New York County Medical Society

- The Society is planning programs including a seminar on Tax Issues for Physicians on November 14. In December and January, sessions are scheduled on Medicare and billing and coding concerns. A Legislative Breakfast is being planned for late January.

- New York County Medical Society is endorsing the campaign of Stuart Gitlow, MD, NYCMS and MSSNY member in the upcoming election for Board of Trustees of the American Medical Association. (A separate action item, including Doctor Gitlow’s CV was submitted by the County.)

- The Society reviewed material presented at the September Council meeting at its October Board meeting and considered information about a proposed membership initiative. The Board understood the concerns and the situation of declining and aging membership, but did not agree that the proposed solution of cut-rate membership to one group was the solution. The following concerns were raised:

  1) Will there be undue influence from these hospitals as a result of this influx of members? Even if it does not affect the House of Delegates, the influence of a large hospital system could still be very significant.

  2) How much does it cost to maintain a member? This deal would not cover the cost of providing services on the State and county level.

  3) At the conclusion of three years, is there an expectation that these members will become full dues paying members? It is unrealistic to say that dues are worth, for example, $50 one year and $890 the next. If these members are not even voting for this plan, will they even want to be involved or active? What is the assurance that this population is interested in membership?

  4) What will members paying the full amount think? It is unrealistic to say that no one will know. It is difficult to keep such things quiet.

  5) If this project goes forward, rather than a pilot project, it should become a new membership category, so as not to offend full active members paying full price.

  6) This plan could be the slippery slope to no revenue at all.

  7) Plans to bring in numbers of doctors means nothing unless the organization can show value for those members. What are other successful state organizations doing to attract and grow membership? What are their best practices and benchmarks?
8) The county societies are being asked to make a decision with little information (because of the confidentiality concerns) about potential sources of income, with little or no guarantee of any income being realized. More data would be useful to see how grants and residency membership would occur and how it would be spread among all the entities.

9) The repercussions of this plan are too serious and the concerns too great to proceed. The Board strongly argues that a task force study the problem of bringing in employed and younger doctors so that the benefit of membership is demonstrated and valued. As it is now positioned, this plan is giving something at no cost to people who have not demonstrated that they want it.

10) The Board felt that more transparent data was needed, and especially some guarantees that this group of physicians actually wanted membership before it alienated full-paying doctors by offering others such deep discounts.

Motion: That New York County Medical Society Support the Pilot Project on Membership at Deep Discounts to the Downstate Group of 5,400 Doctors as Proposed by the Medical Society of the State of New York. NOT CARRIED.

Motion: That the New York County Medical Society Ask MSSNY Council to Form a Task Force to Study Increasing Membership among Employed and Young Physicians to Encourage Their Active Participation in Membership. CARRIED.

Motion: That the New York County Medical Society Ask MSSNY Council to Benchmark Successful Membership Projects with Other State Societies and Investigate a More Streamlined Vision of Projects (Reducing the Number of Issues MSSNY Tries to Cover by Instead Looking for a Big Win). CARRIED.

Bronx County Medical Society

Â Bronx County Medical Society celebrated 103 Years of Service to the Bronx Community with a Gala Celebration Membership Assembly & Physician Exposition Honoring David Jakubowicz, MD, Immediate Past President, on October 22, 2017 at The Marina Del Rey. The Bronx thanked Doctor Jakubowicz for his presidential accomplishments, as he was honored by State, County, and City officials. Thanks to all the members who attended and had a gala time.

Â Bronx County Medical Society will have its Inaugural Meeting on Wednesday, November 1, 2017, at Mario’s Restaurant on Arthur Avenue in The Bronx at 6:00 p.m. All members are welcome to attend.