

California Medical Association Alliance



Just For The HEALTH of it!

President's Message

Dear CMAA Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope that you had a great holiday season with your family and friends.

Looking back, 2009 has been a very full year for the CMA Alliance. We focused on implementing our 2009-2011 Strategic Plan, streamlined our board structure and directed our efforts toward the needs of our county Alliances.

In December, I met with the new CEO of the CMA, Alfred Gilchrist. We had the opportunity to discuss our Strategic Plan and our efforts toward keeping the Alliance a relevant organization in the future.



(Debbi Ricks & Alfred Gilchrist)

The California Medical Association & the Health Care Reform Bill

In 2009, the CMA worked to encourage lawmakers to craft a workable plan that provided universal access to health care.

While CMA supported meaningful health reform, and the general thrust of legislation passed by the House of Representatives, the CMA Executive Committee voted to oppose the Senate bill as currently written.

"There is no way health care reform can work if patients can't get access to a doctor," says CMA President Brennan Cassidy, M.D. "The Senate bill fails to fix major problems in Medicare and Medicaid, which currently suffer from chronic underfunding that undermines access and continues to undermine the success of these government programs "

"As physicians, we remain committed to meaningful reform that best serves our patients. Building reform on the foundation of Medicare and Medicaid can only work if that foundation is sound, and unfortunately both programs need major improvements and better funding to function properly."

At the end of 2009, the Senate were able to procure enough key votes to pass the Senate version of the bill. Ned Wigglesworth, CMA Communication Director provided an update to changes to the bill. [Click here to read more](#)

It was a very positive discussion and we look forward to working with the CMA in many areas including grassroots advocacy and membership.

On January 12, 2010 the CMAA Board of Directors will be meeting for our Winter Board Meeting in Sacramento where we will firm up our priorities for the second year of the plan. Any feedback you have in preparation for our meeting is welcome. Please feel free to email me at debbiricks@aol.com if you have questions.

All the best for a happy and successful 2010!

Sincerely,

Debbi Ricks
CMAA President
2008-10



Upcoming Events!

**CMAA Regional
Conference
March 2, 2010
CMA Office -- 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA**

**Two Days Only!
CMAA Annual Session
April 30- May 1, 2009
Embassy Suites -
Sacramento**

For continuous updates, visit the **CMA Health Reform Bill Resource Center** on the CMA website - www.cmanet.org.

*(The above information was submitted by the
Communications Department of the CMA)*

CMAA Winter Board Meeting January 12, 2010 CMA Office - Sacramento, CA

From past conference evaluations submitted by CMAA attendees, one primary concern was the rising costs of attending the state conferences. Therefore, in an effort to decrease costs, the CMAA Board of Directors has scheduled a one-day only Winter Board meeting this year. The primary topics will include the status of implementing the 2009-11 CMAA Strategic Plan, a review of the new council structure, discuss what the county alliances need from the CMAA and to recruit new leadership. There will an official board meeting at the end of the day.

CMAA Regional Conferences are coming in 2010!

In 2010, the CMAA Board of Directors will be scheduling one-day regional conferences. As mentioned above, many of our members have family responsibilities and economic pressures and are unable to attend our multi-day statewide conferences; therefore, we are offering you the chance to attend for only one full day. These regional conferences will be customized to the needs of the attendees.

At this time, there will be three conferences scheduled. The first one will be held in Sacramento at the CMA office on March 2nd (originally scheduled for February 9th). The other two locations will be determined at a later date. Check your email for more information!