“Family is One of Nature’s Master Pieces” George Santayana

Our Alliance members, working together for the improvement of our nation’s health, are heroes, no less than our dedicated physicians. We as a family, including our County Alliances and AMA Alliance cousins across the country, continuously rally around important health-related issues to achieve concrete results for our fellow citizens. A few examples from our “recent history”:

- Publicly supported our physicians by attending the White Coat Rally at the Capitol;
- Lobbied legislators to pass the Smoke-Free Law;
- Supported Anti-Bullying legislation which led to the passing of Matt’s Law;
- Distributed thousands of AMA Alliance Activity booklets, such as “Hands are Not for Hitting” and “I Can Be Healthy;”
- Collected essential personal care items which were placed in “pink” bags and delivered to hundreds of Anti-Violence Shelters in connection with “Doctors and Their Families Make a Difference Day”;
- Raised scholarship money for medical students and nursing students;
- Donated funds to the MSMS Foundation as well as the AMA Foundation, including the funding of the AMA Foundation Alliance Grassroots Honor Fund;
- Raised awareness to Michigan’s standing in the national immunization rate;
- Celebrated the 20th anniversary of SAVE Day with a Proclamation signed by Gov. Snyder;
- Brought attention to the state’s Human Trafficking problems, especially in Genesee County.

Onto the issue of Immunization. Over time, this issue has morphed into a crisis.

Despite the many advances in medicine, we have been witnessing a shocking resurgence in once-eradicated childhood diseases, such as pertussis, measles, mumps, and polio. Due to
misinformation and general ignorance about immunization, our children are not being immunized. Moreover, although there are many preventative vaccines against diseases such as Hepatitis B & A, pneumonia, flu, shingles, meningitis and HPV, our teenagers and young adults are not being vaccinated because of the misguided belief that these vaccinations may somehow encourage their risky behavior.

During her term as MSMSA president, Cindy Ackerman was among the first in our state to bring attention to the immunization crisis. Shocked by Michigan’s pitiful immunization rate — ranked 48th in the nation — Cindy enlisted the help of the Muskegon Public Health Department as a first step. Together they developed programs to educate the public through public forums and at local community events, such as farmers’ markets. To drive the point home, Cindy held an immunization clinic during her MSMSA Annual Meeting where Alliance members, including myself, took the opportunity to receive the Tdap vaccine.

Alliance Counties around the state increased their efforts to educate the public, as well as government officials, on the critical need for immunization. The Tri-County Alliance published a very useful reference booklet, “Deciphering Facts and Myths About Childhood Immunization,” which has been reproduced and disseminated by county alliances across the state. The Alliance also partnered with the Immunization Stakeholders Group, whose main mission is to build awareness among the public and our legislators about the importance of immunization. To better align their name with their mission, the Immunization Stakeholders Group changed their name to Parent Information Network (PIN) in January. One of PIN’s key goals is to decrease parental waiver rates and increase vaccination.

Recently, Representative Tom Hooker introduced two bills, HBs 5126 and 5127 to prohibit the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services rules from being any stricter than current law. These bills would jeopardize our improving immunization rate. The DHHS duty, in my opinion is to make and enforce policy to protect public health. The health of the public should be a matter of education not be legislation. These bills are currently awaiting hearings in the House Health Policy Committee. Incomprehensibly, Representative Hooker decided on his own that measles is not as dangerous as the Health Community claims. Furthermore, he believes that “forcing” parents to get a waiver from immunization is a great inconvenience to them. In this legislator’s world, convenience apparently trumps public health and safety!

Such irresponsible actions and reactions reinforce our Alliance’s mantra: educate, educate, educate!

In conclusion, we will continue to actively support the Parent Information Network in their admirable efforts on immunization. Just last month, PIN coordinated four simultaneous press conferences across the state — in the Ingham County Health Department, in Grand Rapids, and in the Oakland County Health Dept. in Southfield and Traverse City — to share the encouraging vaccination data that our DHHS had earlier released on the effectiveness of the new rules regarding school children immunization waivers. The good news: Since the start of the school year, there were 8,000 fewer non-medical immunization waiver requests versus the previous year. This is significant progress! Congratulations to PIN!

