

CHAIRS WELCOME AND REMARKS

I would to welcome you to the 2013-2014 Annual Session, which for your convenience, has been combined with the annual Winter Leadership Conference. I'm sure the weather is wonderful, and the Newport Beach Marriot facility and staff have been very accommodating these last three years. I'm sure you will find your stay very enjoyable.

The Executive Board and the Annual Session/Leadership Conference Committee have worked very hard to put together an excellent program for you this weekend. I am very sorry that I am unable to attend. My husband and I planned a trip to Australia and New Zealand over a year ago with non-refundable deposits made before I had any idea I would be serving as your Chair of the Board this year.

My welcome remarks will somewhat double for the "State of the Alliance" Report.

Our Executive Board has been very busy this year, positioning our organization, the California Medical Association Alliance, for growth. Half of our members were both new to the Alliance and mothers with young children. The skill sets and observations they brought to the Executive Board were invaluable. Their presence enabled all of us to look at things differently, and it contributed directly to what we accomplished this year. The make-up of our Executive Board, with its combination of both elected and appointed members, to the Board's selection of officers, has encouraged a more collaborative system of governance. As a result, we truly functioned as a team. We have Sandi Anderson to thank for having recruited these very capable ladies to work at the State Level.

We have a new website. The site was designed professionally through a website company that works with Mike Steenburgh, of Component Medical Society Services, a business that is working with many local medical societies under the umbrella of the CMA. They have been extraordinarily helpful, and handle and forward phone calls, faxes, and mail that come through the Sacramento office for the CMAA. The formatting of the site is straightforward enough for us to handle most updates. One of our goals is to put our directory on a "Member Only" section of the site, but we are still figuring out how to adequately secure that part of the website.

The importance of having a statewide health project was also addressed. Thanks to Keri Lynn Ferguson and the Butte-Glen Alliance, their "Prescription Drug

Abuse” project we feel we have found a project that everyone will want to be a part of. This is a problem has reached epidemic levels in communities across the state; probably every person in this room has known a family member or good friend that has fallen victim to addiction. We hope, after this meeting, you will be as excited by this project, as is your Executive Board.

This past year we have worked collaboratively with the CMA in several areas. For the past several months, we have been working collaboratively with the CMA legislative team that has been established to lead the battle to preserve MICRA. We are an active participant in this effort. We donated \$5,000.00 to the Political Education Fund of the CMA to work to this end. I presented the check, on your behalf, at the meeting of the CMA House of Delegates. At the moment, we have been asked to wait in the wings. If the time comes to become actively engaged, the CMA knows they have an eager ally in this fight.

Last and most importantly is the merger. We have been talking about the merger of the CMA Alliance and the CMA Alliance Foundation for several years; the accomplishment of the merger is a part of the Strategic Plan we adopted two years ago. After talking about doing it ourselves, we decided it would be best to have a professional guide us through the process. We contracted with Douglas Mancino, who specializes in non-profit law. You may remember him from when he spoke at the Leadership Conference a couple of years ago. Due to a lengthening of the timeline for organizations applying for the 501(c)(3) status, however, Doug suggested we approach the merger from a different angle. This merger will be major item of discussion at this meeting, but in essence, the CMAA will be merged into the CMAA Foundation, thereby, skipping the uncertainties faced by new applicants in today’s political climate. This process is legally, a much easier path to follow.

It is very exciting that nearly 40 members are attending this meeting. The program is tremendous; you cannot help but go home inspired. Additionally, there are many members who are attending a CMAA meeting for the first time. Make sure everyone feels a part of the CMAA family when they return home.