The Fifth District includes Cayuga, Chenango, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, and St. Lawrence counties.

Per the President Dr. Joseph Maldonado’s instructions, I am going to report on my impressions on membership recruitment efforts within our district.

I have started to introduce the concept of institutional membership to some of the leaders in the local medical community here in Jefferson County. The feedback from the Chief Medical Officer of our largest local hospital was that since hospital employed physicians constitute about a third of the medical staff, we would essentially have to get the hospital’s blessing for institutional membership. Because the medical staff dues for the hospital-employed physicians are paid for by the hospital, an institutional membership would essentially entail the hospital paying for the portion of the cost of membership attributable to its employed physicians. He suggested that the hospital might find benefit in an institutional membership if MSSNY could take over some of the medical staff education that the hospital currently does and often pays consultants to perform.

At the Samaritan Medical Center Bylaws Committee, I discussed with Committee members that an institutional membership could potentially afford some pro bono legal services such as bylaws review.

The Executive Board of the Medical Society of Jefferson County met on August 10, 2015 in Watertown, NY. The board approved an increase to the Workers Compensation Rating application fee for nonmembers. We have started offering the free filing of this application as a member benefit. I explained to the board the concept of institutional membership and encouraged the board members to help me augment support for instituting the concept by talking to their colleagues. We would include speaking to a colleague(s) at institutions outside of our own, someone who might carry more influence on his or her medical staff than an outsider. I pointed out the positive effects the institutional memberships have had within the St. Lawrence County Medical Society, immediately adjacent to our county. The feedback from the board members was that they would like to have more specifics in order to try to sell the concept to other physicians within our local institutions. Towards that end, the board resolved to solicit Brenda Van Nest, Upstate Outreach Representative, for a specific proposal for MSSNY institutional membership for our two largest local medical staffs: Samaritan Medical Center in Watertown, NY and Carthage Hospital in Carthage, NY. Also resolved, if MSSNY decides to continue its lifetime membership benefit, our county membership staff will plan on contacting eligible physicians an encouraging the physician to take part in this benefit. Also, if a physician has met the duration criteria for lifetime membership, but in any particular year does not renew membership, the county medical society would plan on contacting that physician. As an incentive to continue as a member, the county medical society would include the information about the lifetime membership benefit to encourage that physician to remain active. If MSSNY elects to continue free lifetime membership, we would look to formalizing a means by which the retired physician could still make a voluntary monetary contribution. Some counties within our district already do so. The board also nominated Robert Kimball, MD for President of the Medical Society of Jefferson County.

I attended the Onondaga County Medical Society Executive Council Meeting on June 16, 2015, the Oswego County Medical Society Annual Meeting on June 17, 2015, and the Combined Annual Meeting of the Medical Societies of the Counties of Chenango and Madison on June 24, 2015. Some recruitment efforts within Onondaga Medical Society are discussed below.
Kathy Dyman, EVP of the Medical Societies of the Counties of Oneida, Herkimer, Madison, Chenango, Oswego, Cayuga and St. Lawrence reported that on May 20, 2015 the Oneida and Herkimer County Medical Society partnered with MVP Healthcare and trained over 100 physicians and their offices on ICD-10.

Jim Coulthart, EVP of the Onondaga County Medical Society (OCMS), reported on recent activities of the OCMS.

MATTERS OF NOTE
ONONDAGA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
June 2015- mid August 2015

- The First Annual OCMS Clambake was successful with 70 physicians, family members and friends in attendance. Over $1,200 in funds were raised through sponsorships and program ads to help with updating office software and equipment.
- The Annual New Residents Orientation at Upstate realized over 35 new 1st Year Resident applications secured. An additional 20 new Residents at St. Joseph’s Primary Care Residency Program were oriented and encouraged to join the medical society by Drs. Dennis Nave and Sandy Sulik who spoke with them about the benefits of belonging.
- Members of the OCMS Leadership were involved in discussions during the months of July & August with the four finalist candidates for the position of President of the Upstate Medical University. It was felt that OCMS could represent the broader medical community interests and participation in this important matter was arranged.
- Conversations are in process with the CEO of the St. Josephs Physicians group in hopes of expanding membership from the present levels of members to include more of the 60+ physicians. Approximately half are medical society members. Conversations are also ongoing with the Crouse Hospital employed and P.C. physicians to gain greater membership participation within that group as well.
- Several OCMS physicians participated in the Syracuse area Dept. of Health Listening Session on the topic of the Advance Primary Care Model.
- Congressman John Katko met with over a dozen interested physician members to learn their interests and concerns regarding federal medical matters. Emphasis was placed on a post SGR fix reimbursement scenario, the lack of Residency spots in the country as well as public health and addiction problems found in CNY.
- OCMS is readying the display, logistics, and staffing arrangements for the 2015 joint MSSNY and NYS Society of Anesthesiologists booth at the upcoming NYS Fair, to be held August 27th - September 7th.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Huang, MD, Jefferson County, 5th District Councilor