As always, our great Alliance Family is dedicated to advancing the health of Michigan’s residents through advocacy and action.

Together we can achieve much.
Nominations for MSMS Alliance Leaders 2016-17

Donna Lake, Nominated President

Donna has been a resident of Jackson, Michigan most of her life. She moved from her home state of Colorado at the age of five, and considers Jackson her real home. Donna married her high school sweetheart, Jon, and they have been married for almost 39 years. They have two daughters, one son-in-law, and one granddaughter.

After high school, Donna was off to Eastern Michigan University where she earned her BS in teaching, and later earned a Masters in the Art of Teaching from Marygrove College in Detroit. Donna taught hearing impaired children for 12 years, grades K-6, then finished her career by teaching fourth grade students for 20 years, and retired in 2009.

Donna has been a member of the Jackson County Medical Society Alliance for sixteen years. She served as president from 2010-2013. She has also been on the MSMSA board since 2010 where she has served as treasurer, recording secretary and president elect.

In addition to Alliance volunteer work, Donna was Jackson Symphony Guild President from 2011-2013, is an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church, has been serving on the Jackson College Board of Trustees since 2013, and volunteers in several community gardens while maintaining her own gardens as a certified Master Gardener. She has been a volunteer at The Dahlem Environmental Center where she takes school groups around the grounds of the center for field trips since her retirement. She loves golfing, biking, walking and spending time with her family and friends. Her love of biking will take her on her second DALMAC Bike Ride this Labor Day when together with her husband and friends, they will ride their bikes from Lansing to St. Ignace.

Donna is extremely honored and excited to take on the role as MSMSA President for the 2016-2017 year.

Janie Gugino, Nominated President-Elect

Janie is a lifelong Michigan resident and has lived in Saginaw since 1990. She has been a member of MSMSA and SCMSA since 2003, and NE Regional director 2012-13. She was president of SCMSA 2010-13, and presently on the board. She is married to George J. Gugino, MD-Primary Care physician in Reese, MI. Together they have 6 children, 12 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Janie is a partner in a company with two divisions, In the Groove, Knee Brace and Re-trainer, and Another Chance Troumi-quiet- ACT. She is very active as a volunteer in the Saginaw Community including; past vice president and current board member of the League of Women Voters Saginaw County, Saginaw Art Museum Advisory Council and chair of the garden committee and board member/chair of marketing for Saginaw Choral Society. She also serves as a committee chair to the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra, past president and current member Women In Leadership, Bay Region, President of St. Mary’s of Michigan Volunteer Alliance, board member of St. Mary’s of Michigan Foundation and numerous church related positions. She retired in 2008 from the Sales and Marketing field. Her passion is her beautiful and large flower gardens at home, and the ones she helps maintain at the Saginaw Art Museum and her church.

Val Doane, Nominated Recording Secretary

Val obtained her BS in Biochemistry MSU in 1989. She pursued a career in science which led her to work at Wayne State Medical School, PARKE-Davis Pharmaceuticals, and Alcon Pharmaceuticals. She met her husband Rob, an orthopedic surgeon, at MSU. Val and Rob settled in Jackson in 2000 upon the completion of Rob’s shoulder surgery fellowship in Dallas, Texas. As Rob’s practice and their family grew, Val became a “stay-at-home mom”; however, Val freely admits she is never at home!

Volunteering and community involvement are the fundamentals of Val’s life. She joined the Jackson County Medical Society Alliance in 2000. She served as Co-President for several years with her friend Lori Smith. She has held several positions within MSMSA, such as Regional Director, Nominating Committee, and Program Director. She has also served as President of the Jackson Junior Welfare League. She chaired some of the largest fundraisers for the organization and helped establish a community garden at the Jackson County Medical Care Center. As her children grew, her interests shifted to her children’s schools where she has served on several boards and was President of the Parent-Teacher organization for a number of years. She has organized countless fundraisers for the Jackson area Catholic Schools. She is currently the Fundraising Coordinator for St. John’s Elementary School.

