED BY MORE THAN 20 PERCENT SINCE 2010. THAT IS REMARKABLE WHEN YOU CONSIDER THAT MOST STATE MEDICAL SOCIETIES ARE STRUGGLING. I WANT TO EXPRESS MY THANKS TO DONALD PALMISANO AND THE REST OF THE MAG STAFF FOR THEIR TIRELESS EFFORTS.

I WILL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO HELP MAG CONTINUE TO GROW AND MAINTAIN ITS ROLE AS THE LEADING VOICE FOR EVERY PHYSICIAN IN EVERY SPECIALITY IN EVERY PRACTICE SETTING IN THE STATE.

I ONCE HAD A PATIENT TELL ME THAT HE SAW ME AS MORE OF A FRIEND THAN HIS DOCTOR. IT’S ONE OF THE GREATEST COMPLIMENTS OF MY LIFE – AND IT GIVES ME PEACE OF MIND TO KNOW THAT I MADE THE RIGHT DECISION WHEN I DECIDED TO BECOME A FAMILY PHYSICIAN IN A SMALL TOWN.

THE BOTTOM LINE FOR ME IS THAT THE PATIENT-PHYSICIAN RELATIONSHIP MUST BE MAINTAINED AT ALL COST. IT HAS RESULTED IN THE BEST MEDICAL CARE IN THE WORLD, AND IT’S WORTH FIGHTING FOR. THERE ISN’T A GREATER
CALLING IN LIFE THAN HELPING YOUR FELLOW MAN DURING THEIR HOUR OF NEED.

AS FOR THE YOUNG PHYSICIANS WHO ARE JUST GETTING STARTED, I HOPE THEY HAVE THE VISION TO SEE THE ESSENTIAL NEED FOR ORGANIZATIONS LIKE MAG – AND I HOPE THEY BECOME INVOLVED. IN MY TRAVELS TO PLACES LIKE ATLANTA AND WASHINGTON, D.C., IT HAS BECOME EVIDENT THAT OUR ADVOCACY EFFORTS HAVE NEVER BEEN MORE IMPORTANT.

WE NEED TO WORK HARDER THAN EVER TO BECOME THE TRUSTED SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR OUR LEGISLATORS SO THEY MAKE SOUND DECISIONS WHEN IT COMES TO HEALTH CARE. WE NEED TO BUILD PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH THESE LAWMAKERS.

I BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN NEVER GO WRONG BY DOING WHAT’S RIGHT FOR PATIENTS – AND WHAT’S RIGHT FOR PATIENTS IS HAVING ACCESS TO THE BEST PHYSICIANS IN THE WORLD WHO WILL VIEW THEM AND CARE FOR THEM AS INDIVIDUALS.

I AM HONORED TO BE THE PRESIDENT OF THIS LONG-STANDING AND RESPECTED ORGANIZATION. I LOOK FORWARD TO THE CHALLENGE, AND I WELCOME YOUR INPUT. GOD BLESS PHYSICIANS IN GEORGIA, GOD BLESS OUR PATIENTS, AND GOD BLESS THIS STATE AND THIS COUNTRY. THANK YOU.

At the conclusion of the installation ceremony, the awards presentation was held. The following is a summary of the awards and those who were the recipient of the awards this year:

**Hardman Cup**

Dennis W. Ashley, M.D., with Surgical Associates in Macon, received the Lamartine Hardman Cup for 2012. The award is presented to a physician who solves a problem in public health or makes a discovery in surgery or medicine or the science of medicine. Dr. Ashley became the trauma director at the Medical Center of Central Georgia (MCCG) after he was appointed to the position of assistant professor of surgery at the Mercer University School of Medicine (MUSM) in 1994. Under his leadership, MCCG earned its recognition as a Level I trauma center. In his nomination letter, Bibb County Medical Society President Edward H. Young, M.D., wrote that, “Dr. Ashley was among a group of dedicated trauma specialists who recognized the (access to care) problem Georgia residents faced and undertook efforts to organize a system to provide timely and appropriate care to injured patients outside the reach of established centers. (Dr. Ashley and others) convinced the Governor and leaders in the state legislature to provide an office within the Governor’s office to lead the organization of a network of trauma centers and link with emergency services to assure rapid and definitive care throughout the state.”

**Joseph P. Bailey, M.D., Physician Distinguished Award**
John S. Antalis, M.D., received the *Joseph P. Bailey Jr., M.D., Physician Distinguished Service Award* for 2012. The award is given to a physician for distinguished and meritorious service that reflects credit and honor on the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG). The Dalton family physician began his relationship with MAG as a Whitfield Murray Medical Society (WMMS) delegate in 1988. He also served as a member of the board of directors for the Seventh District. And in his role as the chair of the Public Relations Committee, Dr. Antalis spearheaded the prominent “My Doctor, My Choice” health care reform campaign. Dr. Antalis chaired MAG’s Board of Directors for two years, and he was MAG’s president in 2004-2005. Georgia’s tort reform law (S.B. 3) was signed into law during his term as MAG president. Today, Dr. Antalis serves as one of MAG’s American Medical Association (AMA) alternate delegates, and he has written several important resolutions that were passed by AMA’s House of Delegates. In 2011, Gov. Nathan Deal appointed Dr. Antalis to the Georgia Composite Medical Board. Dr. Antalis also served on the Georgia Drug Utilization Review Board from 1998 to 2004, and he was elected to the U.S. Pharmacopeia’s Safe Medication Use Committee from 2000 to 2005.

