MMA in Action

Immediate Past President Cindy Firkins Smith, MD, MMA CEO Robert Meiches, MD, and Kathleen Baumbach, MMA manager of physician outreach, held a listening session with leaders at Hutchinson Health Clinic in late June.

Brian Strub, MMA manager of physician outreach, and Baumbach attended the graduate medical education orientation in early July on the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities campus. The two also met with clinical leadership at Open Cities Health Center in St. Paul on June 6.

MMA Foundation CEO Dennis Kelly attended the Rural Health Conference in Duluth in late June.

MMA President Donald Jacobs, MD, met in June with new Fairview system CMO Lizbeth Thomas, DO.

Jacobs, Meiches and Terry Ruane, MMA director of membership, marketing and communications, met with Ridgeview CEO Bob Stevens in May. Jacobs also met with the Ridgeview and Lakeview Clinic senior leaders about membership and participation.

Strub was appointed to serve as a judge for the 2015 Profiles of Excellence Awards presented by American Association of Medical Society Executives (AAMSE). This is the second time Strub has represented the MMA as a judge for this national recognition program for leadership in local, state and national medical societies.

Meiches and Board of Trustees member Edwin Bogonko, MD, addressed physician leaders at the Minneapolis Heart Institute in late May. They discussed prior authorization, maintenance of certification and heart health public health initiatives. Bogonko and Meiches had a surprise encounter with Gov. Mark Dayton after the meeting. They briefly discussed the value of MMA membership with the governor and the legislative session.

Strub and MMA member Tom Arneson, MD, MPH, research manager with the Minnesota Office of Medical Cannabis, met with the quality committee at Gateway Clinics in Moose Lake in early June to discuss the state’s medical cannabis law.

Maya Babu, MD, was re-elected as the Resident Fellow Section representative at the AMA House of Delegates on June 6. Babu will serve on the board through 2017.

The following members attended the AMA Annual Meeting in Chicago in June: Jacobs, Smith, Sally Trippel, MD, Will Nicholson, MD, Ray Christensen, MD, David Luehr, MD, Stephen Darrow, MD, Paul Matson, MD, Benjamin Whitten, MD, Dionne Hart, MD, Ken Crabb, MD, Blanton Bessinger, MD, Peter Amadio, MD, Eric Tangalos, MD, Laura Dean, MD, Gary Bryant, MD, Lyell Jones, MD, Daniel Brown, MD, Steven Meister, MD, John Abenstein, MD, and Babu. In addition, Sagar Chawla and Elizabeth Fracica attended as medical student delegates, and Kerri Chung, DO, went as a RFS delegate.

MMA staff included: Meiches, Dave Renner, director of state and federal legislation, Janet Silversmith, director of health policy, and Teresa Knoedler, JD, policy counsel.

Edwin Bogonko, MD, (left) and MMA CEO Robert Meiches, MD, meet with Gov. Mark Dayton.

Maya Babu, MD

Steven Meister, MD, discussed the implications of the Avera-Marshall case at the AMA Annual Meeting in June.
HOW TO BE HEARD

Got an idea that should become MMA policy? Follow these steps to get it considered.

**STEP 1**
Introduce your idea through one of these nine channels:
- LETTER
- EMAIL
- CALL
- WEBSITE
- SPECIALTY SOCIETIES
- COMPONENT MEDICAL SOCIETIES
- CLINIC VISITS
- LISTENING SESSIONS
- OPEN-ISSUE FORUMS

If your idea generates interest, proceed to Step 2.

**STEP 2**
Your idea has moved forward for consideration by one of these three forums:
- POLICY COUNCIL
- STANDING COMMITTEES
- TASK FORCES

If one of these three groups passes your idea on, proceed to Step 3.

**STEP 3**
Last step! Your idea will be discussed and decided upon by the Board of Trustees.

Did the Board of Trustees accept it? Congratulations!

Your idea made it all the way through, and has become NEW MMA POLICY.