In 2009, Rob and Val built an orthopedic office and physical therapy center for Rob’s practice. Val designed and assisted the contractors through every step of the project. She currently works at the office a few days a week, overseeing the building, employees, and practice. Val is the Executive Director for the Jackson County Medical Society.

Val likes to run and workout. She has completed two half-marathons. Val and Rob have a home on Higgins Lake where they go to relax and unwind with their family. Val and Rob have 4 children, Shannon-16, Brendan-15, Anna-13, and Kathleen-9. Her favorite motto is “You Only Live Once”!
Nominations for MSMS Alliance Leaders 2016-17

Vibha Kaushal, Nominated Treasurer
Vibha was born in India and moved to the US with her family at the age of 8. She grew up primarily in Ann Arbor, Michigan and earned her Bachelor in Business Administration (BBA) from Eastern Michigan University. After earning her CPA certification, she worked at the Office of the Auditor General in Lansing for ten years. During her employment, she met and married her husband Sunil, who is a practicing gastroenterologist in Flirt.

After leaving her employment, Vibha focused on raising their three children, the youngest of whom is a freshman in college at University of MI, Ann Arbor, and volunteering in schools and the community. Their older two children are currently pursuing employment and graduate studies.

She currently works full time in her husband’s office. Her interests include fitness, gardening, traveling, cooking, and taking online classes. Vibha has been involved with the Genesee County Medical Society Alliance (GCMSA) since her family moved back to Grand Blanc in 1996 after the completion of her husband’s Gastroenterology fellowship in New York.

She has served on various positions with the GCMSA Board including serving as president and secretary from 2012-2014. She has also served on the MSMSA board as MSMSA treasurer for the 2015-16 year.

Vibha is honored to be nominated for the MSMSA treasurer’s position, and looks forward to continued service to the MSMSA Board.

Roshan Karamanandhi, Nominated Regional Director
Roshan moved to Battle Creek in 1987 from Pennsylvania when her husband Mahesh bought a Colon and Rectal Surgery practice. Roshan has a Masters degree in Economics. She previously worked for Gulf Oil Company for few years in Pennsylvania. She has two grown up boys.

Roshan is currently serving on the MSMSA Board as AMA Foundation chair person. She has also served as a past President and Treasurer of the Calhoun County Medical Society Alliance. She is actively involved with Battle Creek Community Foundation serving on Scholarship Committee and has also served on Spouse Mentor Program of Physician Shortage Committee. She is also a member of Lakeview Woodland Park and Nature Preserve Foundation and currently sitting on its grant writing committee. She was also involved with Junior League of Battle Creek where she served as Chair of Grant Writing and Endowment Committee.

In her spare time Roshan likes to play tennis and is part of a travel team. She also enjoys reading and traveling. She is delighted to have been asked to serve as a Regional Director.

Rula Ali-Bakr, Nominated Regional Director
Rula has been a member of the Alliance for many years. She has held a variety of positions including Co-President of Genesee County Medical Society Alliance where she currently serve as the Webmaster.

Rula is looking forward to serving a second year as Regional Director at MSMSA.

Annual Session Basket Auction Fund Raiser to Benefit the MSMS Foundation
Each County Alliance sponsors a basket or gift. Items are auctioned. Everyone has a chance to WIN!

2015-16 Nominating Committee
Kent– Nancy Fody, Chair
Kalamazoo– Priscilla Pedraza
Genesee- Rula Ali-Bakr
Tri-county- Jean Howard
Muskegon-Merilee Otto and
Washtenaw- Trudy Ritter, alternate

Please consider running for the 2016-17 Nominating Committee. Elections will be held at the 2016 Annual Session. You need not be in attendance to be on the ballot. If interested, please contact one of the above members.
We are pleased to announce the 2016 Annual Session of the Michigan State Medical Society Alliance on April 29-30 in Dearborn at the Edward Village-Michigan Hotel (formerly Hyatt Regency).