**Physician’s Award for Community Service**

W. Douglas Skelton, M.D., was the recipient of the *Physician’s Award for Community Service* for 2012. The award recognizes a physician who demonstrates a love for the community outside the regular scope of practice. Dr. Skelton began Grady Hospital’s drug abuse treatment program, he was Grady’s chief of psychiatry, he was the medical director for the Georgia Mental Health Institute, and he was a member of the National Advisory Mental Health Council. In 1974, Dr. Skelton became the director of the Division of Mental Health and Mental Retardation for the Georgia Department of Human Resources. Three years later, he became the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Human Services – where he directed more than 100 programs in the areas of physical health, mental health and mental retardation, social services, public assistance, and vocational rehabilitation. Dr. Skelton was a member of the Georgia Health Policy Council for 10 years, and he chaired the Georgia Task Force on AIDS for five years. President George H. W. Bush named Dr. Skelton to the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Board of Regents. In 2004, Dr. Skelton became the director of the public health district that serves Chatham and Effingham counties, and he was instrumental in the creation of the Coastal Health District.

**Jack A. Raines, M.D., Humanitarian Award**

Gulshan Harjee, M.D., was the recipient of the *Jack A. Raines Humanitarian Award* for 2012. The award honors a physician who has made an outstanding humanitarian contribution to their fellow man and community beyond the normal practice of medicine. Dr. Harjee – the CEO and president of First Medical Care in Decatur – was nominated for the award by the DeKalb Medical Society (DMS). Dr. Harjee has been a member of the DeKalb Regional Health System Board of Directors for 12 years. In that role, she gives regular talks on diabetes, osteoporosis, cancer screening, hypertension and obesity to churches and community organizations. Dr. Harjee chaired a cancer summit for Asian Americans in 2008, and she headed up the “Defeat Diabetes” program for the American Diabetes Association from 2009 to 2011. Dr. Harjee has helped raise nearly $1 million for UNICEF in the southeast U.S., and she organized three UNICEF-sponsored events to assist flood victims in Pakistan. She also helped to increase blood supplies in the
Atlanta area as a member of the LifeSouth board of directors – including two blood drives in Norcross during a peak shortage. She has been an American Red Cross National Bone Marrow Donor program volunteer for more than 15 years, and she was credited with saving five lives as a result of her efforts in this area. Furthermore, she has hosted a bone marrow donor drive at the Festival of India in Atlanta for the past 16 years. Dr. Harjee has been conducting health fairs for the indigent and uninsured in DeKalb County for seven years – while she also established scholarship programs for high school and college students.

Donna Glass Non-Physician Distinguished Service Award

David F. Waldrep, the executive director of the Medical Association of Atlanta (MAA), is the Donna Glass Non-Physician Distinguished Service Award winner for 2012. The award honors a non-physician for their contributions to the advancement and support of medicine. The MAA board members who nominated him for the award wrote that, “Mr. Waldrep has distinguished himself across many dimensions…his incisive financial acumen and strict adherence to accounting standards of practice, coupled with his unquestionable integrity, was just what ‘the doctor ordered’ to restore the association to financial stability.” Since assuming the reins as executive director in 2008, MAA’s membership has doubled – growing from about 600 paid members to some 1,200 paid members. The MAA board members said that, “…David was centrally responsible (for this growth).” He is also credited with helping to recruit several large, high-profile groups – including The Southeast Permanente Medical Group and the Piedmont Physicians Group. Moreover, Mr. Waldrep has guided an investment strategy that has yielded a 20 percent return for MAA. The MAA Board members said that Mr. Waldrep has created an “effective venue and forum” for MAA physicians to participate in the advocacy arena at the state and local levels with the introduction of an annual legislative dinner, and he is building MAG’s brand by promoting joint efforts with other county medical societies in the state – including Cobb, DeKalb, and Gwinnett. The MAA leaders concluded that, “In short, David has taken personal ownership of our association in a way that goes beyond his personal employment. He has protected and enriched MAA and the profession in Atlanta.

John B. Rabun Award

The Ogeechee River Medical Society (ORMS) was honored with the John B. Rabun Award. The award is presented to a county medical society for community activity that brings attention to efforts in the medical community. The ORMS board members who nominated the organization for the award wrote that, “Ogeechee River Medical Society members have traveled from Statesboro to the Capitol annually to meet with area legislators during session for over 20 years.” ORMS members addressed a number of important issues during the legislative session in 2012, including scope of practice. ORMS has also demonstrated its role as a leader by hosting legislative dinners and barbeques on an annual basis since 2009. “Our members have made the effort to know area legislators personally and work with them to provide education and support for both physician and patient care issues,” the board members said. “This relationship has benefitted the Medical Association of Georgia and specialty societies in the state.”

At the conclusion of this session, Dr. Harvey thanked MagMutual and SunTrust for sponsoring these events. Dr. Harvey called for a recess until 8:30 a.m. the following morning.
FINAL SESSION
Sunday, October 21

Speaker of the House of Delegates Dr. Harvey called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. in Ballroom ABC. Dr. Gulshan Harjee presented the credentials report, which showed that 189 delegates and four alternate delegates representing 25 county medical societies and 14 specialty societies were at the meeting. There were also 30 guests in attendance. A final credentials report is attached to these minutes. A final attendance record is also attached to these minutes.

