

Report from the 82nd MSMS Alliance Annual Session

The 82nd Annual Session of the Michigan State Medical Society Alliance was held May 4 and 5, at the Doubletree Inn and Conference Center in Bay City. The hotel, location and amenities were just spectacular. The Session was a great success due in large part to Annual Session Chairs Shellie Herman and Karen Newman of Midland County.

The Pre-Annual Session Board meeting was held Sunday afternoon, followed by the opening of the MSMSA House of Delegates. Bev Jensen, past president of MSMSA, gave the invocation. Marian Schoff, another past president of MSMSA, led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge of Loyalty for the Alliance. MSMSA past presidents Marilyn Milko and Janet Gregory conducted the memorial service to recognize our members who had passed away during this past year.

We were honored to have as our special guest from the AMA Alliance, Barb Hanas, our Director, who has been assigned to Michigan in the 2007-2008 year as well as 2008-2009.

The afternoon concluded with orientation meetings held by our parliamentarian, Barb Davis, which included our Annual Session Bylaws and Finance Reference Committees, timekeepers, readers, tellers and roll call appointees.

Sunday evening's reception was held to honor Incoming President Lakshmi Tummala. Lakshmi and the rest of the attendees enjoyed the music of a five string quartet from the Midland Dow High School symphonic band. One player was the daughter of Midland County's President Michael Bartlett. Dierdre Bartlett is an incoming senior who has proved to be a talented musician. Lakshmi had the good fortune to have several members of her family attend the evening including her husband Doctor Jawahar Tummala, her son Doctor Satish Tummala and her daughter and son-in-law Doctor Sunita Tummala and Mr. Sachin Khullar.

Entertainment following dinner was presented by Donna Frawley, of Midland, as she spoke on the use, care and planting of herbs in and around our homes. Herb garden door prizes were given away to conclude the evening. Attendees then had the fortune to spend time socializing with each other in the hospitality suite.

Monday brought the proper business of the organization, and we were fortunate to have past president of the AMAA and the MSMSA, Jean Howard, to educate us on the usage of Reference Committees. The hearings were conducted in the morning and reported out in the afternoon. Barb Hanas spoke to us regarding the AMAA and issues that will be coming before the AMAA HOD in Chicago in June. We were treated to a Power Point presentation highlighting state and county Alliance functions during the 2007-2008 Alliance year.

An awards luncheon was held where AMA Foundation, Health Promotion and Membership awards were presented by our Chairs: Dolores Dobbie, Mary Lou Mathias and Linda Horbal. Many counties were honored and certificates presented. Linda Allen was also presented with gifts honoring her presidency. A poem tribute written by Immediate Past President Dee Loge'-Wacker was a highlight.

The afternoon was rounded out by the Finance and Bylaw Reference Committees. The Finance Reference Committee recommended adoption of the 2008-2009 budget, which passed the house. The Bylaws Reference Committee recommended the approval of both items. One dealing with spousal membership for our MSMSA president and president-elect and the other a standing rule dealing with parliamentarian usage. Both of these passed the House.

The Nominating Committee and the Delegates to the AMAA Annual Session in Chicago were elected. Lakshmi Tummala's Board was installed by Barb Hanas with assistance from Doctor Jawahar Tummala, who gave Lakshmi a special presidential pin.

The end of the Annual Session concluded with speeches by Linda and Lakshmi as well as the presentation of pins to both. What a truly successful and memorable meeting!