**The Edward Village-Michigan Hotel**
600 Town Center Drive, Dearborn, MI 48126

**RESERVATIONS:** 313-592-3622
reservationsdearborn@hotel-dearborn.com

**ROOMS:** $109.00 per Night

**DEADLINE:** April 21, 2016

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**A CALL TO THE ANNUAL SESSION**

President Clara Sumeghy and members of the Wayne County Medical Society Alliance are delighted and honored to welcome all Alliance members to our Annual Meeting. We have worked diligently to prepare a memorable event for you.

Registration begins Friday, April 29 at 4:00 PM, followed by: Executive Committee meeting at 4:15; Board Meeting at 4:45; and Dinner Reception at 6:30, **GILIO & SONS (GROTTO ROOM)** in the hotel.

Come early and enjoy the local sites. Visit the famed Henry Ford Museum nearby, or take advantage of the hotel’s convenient spa and fitness center, including indoor pool.

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**MSMS Alliance 90th Annual Session**

**Formal Opening, Saturday, April 30 at 9 AM**

**County Presidents and President Elects**

MSMSA Board Meeting — Friday, April 29 at 4:45 PM — Dinner reception follows immediately.
All county presidents are automatic members of the MSMSA Board of Directors and are expected to attend. If you are new to the Board, you will meet the incoming AMA Alliance and MSMS Alliance presidents, find out what to expect at Board meetings, and learn about your rights and responsibilities as a member of the Board.

**All Alliance Members**

MSMSA Annual Session — Saturday, April 30 at 9 AM — Registration & Continental Breakfast starting at 7:30 AM.
If you are a Michigan State Medical Society Alliance member in good standing (your dues are current), you are encouraged to attend the Annual Session and vote on important bylaws. This is also a great time to ask questions regarding the workings of the Board and procedures at the state level. And it is also a wonderful opportunity to network with Alliance members from across the state.

**MSMS House of Delegates**

MSMS House of Delegates Meeting, April 30-May 1.
The Michigan State Medical Society has invited MSMS Alliance members to attend the MSMS President’s Inauguration Dinner on Saturday, April 30. Information to follow.
### Agenda

**Friday, April 29**

- **4:00-6:00 PM** REGISTRATION, EDWARD VILLAGE-MICHIGAN HOTEL
- **6:30-9:30 PM** DINNER RECEPTION, THE GROTTO, GIULIO & SONS

**Saturday, April 30**

- **7:30-8:45 AM** CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
- **8:00-11:00** REGISTRATION
  - 8:00-8:15 Set up of County Displays & Silent Auction Items
  - 8:15-8:30 Orientation for Roll Call, Time Keepers, Tellers & Reader
  - 8:30-8:45 Orientation by Bylaws & Financial Reference Committee
- **9:00-12:15** WELCOME — Clara Sumeghy, President
  - Registration/Roll Call Report
  - Annual Session Standing Rules
  - Memorial Service in Honor of 50-Year Members
  - Announcements & Introductions
  - Approval of Minutes of the 89th Annual Session
  - Board of Directors Report
  - Treasurer’s Report, 2015-16
  - Presentation of Proposed 2016-17 Budget
  - Report from the Bylaws Committee
  - AMAA Address – Rosemary Xavier, President-elect
- **12:30-2:00 PM** AWARDS LUNCHEON

**Executive Committee Meeting** ..........4:15-5:15 PM

**Board Of Directors Meeting** ..........5:15-5:45 PM

**2:15 PM** MSMSA ANNUAL SESSION RECONVENES

- Registration/Roll Call Report
- Nominating Committee Report
- Nominations/Election of 2016-17 Officers and Committee Chairs
- Introduction of newly-appointed 2016-17 Officers and Committee Chairs
- Nominations/Elections of 2016-17 Nominating Committee
- Nominations/Approval of Attendees to 2016 AMAA Annual Session
- President’s Farewell Address
- Installation of 2016-17 Board of Directors
- Incoming President’s Address – Donna Lake
- Auction Winners Announced