GAMPAC REPORT

GAMPAC Chairman Jack Chapman Jr., M.D., gave a power point presentation on the status of GAMPAC. He reported that GAMPAC is thriving as a political PAC and urged those members of the House of Delegates who have not yet contributed to the PAC, to do so. He reminded the members that former president Donald J. Palmisano, M.D., is the keynote speaker at the GAMPAC luncheon and that a Washington, D.C., fly-in is under development and plans will be sent when finalized.

MAG FOUNDATION

Dr. Maxey thanked members of the House of Delegates for attending the CME program presented by P. Tennent Slack, M.D., on Opioid Prescribing in Georgia: the Current State of Affairs. The Foundation is delighted to bring such programs to MAG members. Other programs of the Foundation, such as Georgia Physicians Leadership Academy (GPLA) and William R. Dancy Fund provide a great service to members of MAG. Since its inception, the William R. Dancy Fund has assisted residents of Georgia attending Georgia medical schools with student loans. Under the leadership of S. William Clark III, M.D., and members of the Steering Committee, GPLA has become a premier educational tool used to develop future MAG leaders. She encouraged members to contribute to the MAG Foundation so that programs such as these and its latest program, the Think About It campaign, can continue to grow. The Think About It campaign is designed as an educational awareness program on the statewide problem of prescription drug abuse and additionally will include collaboration and advocacy for statewide comprehensive drug policies and programs to promote secure storage and safe disposal.

ALLIANCE REPORT

Former president of the MAG Alliance, Mrs. Barbara Tippins, presented the annual MAG Alliance report. She reported that the Alliance is undergoing changes due to low membership and poor attendance at meetings. It has enacted a restructuring of its board and a governing committee will perform duties once performed by officers. She thanked MAG staff who have helped the Alliance during its transition. She reported that the Alliance will hold a luncheon on November 8 in lieu of this year’s Alliance meeting in conjunction with the MAG House of Delegates. She thanked members of the House of Delegates for their continued support.
SPECIAL REPORT ON POLST

Richard Cohen, M.D., presented a presentation on a fundamental guide to advance directives and POLST. POLST, or Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment, activates and expresses a person wishes for end of life care. Dr. Cohen reported that the Georgia Department of Public Health developed a document pursuant to Official Code of Georgia Section 29-4-18(1) that provides for a patient to direct their physicians and hospital personnel of their wishes in the type of treatment preferred. This protects physicians and hospital personnel in caring for a patient during his or her end of life care.

ACTIONS ON REFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

A summary of actions taken by the House of Delegates are as follows: (Editorial Note: Resolution 101A.12 and 104A.12 were withdrawn and not considered for business. Resolution 310C.12 and 604HC.12 were slightly revised and revised language provided to reference committees.)

REFERENCE COMMITTEE A

Change Georgia's Insurance Laws to Promote Greater Transparency for Patients and Providers and Eliminate Insurance Practices that Limit Access to Providers Based Solely on Costs (Resolution: 102A.12)

Reaffirmed MAG Policy, 185.981, Verification of Patient Denials Eligibility (HD 10/5/2008) in lieu of Resolve 1, that Medical Association of Georgia advocates for state legislation which regulates that when physicians verify that a patient is eligible prior to the provision of a medical service, a managed care health plan must not retroactively deny the service and payment.

Adopted Resolve 2 as amended, that MAG supports requiring insurance companies to provide physicians and hospitals at the time of a patient's treatment the amount of the patient's required co-pay and deductible, the patient's preventive care services that are not subject to a co-pay or deductible, the patient’s accurate formulary and benefit information for pharmacy benefits, the amount the patient owes at the time of service, and provide correct information about the amount owed by the insurance company to physicians and hospitals at the time the service is provided.

Adopted Resolve 3, that MAG opposes insurance companies rescheduling studies and procedures without the knowledge and permission of the original ordering physician.

Electronic Medical Record (EMR) Requirements (Resolution 103A.12)

Adopted Referral to the Board of Directors Resolution 103A.12, Electronic Medical Record Requirements which reads as follows: 1) that the Medical Association of Georgia creates a committee to outline EMR requirements for ‘Medically Meaningful Use’ defined as elements of an EMR that PRIMARILY promote and assure a high quality of medical care. This would not exclude other purposes such as data collection for public health or governmental agencies or
quality indicators, or components of ‘Meaningful Use; and 2) that such a document would be used to present to EMR vendors demanding that these clinical requirements be included in all EMRs and the document would be presented to the AMA for adoption nationwide at the AMA HOD, making ‘Medically Meaningful Use’ the driving force for all future EMR development [recapture the role of the physician to direct patient care-with rational use of the available literature, promotion of best practice guidelines, incorporation of flexibility that recognizes patient variability…”

**High-Fructose Corn Syrup Sweetened Beverages in Hospitals (Resolution 105A.12)**

Adopted Resolution 105A.12, that the Medical Association of Georgia works with the Georgia Hospital Association to urge that hospitals not offer bottled drinks sweetened with high-fructose corn syrup in hospital vending machines.

**Insurance Companies Not Reading HCFA-1500 Forms (Resolution 106A.12)**

DID NOT Adopt Resolution 106A.12 related to insurance companies not reading HCFA-1500 forms.

**Laboratory Reports to Patients (Resolution 107A.12)**

DID NOT Adopt Resolution 107A.12 related to laboratory reports to patients as well as physicians.

