

Report #13, East Metro Trustee District

TO: Minnesota Medical Association House of Delegates  
Convening September 17, 2008

As East Metro Trustees, are pleased to represent the 1,500 members of the East Metro Medical Society. Since our last report in September of 2007, our leaders and members have been very active and productive.

Our leadership is very concerned about maintaining the physicians' voice in local government, at the state capital, and in Washington, D.C. Many of the physicians of the East Metro Medical Society have met with their legislators and are actively engaged in the legislative process. They see the value that their participation brings to the overall process and continue to work collaboratively with the Minnesota Medical Association on achieving much needed health care reform.

We continue to collaborate with the West Metro Medical Society to monitor legislative actions by way of our contract with Lockridge Grindal Nauen, PLLP. The legislative staff of Lockridge Grindal Nauen have worked with Minnesota Medical Association staff and members on many health care issues including the most recent health care reform efforts. The leadership of the East Metro Medical Society values its relationship with Lockridge Grindal Nauen as they complement the hard work being done by the staff of the MMA and are routinely available to answer questions and provide insight into proposed legislation.

Membership is a key focus of the East Metro Medical Society. We have collaborated with the MMA to increase visits to clinics in order to reach as many members as possible. We know that it is essential that we explain the work that we are doing if we are to retain and recruit members.

During the past year, we were successful in applying for and receiving renewal of our year four grant from ClearWay Minnesota (formerly known as MPAAT) for the Dakota County Smoke-Free Community Partnership. The grant provides for the hiring of staff, the development of a community assessment and action plan, a website, training for physician spokespersons on the dangers of secondhand smoke, and training and education related to smoking-cessations options.

In June 2008, we completed our 18-month contract with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota's Partnership for Healthy Air in Washington County. This contract enabled us to hire staff and have a presence in Washington County, where we effectively built a substantial grassroots network of individuals who were engaged and interested in the smoke-free issue.

In August 2008, the East Metro Medical Society Foundation hosted a conference that attracted more than 40 individuals representing more than 20 organizations. The intent of the conference was to come to an understanding of whether there was a need or desire to collaborate and coordinate on advance care planning at the community level. We were very pleased with the turnout at the conference and with the enthusiasm of participants about this possibility. As we write this report, we remain optimistic about the possibility that this idea has for the east metro communities.

Last, we changed our name in January 2008 from the Ramsey Medical Society to the East Metro Medical Society to better reflect our membership. The change was implemented with little controversy or confusion.

East Metro Trustees

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