



APhA-ASP CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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Is Regional Office for You? By Angel Hollrith

If you were unable to attend this year's MRM in Minneapolis, MN, you missed out on a great time! It was a fun-filled weekend of professional networking, policy discussions, educational opportunities and even a Halloween costume contest with student pharmacists from the 8 pharmacy schools within our APhA-ASP Region 5. Paul Morales, our chapter delegate, did an excellent job voicing our chapter's views during the House of Delegates and guiding the chapter in thoughtful discussion Saturday evening. Aside from being the second-largest chapter in attendance, Creighton also stood out for a second reason. Thanks to our strong emphasis on leadership and high caliber of students within our school, we were the only school with two students running for regional office.

An important component of every MRM weekend is the election of regional officers. APhA is unique in the way they integrate student pharmacists into the larger organization and provide leadership opportunities to enhance student development and serve the organization. An important part of the APhA-ASP leadership structure lies in the regional officers for each of the 8 regions: Regional Delegate, Regional Member-at-large and MRM Coordinator. Both of the Delegate and Member-at-larges play important roles at APhA Annual Meeting in San Diego, promote political interest, expand chapter patient care project opportunities and serve as the communication hub for the region. All offices are decided upon at MRM and are year-long terms ending at the following year's MRM.

This year, Creighton was the only school in our region to bring two candidates for regional office: Ally Strobel for Regional Delegate and Katherine Carter for Regional Member-at-large. You will be hearing much more from Katherine in the coming year, as your 2007-2008 Region 5 Member-at-large! Although Ally was not elected, we appreciate her representation of Creighton and commitment to increasing interest in policy. If you think you might like to seek out leadership opportunities like this, please consider running for a chapter office at the upcoming meeting, November 28th and then keep in mind the opportunities for regional office at next year's MRM in South Dakota. If you would like to learn more about these leadership positions or their experience, feel free to email Ally or Katherine, or other members of your APhA-ASP executive committee!



Upcoming Events

Patient Counseling Competition
this Thursday November 15th

Flu Clinic this Friday, November
16th

Officer Elections: Wednesday
November 28th

WINTER BREAK STARTS DE-
CEMBER 13th

March 14th till March 17th: Na-
tional Meeting in San Diego

Elections!!!!

Wednesday November 28th elections will be held during our general meeting. Positions available are:

President Elect: Must be a PI and it is a 2 year commitment. Responsible for the patient counseling competition and assisting the president

Vice President: Responsible for managing committees and legislative issues.

Treasurer: Responsible for balancing the check book and providing food for meetings

Public Relations: Responsible for media relations and helping coordinate our trips to MRM and the National Meeting

Secretary: Responsible for taking meeting minutes and provide wonderful newsletters such as this.

For a full job description check out the constitution on our website or contact the current executive board member. President Elect: Denise Emmert (dme46431@creighton.edu), Vice President: Ally Strobel (ars91739@creighton.edu), Treasurer: Jake Johnsen (jcj67651@creighton.edu), Public Relations: (tjw59371@creighton.edu), Secretary: Paul Morales (pcml18937@creighton.edu).

Katy NEEDS OUR HELP

Katy the kangaroo needs some new threads and to raise money the Katy's Kids committee is selling t-shirts, hoodies and childrens shirts. Orders are due by November 19th. Order online at <http://spahp.creighton.edu/alumni/Forms/ASPFundraiser.asp>

Twenty Resolutions Passed at MRM in Minneapolis

Twenty resolutions were passed at this years Mid-year Regional Meeting in Minneapolis, MN including two from our chapter. The next step is voting by the regional delegates and then on to the National meeting in San Diego.

Member of the Month

Van Do is our member of the month for his hard work in putting together our new website. Check it out at: pharmacy.creighton.edu/asp. Congrats to Van

Legislative Update

Kansas Legislation to Limit Dispensing of Controls by Aundrea Bell

Kansas is meeting in December to discuss adopting a proposal to limit the amount of controlled substances that can be dispensed at any one time (K.A.R. 68-20-23). This regulation would allow pharmacists, technicians or interns to dispense only a 93 day maximum supply of any controlled substance. More info at: <http://www.accesskansas.org/pharmacy/leg.html>

Bill Aims for Negotiating Clout for Pharmacists taken from NPA e-News

Without debate, the House Judiciary Committee approved a bill Wednesday that would exempt independent pharmacies from antitrust laws so they could collaborate in negotiating contracts with health insurers and pharmacy benefit managers. Sponsored by Anthony Weiner, D-NY, the measure (HR 971) is a response to pharmacists' complaints that low reimbursement rates and payment delays as a result of the new Medicare drug benefit (PL 108-173) have forced them out of business. The panel adopted two amendments by Darrell Issa, R-CA, and a manager's amendment by Weiner. One Issa amendment would narrow the bill's definition of independent pharmacy to those having less than 10 percent of the market share of a Medicare Part D prescription drug region. The other would affirm the FTC's oversight authority of independent pharmacies. The Weiner amendment would give the measure a five-year sunset and require a Government Accountability Office study and report on its impact and recommendations for extension. Some pharmacists have said that PBMs are intentionally delaying payments and offering low reimbursements to make heavy profits. PBMs deny those accusations. The PBMs and other bill opponents, including the FTC, say it would drive up costs to consumers and the federal government. The bill is not needed, they say, because pharmacists can reject the terms of a contract with PBMs if they choose. The Association of Community Pharmacists web site notes that the bill "would establish a balanced playing field between pharmacies and PBMs, would reduce the pressure on the government to regulate reimbursement rates and reduce prices for consumers." (Source: CQ Today By Caitlin Webber, CQ Staff)

Proper Disposal of Unused Medications by Ally Strobel

Flushing unused medications = bad for environment!

We should remind patients to always take their medication according to the directions for ideal outcomes but we should also remind them to check the directions for disposal. They should only flush unused medication that can be flushed according to package insert. Instead of flushing it is now recommended that unused or expired medication should now be crushed or dissolved in water then mixed with kitty litter or coffee grounds. This mixture can then be thrown in the garbage.

If the medication is a controlled substance it should be given to a Medication Take Back program that will properly dispose of it. Medication Take Back programs are a cooperation between pharmacists and law enforcement to receive unused or expired medications from the general public and see that they are disposed of properly. Currently these programs can not be hosted in a pharmacy and a law enforcement officer must be present to maintain chain of custody. Encourage your patients to properly dispose of their unused or expired medications.