**Medical Facility Regulations for Students Shadowing Physicians (Resolution 108A.12)**

Adopted Resolution 108A.12 as amended, that the Medical Association of Georgia recommend that the AMA develop a standard criteria for students to shadow physicians in medical facilities.

**Obesity Prevention (Resolution 109A.12)**

Adopted Resolve 1, that the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG), and the physicians of Georgia support the efforts of the Governor and the Department of Public Health in their campaign against obesity and the adverse health consequences of obesity.

Adopted Resolve 2, that MAG encourage physicians to become educated about obesity prevention, nutrition and safe methods of weight loss and address weight, healthy eating and physical activity with their patients at least annually and more often when appropriate.

Adopted Resolve 3 by floor amendment, that MAG encourage physicians to model healthy behavior of good nutrition and physical activity and that MAG include healthy food options at all its catered events.

Adopted Resolve 4, that MAG support third party payer reimbursement of anti-obesity counseling by physicians.

Adopted Resolve 5, that MAG encourages development of community strategies to prevent and fight obesity through involvement of county medical societies and local governments working with health departments and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Adopted as amended Resolve 6, that MAG support policy encouraging expansion of choices to include healthy food and beverages be sold or served in public institutions such as hospitals, schools and government institutions.

Adopted Resolve 7, that MAG support minimum requirements for physical activity for school children in grades K through 12.
Office Care of Medicare Patients in Rehab Beds in Nursing Facilities (Resolution 110A.12)

Adopted Referral to the Board of Directors, Resolution 110A.12 which reads as follows: that the Medical Association of Georgia should support a resolution to the AMA House of Delegates in fall 2012 or summer 2013 to explore a method of education of Medicare officials of the inability of physicians to determine this status and to ensure that physicians do not receive such communications for situations that are out of their control and are paid promptly by the nursing facilities.

Opposition of Penalty for 30-day Hospital Readmissions in the Interest of Patient Care (Resolution 111A.12)

Adopted as amended Resolve 1, that the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) oppose penalties on the state and federal levels imposed against physicians and hospitals for restrictions on 30-day readmissions.

Adopted Resolve 2, that MAG work with the appropriate government agency to find meaningful ways to reduce inappropriate hospital readmissions.

Parity in Insurance Contracting (Resolution 112A.12)

Adopted Resolve 1, that the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) work with the insurance commissioner requiring insurance plan websites be up to date and that statements of coverage verified by providers be upheld for payment.

Adopted Resolve 2, that MAG support insurance companies acting as third party administrators require timely removal of non-covered lives from their roster so that accurate verification of coverage can be made.

Reaffirmed MAG Policy in lieu of Resolve 3, that MAG supports policies, regulations and legislation that require that post payment reviews, downcodes and other similar demands for refunds by third party payers be made within one year of the date the claim is submitted, or within the amount of time permitted for submission of the claim, whichever is less.

Preventing Penalties for Physicians who Provide Care to Military Patients (Resolution 113A.12)

Adopted by substitutions, that the Medical Association of Georgia send a resolution to the AMA to work with CMS and the Department of Defense to oppose programs that unfairly penalize or create disincentives for physicians who provide care to military patients, i.e., opposing meaningful percentage requirements of e-prescription exempting military patients where paper prescriptions are required.

Promote Fair Payment for Best Care Practices (Resolution 114A.12)

Adopted by floor substitution that, the Medical Association of Georgia support legislation on the federal level to adjust the criteria of quality outcome reporting such that it accounts for counseling and education provided when patient non-compliance influences outcomes.

Revise MAG’s Position on Pay-for-Performance (PFP) (Resolution 115A.12)

Adopted by substitution, MAG encourages the use of physician data, including physician "pay-for-performance" data, to benefit both patients and physicians and to improve the quality of patient care and the efficient use of resources in the delivery of health care services. MAG
supports this use of physician data when it is used in conjunction with program(s) designed to improve or maintain the quality of, and access to, medical care for all patients and is used to provide accurate physician performance assessments in concert with AMA's Principles for Pay-for-Performance Programs, (June 21, 2005) and Principles for the Public Release and Accurate Use of Physician Data (H-406.991, Reaffirmed in A-11).

**Additional State Funding to Address the Shortage of Physicians and Nurses (Resolution 116A.12)**

Adopted Resolve 1 by substitution, that the Medical Association of Georgia support government efforts to increase financial resources and develop policies to improve the number of physicians.

Adopted Resolve 2 by floor amendment, that the Medical Association of Georgia should support appropriate efforts to increase the number of qualified registered nurse in Georgia.

**REFERENCE COMMITTEE C**

**Banning “All Product Clauses” for Physician Contracts with Insurance Companies (Resolution 301C.12)**

Adopted Resolution 301C.12, that the Medical Association of Georgia lobby for legislation to make “All Product Clauses” illegal in Georgia and thus excluded from any health insurance exchange product offered in the state.

**Diversity Training (Resolution 302C.12)**

Adopted Resolution 302C.12, that the Medical Association of Georgia support continuing medical education training in diversity and cultural competence for all practicing physicians.

**Support Physician Graduates Employment in the State of Georgia (Resolution 303C.12)**

Adopted by substitution, that the Medical Association of Georgia supports development of a program for physicians seeking employment in Georgia and convey this support to the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce.

