

The Health Care LEADER



Minnesota Hospital Association

A GOVERNANCE NEWSLETTER FOR MINNESOTA HEALTH CARE

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In this issue:

- Preparing for the 2010 legislative session..... 2
- Sign up to receive advocacy alerts and newsletters by e-mail..... 3
- MHA advocates for federal health care reform..... 4
- Trustees encouraged to lend their voices to Minnesota Hospital PAC..... 4

The Health Care Leader is published by the Minnesota Hospital Association. Submit materials and comments to Peggy Westby at pwestby@mnhospitals.org.

MHA
2550 University Ave. W.
Suite 350-S
St. Paul, MN 55114-1900
(651) 641-1121
(800) 462-5393
www.mnhospitals.org

MHA offers first-ever training camp for rookie trustees

For the first time ever, the Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA) will offer a training camp for rookie trustees on Friday, Jan. 8, before the start of the January Trustee Conference.

The camp is designed to help new trustees understand the issues and expectations of health care boards and to provide clarification of roles and responsibilities of the board and of each trustee. The program will also demonstrate the importance of working with other board members, physicians, the chief executive officer and other key players in the organization.

A segment of the training camp is designed to provide participants with an understanding of financial reimbursement and the potential impact of the board's decisions on reimbursement.

The session will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude by 2 p.m. Lunch and materials will be included. The program will take place at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Plymouth.

Special pricing of is available for trustees who also register for the January Trustee Conference.

For more information or to access registration materials, visit MHA's Web site, click on "Events," select the January Trustee Conference from the event list and download the brochure.

Professor, futurist to speak at MHA January Trustee Conference

Jack Gellar, Robert Cox to be keynote speakers

University of Minnesota at Crookston professor Jack Gellar and physician and biological futurist Robert L. Cox will provide the

Continued on p. 2

Continued from front

keynote addresses at the 2010 January Trustee Conference.

During his opening keynote, “The New Normal: A Post-Recession Look at Minnesota,” Gellar will discuss demographical changes in Minnesota since the release of the 2000 census data in the early part of the decade. During that time, the percentage of minorities and people of color doubled; inequities in resources between rural and urban Minnesota have widened; and graduation rates in our public schools have either stagnated or decreased.

Gellar will discuss Minnesota’s future in light of these changes.

Cox’s closing keynote, “BioForecast: Why Biological Advances will Revolutionize Your World,” looks at technological advances that offer people a look into their biological future. He will help participants understand that their children, grandchildren and all future generations will benefit from choices they make wisely now.

As technological advances occur, Cox will argue, the public influences how quickly they are accepted, as well as how long they might be postponed. During this session, participants will learn about their “personal price of progress” as well as their “personal price of postponement.” They will also be invited to think about which price they are willing to pay.

The January Trustee Conference will take place Jan. 8-10 at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Plymouth. For more information or to register, visit MHA’s Web site at www.mnhospitals.org. Click on “Events,” select the January Trustee Conference from the event list and download the brochure.

Preparing for the 2010 legislative session

In a stunning stroke of the veto pen on May 14, 2009, Gov. Tim Pawlenty eliminated the funding for Minnesota’s General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC) program, which would leave thousands of the poorest Minnesotans without health insurance starting July 1, 2010. Those affected by the veto make less than \$8,123 per year and most have serious health problems. These Minnesotans will be left to secure care by going to hospital emergency rooms when they are ill. This action effectively shifts the burden for their care from the state of Minnesota to hospitals. Relying on hospital emergency rooms as the primary place for securing health care also increases the cost of care.

The unallotment process made matters worse, moving the implementation date of program disenrollment forward to March of 2010. Recently, the Minnesota Department of Human Services announced its plan to temporarily provide coverage for current GAMC enrollees in the MinnesotaCare program. This idea is not a sustainable solution for this population given that the MinnesotaCare program has ongoing premiums, significant co-pays and a \$10,000 annual inpatient hospital cap per patient.

The Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA) is urging legislators to address the GAMC issue early in the 2010 session to prevent the disruption of care for these vulnerable individuals. Because 2010 is considered the “short session,” it is extremely important for the hospital community to keep the restoration and reform of the GAMC program on the front

Continued on p. 3

Continued from p. 4

The PAC's overall 2009 goal is \$95,000. Trustees are encouraged to participate at any dollar level. Each donor's name will be listed in the annual PAC report and will count toward their hospital's annual PAC goal.