**4:45 PM** CLOSING: MSMSA 2016 ANNUAL SESSION

Immediately following the formal close of the Annual Session:
- 2016-17 Executive Committee Meeting
- 2016-17 AMAA Annual Session Attendees Meeting

**6:30 PM** MSMS PRESIDENT’S INAUGURATION RECEPTION & DINNER, THE HENRY

### Registration

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**Fees**

- Registration Fee $75
- Luncheon, Saturday $25
- Plus Additional Luncheon Guest(s), $25 x No. of Guests
- Also, I require a Special Diet Accommodation for the Luncheon. Please contact me.

**Other**

- I plan to attend the Dinner Reception, Friday @ 6:30 (separate checks)
- Plus Additional Dinner Guest(s), No. of Guests
- I would also like to have information on the MSMS President’s Banquet at The Henry, Saturday evening.

**TOTAL PAYMENT**

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**PRINT NAME (as it appears on Card)**

**BILLING ADDRESS**

**AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE**

**Register**

By Mail: MSMSA • 3031 W. Grand Blvd, Suite 645 • Detroit, MI 48202

By Fax: 313.874.1366

CONTACT MSMSA: 313.874.1360, ext. 304 — OR — E: jhetzner@msmsa.org

Note: No refunds for cancellations received after April 15, 2016.

MSMSA 90th Annual Session • The Edward Village-Michigan Hotel • 600 Town Center Drive • Dearborn, Michigan 48126
Two proposed changes to the MSMSA bylaws will be presented by the Bylaws Committee at Annual Session. Both of these proposals were requested by the Executive Committee.

The first change proposed will be to change the definition of a quorum at an Annual Session. Presently this number is 25 and the Bylaws Committee is proposing that the quorum be two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of those members registered for the meeting. The rationale for this proposal is that with reduction in membership numbers, it has become increasingly more challenging to insure there is a quorum at Annual Session. Since no business can be conducted without a quorum, it is recommended that the number needed for a quorum be set at two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of those members registered for the meeting.

The second proposal will change the make-up of the Executive Committee to include the Immediate Past President. Presently, the Executive Committee is composed of the President, President-Elect, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Regional Directors (up to four). The rationale for this proposal is that having the Immediate Past President on the Executive Committee provides better representation and continuity on the Committee and provides another member on the Committee in light of the reduction in Regional Directors the past several years. Further, this proposal is consistent with AMAA Bylaws and provides consistency between state and national organizations.

The exact wording for these proposed changes will be emailed to all Annual Meeting registrants at least 10 days before the meeting. It will be available to all members upon request.

Thank you,

The 2015-16 Bylaw Committee

Priscilla Pedraza, Chair
Pat Dolan, Parliamentarian (consultant)
Clara Sumeghy, President

Donna Lake, President-Elect
Nancy Fody, Past President
Janie Gugino, Recording Secretary

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**MSMSA Past Presidents & Corresponding Secretaries**

**Please Come for Lunch**

Friday, April 29
12:30-2:30 p.m.

Immunization Waiver exemptions have dropped by 39% statewide! The informed consent initiative has been in place for only a year and has proven to be successful. However the strides that have been made are in danger of being overturned! As public health advocates, we ask for your help in blocking legislation that would result in fewer immunizations for Michigan children. There are two bills HBs 5126 & 5127 that could halt this momentum.

Background

The Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) has been meeting with physicians, public health officials, legislators and media representatives to address the high percentage of non-vaccinated individuals in Michigan. In 2015 our State had the distinction of ranking the fourth highest in parents seeking waivers to vaccine requirements. According to the Detroit Free Press of the 125,000 2013 kindergartners, 7,300 or 5.5% were not vaccinated. One reason that Michigan had such a high number of exemptions is that state law permitted philosophical waivers and allowed a very liberal interpretation of that law. Four out of five Michigan immunization exemptions were for philosophical reasons. School systems had less than 72% of their young children and 63% of adolescents fully vaccinated. Cases of whooping cough and measles were on the rise.