**Georgia Composite Medical Board Pain Management Regulations (Resolution 304C.12)**

**Rule 360-3-.06 Pain Management Rules (Resolution 312C.12)**

Adopted referral of Resolution 304C.12 to the Board of Directors for a decision, that the Medical Association of Georgia work with the GCMB to revise this standard to reduce the hardships it places on primary care physicians and their patients by reducing the frequency of unnecessary drug monitoring, better define "hardship exceptions," and allow more "clinical judgment" regarding patients at high risk of abuse and narcotic diversion; and filing Resolution 312C.12.

**Changes to Georgia’s Pharmacy Status to Modify Changes to the 2011 Passage of Schedule II Security Paper (Resolution 305C.12)**
Adopted Resolution 305C.12, that MAG should support legislation in the 2013 legislative session to allow for physicians to utilize the CMS-approved paper in addition to the current Georgia specifications.

**International Board Certified Lactation Consultants (Resolution 306C.12)**

**Legislation Supporting Licensure of Lactation Consultants (Resolution 307C.12)**

Adopted Resolution 306C.12, that the Medical Association of Georgia supports state legislation that would allow for the state licensure of International Board Certified Lactation Consultants and filed Resolution 307C.12.

**Oppose Taxes on Health Care Providers as a Means to Fund Medicaid (Resolution 308C.12)**

Adopted as amended from the floor, Resolve 1, that the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) opposes physician taxes as a solution to state budget deficits; and adopted Resolve 2, that MAG supports alternate revenue sources to offset the cost of state provided health care services, including a $1 per pack increase in tobacco taxes.

**Opposing Expansion of CRNA Scope of Practice for Chronic Pain Management (Resolution 309C.12)**

Adopted Resolution 309C.12, that the Medical Association of Georgia shall oppose any state legislation or regulatory board action to expand CRNA scope of practice to authorize the provision of chronic pain management.

**Reducing the Projected 2010 Shortage of Georgia Physicians (Resolution 310C.12)**

Adopted by floor amendment, Resolution 310C.12 as substituted, that the Medical Association of Georgia support Georgia hospitals offering medical student clerkships, especially those in primary care and that directly or indirectly benefit from state funding, should give preference to Georgia residents who are U.S. citizens attending U.S. or Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) accredited medical schools and who have passed the relevant USMLE Steps 1 and intend to practice in Georgia.

**Provision of Home Care Services for the Elderly through Medicaid (Resolution 311C.12)**

Adopted as amended Resolution 311C.12, that the Medical Association of Georgia supports legislative efforts on the state level to establish programs that allow appropriate Medicaid patients the support needed to maintain independence in their living situation.

**Return Pseudoephedrine to Prescription Status (Resolution 313.12)**

Adopted Resolution 313.12, that the Medical Association of Georgia support legislation in Georgia and ask the American Medical Association to support legislation at the federal level that would return pseudoephedrine to prescription status.

**Telehealth (Resolution 314C.12)**

Adopted referral to the Board of Directors Resolution 314C.12, Resolve 1 and Resolve 2 for further study and action: 1) that the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) urges the GCMB to develop rules that ensure that Georgia licensed practitioners can broadly, appropriately, easily, and effectively use Telehealth and other electronic means and devices to deliver care to their
patients and consultation and support to other physicians; 2) that MAG urges the GCMB to review its rules on an annual basis to ensure that such rules keep pace with the rapid use and implementation of Telehealth and other electronic means and devices used in the delivery of quality health care.

**Preservation of Women’s Health Care (Resolution 315C.12)**
Adopted Resolves 1, 2, 4 of Resolution 315C.12 and amending from the floor Resolve 3, that, 1) that the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) oppose legislation that violates the doctor-patient relationship; 2) that MAG oppose legislation that threatens criminal prosecution of physicians who are diagnosing, prescribing and performing medical treatments within their scope of practice; and be it further; 3) that the MAG supports women’s and couples’ ability to seek and receive fertility treatment and make decisions concerning embryos created as part of that treatment and oppose legislation to the contrary; and 4) that MAG actively support policies and legislation that allow women and families to maintain access to quality health care in Georgia.

**REFERENCE COMMITTEE F**

**Treasurer (Officer 04.12)**
Filed as corrected Officer 04.12, Treasurer’s Report

**Committee on Correctional Medicine (Committee 07.12)**
Adopted Committee 07.12 that the Medical Association of Georgia allows its name and logo affixed to an award in the name of Herman E. Spivey, M.D., to be given by the Correctional Medicine Committee whenever appropriate to jails of under 500 beds and small correctional facilities for excellence in medical services.

**Resolution to Honor the Achievements and Services of E. M. Molnar, M.D. (Resolution 401F.12)**
Adopted Resolution 401F.12, that the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) commends Dr. E. M. “Mac” Molnar Sr., for a life of service to our profession.

**REFERENCE COMMITTEE HC**

**Accepting Medicaid Payments Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) (Resolution 601HC.12)**
**Expansion of Medicaid Eligibility (Resolution 605HC.12, Resolves 1-3)**
**Medicaid Expansion (Resolution 608HC.12, Resolves 1-3)**
**Support for Medicaid Expansion Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) (Resolution 611HC.12)**
Adopted Resolution 608HC.12 by deleting Resolves 1 and 2 and amending Resolve 3 in lieu of 601HC.12, 605HC.12 and 611HC.12, which now reads as: that MAG support innovations and modifications of the Georgia Medicaid program, balancing the needs of Georgia’s uninsured
patients with the need to achieve a sustainable solution to the budget shortfalls and expected financial challenges in the years to come.

