

Alliance with the Medical Society of the State of New York

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Albany County – Member-at-Large

Our Mission:

to support our physicians and promote health in our communities

REPORT OF THE ALLIANCE FOR THE JANUARY 2017 COUNCIL MEETING

In the December 16, 2016 *MSSNY eNews*, MSSNY President Malcolm Reid stated that “Since the founding of our State Medical Society 217 years ago, achieving our goals has required our active involvement in politics. Today, more than ever, our care for our patients is being dictated, regulated, measured, controlled and valued by government and others, often with an insufficient evidence base.” He further said that “Without a strong medical society, today’s victories will be tomorrow’s losses, and everyone – physicians, their employers and their patients – will suffer.”

The Alliance responds to requests to contact Legislators to make MSSNY’s position known on bills throughout the year, as well as participating in Legislation Day each year. We also have a representative on many of MSSNY’s committees, who attends all of the meetings of that committee and reports to our membership on issues raised. Our President(s) attend MSSNY Council Meetings and presents our report.

The Alliance can, and does, fill an important role through involvement in its community activities – putting a face and a name on all of the good accomplished by our County Alliances. Some of these activities include Schenectady County’s Alliance promoting education on bullying and violence, and hosting a holiday luncheon and fashion show to benefit the Boys and Girls Club Mentoring Program, the YMCA Domestic Violence Shelter, and Guardian House, a home for homeless women veterans; Onondaga County’s Alliance raised money through a basket raffle and holiday ad in a local newspaper and has awarded significant scholarships each year through this effort. They had an art sale of works by local physicians and their families, made a donation to a child advocacy center in honor of SAVE Day, and raised funds at their Annual Holiday Luncheon to benefit a local not-for-profit. They recognize Doctor Day annually with a dinner to honor area physicians and present an award to a local doctor for his/her advocacy of the Alliance. In addition, they distributed 500 “Think! Don’t Drink or Text!” cards to 50 local florists at prom time and awarded scholarships to needy students at their Spring Luncheon. Broome County’s Alliance hosted its annual greeting card sale to benefit students going into healthcare, and hosted events for Mercy House for the terminally ill and Glove House, a non-profit child welfare organization.

In addition to these activities, in 2017, we will be supporting AMA Alliance initiatives of Opioid Epidemic education and Physician Stress education. The county alliances will distribute a Know the Facts postcard and brochure developed by the AMA Alliance. AMSSNY also encourages programs in each county to highlight steps to break the cycle of physician stress.

So, although we are not, for the most part, physicians, we are the public face of medicine that is seen by members of communities across the state. We regularly interact with people, including local and state lawmakers and their families through school activities and social and charitable events. We have opportunities to interact and get medicine’s message out, and are a respected segment of the community.

Happy New Year to all of our MSSNY Leaders and Members,

Barbara Ellman

AMSSNY Co-President