A major epidemic was possible in Michigan. In order to protect the most vulnerable in our state the Department of Community Health and Human Services filed a proposal to request changes to the 1978 Michigan Public Health Code. The Department of Public Health adopted the rule changes and Governor Snyder signed them in January 2015.

The modification to the Public Health Code that has had the greatest impact on Michigan's immunization statistics is the addition of informed consent. Each individual requesting an exemption must receive local health education about the benefits of vaccinations and the risks of not receiving the vaccines being waived. All requests must be submitted using the form prescribed by the State and have to be certified by the local health department. Also if there is a case of a communicable disease like measles, students that have not had immunizations must stay home until the school is deemed disease free.

The Problem

One year later Michigan has 8,000 fewer nonmedical waiver requests; an overall drop of 39 percent in the waiver rates. We applaud the department, local health departments and front line providers for this success.

A small but very vocal group of parents resisted the changes. As a result Rep. Thomas Hooker introduced HBs 5126 and 5127 that would undo the new waiver process and literally put into jeopardy the immunization improvements seen this past year. The bills reside in the House Health Policy Committee where Chairman Callton has publically stated his interest in a hearing and committee action. Philosophical and religious exemptions have not been taken away as other states have done. The substantial drop in waivers speaks to the fact that many of the exemption requests were either not serious or were a result of misinformation.

Take Action NOW:

All Alliance members are asked to Please take a moment to write to members of the House Health Policy Committee:

(Rep. Callton (Chair), Vaupel (Maj. VC), Hooker, Yonker, Graves, Hughes, Kesto, VerHeulen, Bizon, Chatfield, Crawford, Garcia, Tedder, Darany (Min.VC), Brinks, Cochran, Phelps, Geiss, Liberati, Neeley and Wittenberg)

Let them know you oppose the Hooker bills and support the new and successful Public Health Code Rule changes that have prompted a significant increase in Michigan's childhood immunization rate.
By Clara Sumeghy

The Alliance contributed $500.00 to WCMSSM Foundation to assist them with The Children’s Holiday Party at the Detroit Science Center on December 12th. Each child received the following AMA Alliance Activity Books: “I Can Be Healthy”, “Hands Are Not for Hitting”, “I Can Choose” and “I Can Handle Bullies ” in their back packs.

Alliance members assisted WCMSSM staff with registration while approximately 30 Wayne State University Medical Students, and Wayne County Medical Society of Southeast Michigan physicians escorted a few of the children around the Science Center and served the kids lunch. Turnout was excellent, and watching the children sitting on Santa’s lap to receive their presents was worth all the work that went into the event.

My Ode to the Abused of Interim House

By Helen A. Ermete,
Wayne County Medical Society Alliance, 1997

My Van and I are on the road
I've picked up items load by load
Clothes and dishes, pots and pans
Toilet rolls - diapers and food cans

Toys and candies - toothpaste and soap
Hairbrushes - toothbrushes - so they can cope
They --- now who are they?
Mothers, infants, children and teens
All leaving a life of abuse and bad dreams
They seek protection in shelters and homes
From men who have beaten - broken their bones
So, the toys and the candies - shampoo and clothes
Are a step up the ladder - and out of their woes
A drop in the bucket - it’s not very much
But a start is a start - and to help is such
So my van and I are on the road
Picking up items - load by load
Jackson County Medical Society Alliance NO-FUSS Fundraiser

Jackson County MSA was finally able to present the iPad’s to the pediatric unit from our no-fuss fundraiser. We held our Christmas cocktail party thanks to Dr. Doane and his office space, where we asked for donations for a new teen shelter that has opened in Jackson. Our Alliance also completed our annual Holiday Sharing Card, raising $2500.

Pictured with hospital staff are Val Doane, Donna Lake, Kelly Narkiewicz and her son Casey.