**CMS Innovation Center (Resolution 602HC.12, Resolves 1&2)**

DID NOT Adopt Resolution 602HC.12 in support of the CMS Innovation Center.

**Comparative Effectiveness Research (Resolution 603HC.12, Resolves 1&2)**

DID NOT Adopt Resolution 603HC.12 related to the issue of Comparative Effectiveness Research.

**Georgia Health Insurance Exchanges (Resolution 607HC.12, Resolves 1-3)**

State Health Insurance Exchange Reimbursement Rates (Resolution 610HC.12)

DID NOT Adopt Resolution 607HC.12 and Resolution 610HC.12 related to state implementation of an insurance exchange.

**Reduce Fault Tort Reform (Resolution 609HC.12)**

Adopted as amended, that the Medical Association of Georgia’s Board of Directors evaluate an alternative to the current tort systems – looking to the Patient Compensation System as a potential replacement, where adjudication of medical malpractice claims are moved to an administrative system composed of an independent medical review panel, a compensation department to determine actuarial-based compensation packages, an administrative law judge ensuring fairness in the process and a quality improvement department to consolidate data in order to better delineate correctable medical errors to improve the practice of medicine.

**MAG to Support Legislation to Adopt Clinical Algorithms (Resolution 612HC.12, Resolves 1-4)**

DID NOT Adopt Resolution 612HC.12 related to Clinical Algorithms.

**Relax Criteria for Attainment of Meaningful Use (Resolution 613HC.12)**

Adopted Resolution 613HC.12, that the Medical Association of Georgia encourages the American Medical Association to continue its efforts in getting the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to relax the criteria for attainment of meaningful use.

**Dissolution or Meaningful Change of Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) (Resolution 604HC.12, Resolves 1&2)**

Adopted by amending Resolve 1 and deleting Resolves 2, which now reads as, that the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) supports legislative efforts on the federal levels to dissolve the Independent Payment Advisory Board and retain the right of physicians to determine which therapies are in our patients’ best interests.

**Fair Payment to Hospitals for Outcomes (Resolution 606HC.12)**

Adopted Resolution 606HC.12, that the Medical Association of Georgia supports legislation on the state and federal levels that provides payment to hospitals up to the expected event rate that includes language acknowledging the importance of adhering to best practices based upon evidence-based medicine as well as the impossibility of achieving a zero event rate when complying with best practices.
CONCLUSION

Chairman of the Board Stanley Sherman, M.D., was honored by members of the House on his commitment to MAG in attending this year’s session on his birthday. A special present was presented to outgoing president Sandra B. Reed, M.D., in appreciation for her tenure as president. Dr. Harvey thanked members of the House of Delegates for attending and participating in this year’s meeting. He announced that members of the Board of Directors should remain after adjournment to hold its organizational meeting. He reminded members of the GAMPAC luncheon in the Scarbrough Room.

Having no further business, the Speaker of the House of Delegates adjourned the 2012 House of Delegates.