Individuals that contribute at a "club" level, which is \$350 for Capitol Club, \$500 for Chairman's Circle, or \$1,000 for the Ben Franklin Club, will receive additional recognition in the American Hospital Association and Minnesota Hospital Association materials.

The Minnesota Hospital PAC has also established lower club levels exclusively for trustees. Trustees may voluntarily contribute \$25 at the Bronze Level, \$50 at the Silver Level, or \$100 at the Gold Level and be recognized as leading contributors to their hospital's PAC goal.

Any contributions received after the Minnesota Hospital PAC fundraising deadline of Dec. 4 will be counted toward your hospital's 2010 PAC goal.

The Minnesota Hospital PAC thanks the following trustees that had already contributed as of Nov. 3:

Ben Franklin Club – trustees giving \$1,000 or more

Andrea Kmetz-Sheehy, Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota, Mpls./St. Paul
Steven Perkins, Sanford Hospital Luverne

Chairman's Circle – trustees giving \$500 or more

John Diehl, Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare, St. Paul
Joanell Dyrstad, Fairview Health Services, Minneapolis

James Morris, Queen of Peace Hospital,
New Prague

Capitol Club – trustees giving \$350 or more

Mark Dwyer, North Country Health Services,
Bemidji
Robert Prentiss, North Memorial Medical
Center, Robbinsdale
Jodie Torkelson, MeritCare Thief River Falls
Northwest Medical Center

Gold Level – trustees giving \$100 or more

Yvonne Cheung-Ho, North Memorial
Medical Center, Robbinsdale
Steve Laraway, St. Cloud Hospital
Gaye Adams Massey, Children's Hospitals and
Clinics of Minnesota, Mpls./St. Paul
Barbara Muesing, First Care Medical Services,
Fosston
Kurt Owen, St. Gabriel's Hospital, Little Falls
James Ryan, Children's Hospitals and Clinics
of Minnesota, Mpls./St. Paul
Thomas Spence, Cook County Hospital &
C&NC
William Tobin, North Memorial Health Care,
Robbinsdale

Silver Level – trustees giving \$50 or more

Larry Anderson, United Hospital District,
Blue Earth
Karl Bloomquist, Douglas County Hospital,
Alexandria
Dixon Bond, Northfield Hospital
Karin Bottem, St. James Medical Center –
Mayo Health System
Diane Cross, University of Minnesota Medical
Center, Fairview, Minneapolis
Charles Helleloid, M.D., Rainy Lake Medical
Center, International Falls
James Herzog, Owatonna Hospital
Tom Hruby, North Country Health Services,
Bemidji

Continued on p. 6

Continued from p. 5

Glen Linseth, North Country Health Services,
Bemidji
John Lundblad, Northfield Hospital
Sandra Norbury, Owatonna Hospital
Brett Reese, Northfield Hospital
James Schlichting, Northfield Hospital

Bronze Level – trustees giving \$25 or more

Robert Anderson, Rainy Lake Medical Center,
International Falls
Steve Lillestol, MeritCare Thief River Falls
Northwest Medical Center
Brent Lunke, MeritCare Thief River Falls
Northwest Medical Center
Judy Roy, North Country Health Services,
Bemidji
Curtis Swenson, Northfield Hospital

Trustees giving up to \$25

Jane Aschnewitz, Perham Memorial Hospital

Jan Bonebright, Redwood Area Hospital,
Redwood Falls
Leonard Medrud, Redwood Area Hospital,
Redwood Falls
Heidi Olsonawski, Kittson Memorial
Healthcare Center, Hallock
Peter Smith, Redwood Area Hospital,
Redwood Falls
Martha Widmer, Redwood Area Hospital,
Redwood Falls

For more information about the Minnesota
Hospital PAC, contact Ann Gibson, MHA
federal relations director, at (651) 603-3527 or
anngibson@mnhospitals.org; or Mary Krinkie,
MHA vice president of government relations,
at (651) 659-1465 or
mkrinkie@mnhospitals.org.