Mark your Calendars!

March 30  National Doctors’ Day  Dearborn, MI
April 29-30  MSMSA Annual Session  MSMS Headquarters
May 24  New Member Orientation & “Getting to Know You” Meeting 9:30-noon  Chicago, IL
June 12-15  AMAA Annual Session  MSMS Headquarters
September 19  MSMSA Executive Committee meeting 8:30-9:15 am  MSMS Headquarters
September 19  MSMSA Board meeting 9:30-noon  MSMS Headquarters
Midland County Medical Society Alliance Youth Service Group

By Linda Allen

The MCMSA Youth Service Group was formed in 2007 to give a hands-on opportunity for our children to work together and show the wonderful benefits of giving back to our community. One of the Youth Service Groups’ signature projects is the Welcome Bags for Shelterhouse (Midland County Domestic Violence Shelter). The Youth Service Group created the Welcome Bags to give each baby, child and teen when they arrive at the Shelterhouse. Most of the children arrive with only the clothes on their backs. The Welcome Bags are designed specifically for each age bracket.

This year the Youth Service Group, along with our Alliance, adopted The House of Mercy (Midland County Homeless Shelter for Women) for Christmas. Our members donated gifts for nine homeless women and eight homeless children. As part of our tradition, Alliance members along with our youth gather together for a Gift Wrapping Event in which we wrapped the House of Mercy gifts, enjoyed Christmas cookies and fellowship. We had 28 families participate in our program this year.

Our events were a true success for both our Alliance and our community!

Christmas gifts for the House of Mercy, Midland’s Homeless Shelter for Women

Welcome Bags for Shelterhouse, Midland County’s Domestic Violence Shelter
In December, KAMA did a Cookie Exchange the WMU Medical Students. We made 126 packages of homemade cookies and delivered them to medical students and staff at the college during finals week. We had such an overwhelming turn out we were able to make several additional platters and packages to deliver to Bronson Hospital, the Hospital Hospitality House, and other organizations.
By Lynn Moon

MACMSA held a **Holiday Party** with the Medical Society. It offered a great opportunity to meet new physicians and network. A Christmas Plant raffle raised $850 for a local nonprofit, JJ PACKS, which provides nutritious food on the weekends for needy school children.

**LEFT:** Marquette-Alger County Medical Society and Alliance members at their Holiday Party

(L to R) Dr. Zach Leonard, MS President-Elect; Lynn Moon, Alliance Health Promotion Chair; Rosa Diddams, Alliance Board member; Megan Dixon, Alliance VP; Dr. Jen Dehlin, MS Secretary/Treasurer; Laurie Winkler, Alliance Treasurer; and Dr. Bryan Dixon, MS President.

Our Alliance **Book Club** is still going strong! We meet monthly and enjoy lunch and a book discussion at various member’s homes. In December, Rosa Diddams hosted and we talked about Orphan Train, a wonderful story set in the 1930’s, when orphans from the east coast were sent on trains to the Midwest to be adopted. We also held a book exchange, where we shared some of our favorite reads.

**RIGHT:** (L-R) Boli Soderberg, Lynne Hammerstrom, Laurie Winkler, Kathy Maynard, Rosa Diddams, Emily Lewis, Lynn Moon, Tami Blotter & Shirley Eppinga.

A group of hardy Alliance members took advantage of the plentiful snowfall with a **Snowshoe Hike** in February. With over a foot of new snow and sunny skies, it was a beautiful day to be out in the woods.

Lynn Moon, Megan Dixon, Erin Warlick, Tami Blotter
Kent County Medical Society Alliance

By Karen Begrow

The Kent County Medical Society Alliance hosted an evening of spirited giving on January 30. This year’s charitable event was called “A Do$e of Generosity” and included an auction with a twist where dollars went directly to the tangible needs of our beneficiaries -- Family Promise (aiding homeless families) and the YWCA Nurse Examiner Program (providing medical-forensic exams for child rape victims).