Attachments: Attendance Record
             Credentials Reports
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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gregorio Alejandro-Joco Abad, M.D.</td>
<td>Laurens CMS</td>
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<td>Julius Olukayode Ajayi, M.D.</td>
<td>Gwinnett-Forsyth MS</td>
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<td>Robert J. Albin, M.D.</td>
<td>Medical Association of Atlanta</td>
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<td>Joseph P. Bailey Jr., M.D.</td>
<td>Richmond CMS</td>
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<td>James William Barber, M.D.</td>
<td>Coffee CMS</td>
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<td>Florence Carsley Barnett, M.D.</td>
<td>Georgia Neurosurgical Society</td>
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<td>Larry Alan Bartel, M.D.</td>
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<td>Barry James Barton, M.D.</td>
<td>Georgia Society of Anesthesiologists</td>
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<td>Thomas Edward Bat, M.D.</td>
<td>Medical Association of Atlanta</td>
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<td>Pauline Marie Bellecci, M.D.</td>
<td>Okefenokee MS</td>
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<td>Jeffrey Birnbaum</td>
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<td>Robert Adair Blackwood, M.D.</td>
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<td>Nydia Maria Bladuwell, M.D.</td>
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<td>David Debs Bogorad, M.D.</td>
<td>Georgia Society of Ophthalmology</td>
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<td>W. Scott Bohlke, M.D.</td>
<td>Ogeechee River MS</td>
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<td>Gary Robert Botstein, M.D.</td>
<td>DeKalb CMS</td>
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<td>John O. Bowden, M.D.</td>
<td>East Metro CMS</td>
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E. Daniel DeLoach, M.D. Georgia Medical Society
Michael Francis Doherty, M.D. Medical Association of Atlanta
Edmund Roche Donoghue, M.D. Georgia Medical Society
Harry Neil Dorsey, M.D. Dougherty CMS
Donnie P. Dunagan, M.D. Richmond CMS
James Wendell Duncan, M.D. Georgia Orthopaedic Society
David Lee Edwards, M.D. Cobb CMS
Dan Eller American Medical Association
Thomas Edward Emerson, M.D. Cobb CMS
Jeffrey Brennan English, M.D. Medical Association of Atlanta
Kelly Ann Erola, M.D. Georgia Medical Society
Jacqueline Winfield Fincher, M.D. American College of Physicians, Georgia Chapter
Frederick Charles Flandry, M.D. Muscogee CMS
Rutledge Forney, M.D. Medical Association of Atlanta
Glenn Edward Fussell, M.D. Muscogee CMS
Pamela G. Gallup, M.D. Georgia Medical Society
Jonathan Gillig Medical Student Section
Henry Fred Gober, M.D. Medical Association of Atlanta
John Abner Goldman, M.D. Medical Association of Atlanta
Thomas Bowden Gore, M.D. Troup CMS
Nancy Graham Richmond CMS
Michael E. Greene, M.D. Bibb CMS
Earl Alwin Grubbs, M.D. Emergency Medicine
Matthews Weber Gwynn, M.D. Medical Association of Atlanta
Magdi M. Hanafi, M.D. Medical Association of Atlanta
William R. Hardcastle, M.D. DeKalb CMS
Gulshan Sadruddin Harjee, M.D. DeKalb CMS
Patrice Harris, M.D. American Medical Association
John S. Harvey, M.D. Medical Association of Atlanta
Brett Heimlich Medical Student Section
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Andrew H. Herrin, M.D. CW Long MS
Brian Edward Hill, M.D. Medical Association of Atlanta
Michael C. Hilton, M.D. Medical Association of Atlanta
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Noel Holtz, M.D. Cobb CMS
Steven Mark Huffman, M.D. Cobb CMS
Dirk Erik Huttenbach, M.D. Cobb CMS
Billie Luke Jackson, M.D. Bibb CMS
Ashish K. Jain, M.D. Muscogee CMS
Richard Peele James, M.D. St. Johns Parish MS
Stephen Jarrard, M.D. Georgia Society of the American College of Surgeons
Albert Farah Johary, M.D. Medical Association of Atlanta
Robert C. Jones, M.D.  Bibb CMS
Vuk Jovanovic, M.D.  Georgia Medical Society
Andrea Palmer Juliao, M.D.  DeKalb CMS
Manjeshwar Vinayak Kamath, M.D.  Richmond CMS
Peter Jay Kaplan, M.D.  Gwinnett-Forsyth MS
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Paul Kevin King, M.D.  Medical Association of Atlanta
D. Kay Kirkpatrick, M.D.  Medical Association of Atlanta
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Craig Michael Kubik, D.O.  Okefenokee MS
Jeremy Lazarus, M.D.  American Medical Association
Michael H. Lebow, M.D.  Hall CMS
Katarina Gabrielle Lequeux-Nalovic, M.D.  Dermatology
Brian Allen Levitt, M.D.  DeKalb CMS
Jay Leonard Lichtenfeld, M.D.  American College of Physicians, Georgia Chapter
C. Gary Lodge, M.D.  Colquitt CMS
Donald Hulbert Loebl Sr., M.D.  Richmond CMS
McGregor Norman Lott, M.D.  Georgia Society of Ophthalmology
Karen E. Lovett, M.D.  Dougherty CMS
Robert Patrick Lucas, M.D.  CW Long MS
Florence Ruth Lecraw Lyford, M.D.  Medical Association of Atlanta
James Davant Majors, M.D.  Muscogee CMS
Jeffrey Samuel Mandel, M.D.  Georgia Medical Society
William Parker Marks Jr., M.D.  Cherokee-Pickens MS
Deborah Ann Martin, M.D.  Medical Association of Atlanta
Dale Mathews  Bibb CMS
Joy A. Maxey, M.D.  DeKalb CMS
Alva L. Mayes Jr., M.D.  Bibb CMS
Howard Michael Maziar, M.D.  Georgia Psychiatric Physicians Association
Welborn Cody McClatchey, M.D.  American College of Physicians, Georgia Chapter
Frank McDonald Jr., M.D.  Hall CMS
Stacie McGahee  Richmond CMS
Curtis Richard Miles, M.D.  Cherokee-Pickens MS
Adrienne Denise Mims, M.D.  Medical Association of Atlanta
Dorothy E. Mitchell-Leef, M.D.  Medical Association of Atlanta
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Sid Moore Jr., M.D.  Bibb CMS
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William Henry Moretz III, M.D.  Georgia Medical Society
Elizabeth Morgan, M.D.  Medical Association of Atlanta
Daniel Ashley Mullis, M.D.  Hall CMS
Rana Kay Munna, M.D.  Bibb CMS
Brian Keith Nadolne, M.D.  Georgia Academy of Family Physicians
Anitha Nagappan, M.D.  Medical Association of Atlanta
Puthugramam Krishnansarma Natraj, M.D.  Richmond CMS
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### 2012 MAG House of Delegates

**Credentialing Committee Report**

#### I. County Medical Societies

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<td>GA College of Emergency Physicians</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
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**TOTAL:** 288 190

Respectfully submitted by:
Ashish K. Jain, M.D.
21-Oct-12
Gulshan Harjee, M.D.
22-Oct-12
### 2012-2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA

