

Every physician benefits from the work of the WVSMA

What have we done for you lately?

Take a look at our accomplishments in just the last three years...

Health Promotion-a renewed commitment to our mission of improving the health of West Virginia!

- Established the **West Virginia Medical Foundation**, a 501c(3) charitable, non-profit arm of the WVSMA, to work exclusively on health promotion
- Secured more than **\$370,000 in grant funding** and put it to work throughout the state to improve the health of West Virginia
- Sponsored numerous **health promotion activities and educational programs** including the statewide healthcare provider tobacco cessation trainings
- Assumed a leadership role in the **Coalition for a Tobacco-Free West Virginia** which led the charge for broader clean indoor air regulations, stiffer tobacco regulation and an increase in the cigarette tax
- Accepted staff leadership posts for organizing **key healthcare conferences**
- Providing information to physicians about our state's greatest health risk factors, tobacco use and obesity, by hosting our **first preventive medicine conference** featuring national experts

Government Relations-an incredible three year record of legislative victories!

- Enacted **comprehensive medical liability reform** making West Virginia's law one of the best in the nation for fair handling of medical liability suits
- **Phase out of the onerous Provider Tax**, which is already providing financial relief to physicians. On July 1, 2003 the provider tax will have been cut by 30%
- **Mandated uniform Credentialing and Re-Credentialing application** to ease the administrative burden on physicians and their staff
- **Prompt pay legislation** requiring health insurers reimburse physicians promptly and pay interest on the payments that are late
- **Mental health parity** requiring health insurers to reimburse for mental health care
- The **first tax on smokeless tobacco in West Virginia's history** resulting in millions annually for Medicaid

- **Increased the tobacco tax** for the first time in three decades by over 300% resulting in over \$60 million of additional revenue. With the federal match, the result is an estimated \$240 million to support Medicaid
- **Enacted tax credits** to help address the problem of insurance affordability. Both HB 601 & HB 2122 provide a credit against the provider tax for a portion of a physician's liability insurance payment. HB 2122 provides an extra measure of financial relief because it includes in the credit a portion of a 'tail' policy purchased by the physician in the calculation
- **Stopped the encroachment of lesser trained healthcare provider groups** into the practice of medicine

WESPAC-became the state's largest healthcare political action committee in the 2002 election cycle and the results are clear!

- Historic fundraising effort bringing in over **\$143,000 in the 2002 election cycle** to support pro-healthcare candidates
- Actively recruited and supported the **largest number of physician candidates** in recent memory taking the state legislature from having no physician members in 2002 to having two physicians serving in the state legislature
- Played a key roll in **re-vamping the makeup of the legislature** in the 2002 election by aiding in the defeat of healthcare adversaries

The West Virginia Medical Journal-West Virginia's only clinical peer-reviewed medical publication keeps getting better!

- Published two special issues focussed on critical health topics – **tobacco cessation and obesity** – and gained national recognition
- Published a special issue on **End-of-Life Care** that qualified the reader for all their bi-annual CME credits on this topic. This special issue was also made available on-line

Continuing Medical Education-achieved a clean bill of health from the ACCME!

- **Accredited 24 hospitals and organizations** for CME programming in West Virginia
- Successful **re-survey from ACCME** giving the WVSMA a four-year re-recognition
- Implementation of **System 98** and offering **annual workshops** for CME providers

Membership-physicians recognize the many benefits of working together with one voice!

- **Increased membership by almost 10%** between 2000 and 2002
- Authorized **affiliate membership** to allow approved non-physician individuals and companies to participate in WVSMA activities and receive valued membership benefits while at the same time investing in the program-of-work of the WVMSA

Communications-spreading the Voice of Medicine far and wide!

- Implementation of a **blast e-mail system** for up to the minute grassroots communications during the Legislative Session and year round
- **Countless visits from physician leaders and WVSMA staff** to component societies, hospital staff meetings, civic organizations and media visits throughout the state to keep physicians and the public better informed

West Virginia State Medical Association Alliance-physician spouses at the local level doing great work!

- Contributed more than **\$15,000 to the Alliance** during the last three years to support their projects which include presenting programs in the schools to educate students about the dangers of tobacco use; promoting non-violence in the schools and communities; improving health literacy; raising funds for breast cancer research and awareness; and assisting the victims of domestic violence
- The Alliance has **received awards and recognition** from the American Medical Association Alliance and the Southern Medical Association Alliance for several health projects in the last three years

Medical School Support-financial contributions for medical education continues!

- Has provided **over \$58,000 to our state's three medical schools** through the Alliance and AMA Foundation to support medical education

Component Society Support-growing organized medicine at the local level!

- **Timely component society dues collection** and forwarding funds so the medical community at the local level can put their money to good use
- Offering **training sessions** for organization and program-of-work development assistance to component societies
- WVSMA assists in **dues collection** for 28 component societies, which helps relieve some of the administrative burden at the local level

Litigation Efforts-the voice of medicine is heard in the courts!

- Filed Amicus Brief with the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals in cases that have an impact on the practice of medicine and important health issues
 - Supported the effort for local health departments to regulate clean indoor air – Foundation for Independent Living, Inc., et al v. The Cabell-Huntington Board of Health
 - Opposed the effort to hold a physician responsible under the Medical Professional Liability Act for medical malpractice claims filed by non-patients – Osborne v. United States of America, No. 301
 - Supported an effort to protect the confidentiality of medical records of patients not involved in a lawsuit – West Virginia University Hospitals, Inc., v. The Honorable Robert B. Stone, Judge of the Circuit Court of Monongalia County et. al.

- Finalized the **Blue Cross/Blue Shield liquidation** resulting in more than **\$3 million in reimbursement** being distributed to West Virginia providers due in large part to the WVSMA intervening in the bankruptcy suit to make sure physicians got their fair share

Meetings and Conferences-restructured for better physician involvement!

- Restructure of the **August Healthcare Summit** to focus on key socio-economic issues and condensed the meeting length to make it more cost effective for physicians
- Shifted WVSMA governing body meeting (House of Delegates) to a January meeting in Charleston to allow **broader participation and input** from members
- Established the **'White Coat Day'** event in January as the premier event during the legislative session for physicians and the entire healthcare community to be involved in the legislative process

Join with your fellow physicians to continue the fight to regain control of your profession!