On February 18 we held a social event at a local body spa called BodyBrite. It was fun and well attended by current KCMSA members and some possible new members who wanted to check us out.

March 8 will find us at West Elm for a closed store event just for us. Spring table top ideas will be demonstrated and a special dessert creation from Williams and Sonoma will be served. This all happens after a social dinner at Houlihan’s Restaurant… located just across the parking lot.

Our Gourmet club will host a themed dinner on March 12. Alliance attendees will prepare Roman inspired dishes and wear proper toga attire. The evening is guaranteed to be a fun-filled night of great food and libations with honest to goodness citizens while solving a mystery under the guidance of our hosts.

The Remodeled Alliance Room at MSMS Headquarters
THANK YOU BARB!

Barb Grennan joined the Alliance in 1968 and has participated at the county level in Muskegon in numerous ways for nearly 50 years, including as President in 1975-76. In 1981-82, Barb served as MSMSA President.

As MSMSA Past President, Barb has continued to serve the Alliance. Some of her roles include: newsletter Editor, Bylaws Chair, Long Range Planning Chair and Annual Convention Chair. Over the past several years, Barb has been our Historian.

As Historian, Barb shared her amazing scrap booking talents and took on an enormous project. Barb scrap-booked ALL of the state Alliance’s historical documents dating back to 1931! Included in the scrap books are historical documents for all of Michigan’s county Alliances as well.

This year, after hundreds of hours of work is now safely tucked away for all time, Barb is stepping down as MSMSA Historian. There are no words to adequately thank Barb for her time and dedication as Historian and for all she has done and continues to do for the Alliance. We love you Barb!

The scrap books located downstairs in the MSMS Headquarters’ Alliance Room. Members are encouraged to experience and enjoy our history.

SAVE THE DATE
June 12 – 14, 2016

You won’t want to miss this one... Mark your calendars!

AMA Alliance Annual Meeting 2016
Hyatt Magnificent Mile Hotel, Chicago, IL

FRIENDS - Reconnect with your friends and colleagues from around the country. If this is your first time, meet new people, grow new networks!

FOCUS - Learn about our new national health focus, the Opioid Abuse Epidemic, and what you can do in your community to educate friends and family about the issue.

FUTURE - Hear about the new strategic plan and how it will shape our direction moving forward. Be a part of the decisions that will drive the Alliance, and our membership, for the next three years!
MEMBERSHIP YEAR 2016 - 2017

MEMBER INFORMATION

Name ____________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________
Home Phone __________________________ Email _______________________________
County Wayne Member Type ____________________________
MSMS Alliance member since ________ County Alliance member since ____________
Spouse Name (full name) ____________________________________________

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Please make check payable to MSMSA and mail to:

MSMSA 3031 W. Grand Blvd., Suite 645, Detroit, MI 48202

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* If your physician spouse is retired/deceased, you may pay the reduced rate of $25.00 for STATE dues.
If you are a physician in training spouse (PITS) you pay $2.50 for STATE dues.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
RETURN TOP PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT

Michigan State Medical Society Alliance
Membership Dues Statement

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Members-At-Large
No County Dues

RETAINT BOTTOM PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS
Alliance in Action - PUBLICATION INFORMATION

Alliance in Action is published three times per year by email for members.
It is also available on our website www.msmsa.org.
Please feel free to share with others.

If you would like a special member, activity or your county Alliance mentioned,
Please send information to:

Lynn Moon
LMoon320@aol.com
Publications Chair
Digital photos are always welcome.

MSMSA Officers

President: Clara Sumeghy
President Elect: Donna Lake
Recording Secretary: Janie Gugino
Treasurer: Vibha Kaushal
Northwest Regional Director: vacant
Northeast Regional Director: Rula Ali-Bakr
Southwest Regional Director: Terri Balogh
Southeast Regional Director: Lori Smith

MSMS Alliance
3031 W. Grand Blvd., Suite 645 Detroit, MI 48202
(313) 874-1360
msmsa@msmsa.org
www.msmsa.org

The End... See you at Annual Session!