**PRESIDENT** ................................................................. W. SCOTT BOHLKE, BROOKLET  
**PRESIDENT-ELECT** ..................................................... WILLIAM SILVER, ATLANTA  
**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT** ........................................ SANDRA B. REED, THOMASVILLE  
**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT** .............................................. JULES TORAYA, SAVANNAH  
**SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT** ........................................... ANDREW REISMAN, OAKWOOD  
**CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD** ............................................ STANLEY W. SHERMAN, DECATUR  
**VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD** ................................. RUTLEDGE FORNEY, ATLANTA  
**SECRETARY** ................................................................. MANOJ SHAH, WARNER ROBINS  
**TREASURER** ................................................................. STEVEN M. WALSH, ROSWELL  
**SPEAKER, HOUSE OF DELEGATES** ............................... JOHN S. HARVEY, ALPHARETTA  
**VICE SPEAKER, HOUSE OF DELEGATES** ....................... FRANK MCDONALD JR., GAINESVILLE  
**CHAIRMAN, AMA DELEGATION** ................................. JOSEPH P. BAILEY JR., AUGUSTA  
**CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL ON LEGISLATION** ....................... MICHAEL E. GREENE, MACON

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIRECTORS</th>
<th>Term ends</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>ALTERNATE DIRECTORS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Aaron H. Davidson, Statesboro</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Michelle R. Zeanah, Statesboro 2015</td>
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<td>2 G. Ashley Register Jr., Cairo</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Billy Ray Price, Moultrie 2015</td>
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<td>6 Thomas B. Gore, LaGrange</td>
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<td>Richard A. Freeman, LaGrange 2015</td>
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<td>8 S. William Clark III, Waycross</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>James W. Barber, Douglas 2014</td>
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<td>9 Richard A. Wherry, Dahlonega</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Thomas L. Hatchett Jr., Demorest 2014</td>
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<td>10 Steven B. Ellison, Monroe</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Arthur J. Torsiglieri, Conyers 2015</td>
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**Bibb County Medical Society**  
William P. Brooks, Macon  
Daniel T. McDevitt, Riverdale

**Clayton-Henry-Fayette Medical Society**  
<Vacant -- 2013>  

**Cobb County Medical Society**  
Thomas E. Emerson, Marietta  
Andrew H. Herrin, Athens

**Crawford W. Long Medical Society**  
Andrew H. Herrin, Athens  
Stanley W. Sherman, Decatur  
William R. Hardcastle, Decatur

**DeKalb Medical Society**  
Andrea Palmer Juliaio, Tucker 2015  
Brian Allen Levitt, Snellville 2015

**Dougherty County Medical Society**  
Christopher C. Smith, Albany 2015  
Timothy S. Trulock, Albany 2015

**Georgia Medical Society**  
Edmund R. Donoghue, Savannah 2013  
David S. Oliver, Savannah 2013

**Gwinnett-Forsyth County Medical Society**  
M. Todd Williamson, Lawrenceville 2013  
John Y. Shih, Suwanee 2013

**Hall County Medical Society**  
Andrew Reisman, Oakwood 2014  
Michael H. Callahan, Gainesville 2014

Revised 1/11/2013
Medical Association of Atlanta

Rutledge Forney, Atlanta 2015
Michael C. Hilton, Atlanta 2015
Lawrence E. Cooper, Atlanta 2014
Rob Schreiner, Atlanta 2015

Matthews Gwynn, Atlanta 2014
Lisa Perry-Gilkes, Atlanta 2015
Quentin Pirkle, Atlanta 2014
W. Hayes Wilson, Atlanta 2015

Muscogee County Medical Society

Frederick C. Flandry, Columbus 2013

James D. Majors, Columbus 2013

Richmond County Medical Society

Michael J. Cohen, Augusta 2015

John F. Salazar, Augusta, 2015

Young Physician Section (elections held each year)

(vacant)

Medical Student Section (chair and vice chair of Section; elections held each year)

Jeffrey Birnbaum (Emory), 2013
Jonathan Gillig, (Emory), 2013

Editor of the Journal of the MAG ................................................................. Stanley W. Sherman
Ex-officio member of the Board

LIVING PAST PRESIDENTS – EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>F. William Dowda</td>
<td>1972-73</td>
<td>J. Rhodes Haverty</td>
<td>1974-75</td>
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<td>William D. Logan, Atlanta</td>
<td>1985-86</td>
<td>John D. Watson, Columbus</td>
<td>1986-87</td>
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<td>Jack F. Menendez, Macon</td>
<td>1987-88</td>
<td>Joseph P. Bailey, Jr., Augusta</td>
<td>1988-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joe L. Nettles, Savannah</td>
<td>1989-90</td>
<td>William C. Collins, Atlanta</td>
<td>1990-91</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bob G. Lanier, Atlanta</td>
<td>1994-95</td>
<td>Alva L. Mayes, Jr., Macon</td>
<td>1995-96</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gary C. Richter, Atlanta</td>
<td>2009-2010*</td>
<td>E. Dan DeLoach, Savannah</td>
<td>2010-2011*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra B. Reed, Thomasville</td>
<td>2011-2012</td>
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MAG DELEGATES TO THE AMA - EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Delegates</th>
<th>Term Ending</th>
<th>Alternates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Joy A. Maxey, Atlanta</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Michael E. Greene, Macon</td>
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<td>Sandra B. Reed, Thomasville</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Alan L. Plummer, Atlanta</td>
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Notes:
10 19 2012: Dr. Bannister steps down as Gwinnett-Forsyth CMS Director; Dr. Todd Williamson elected to unexpired term.
12/18/2012: Dr. Purcell steps down as Georgia Medical Society Director; Dr. Julies Toraya vacates the office of Alternate Director for Vice President position; Dr. Edmund R. Donoghue elected director and David S. Oliver elected Alternate Director.