



414 Maple Avenue, Suite 200; Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

(518) 587-0772

March 5, 2019

Medical Society of the State on N.Y.

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to submit to Council this report on the activities of MSSNY's 4th District.

On February 5, the Schenectady County Medical Society hosted a meeting. A local physician gave a presentation on his personal experience coping with burnout. Several local issues were discussed, including the problems associated with employee pensions from a hospital that had gone bankrupt. Ideas were exchanged for a resolution addressing billing for air ambulances.

On February 25 the Saratoga County Medical Society invited the other Fourth District members to a legislative update. The extensive update was given by MSSNY's indefatigable legal counsel, Moe Auster. The newly elected state senator from the region, Senator Daphne Jordan, attended the meeting. She spoke to the group on many important issues facing upstate NY physicians and patients. These included the need for tort reforms, the need for physicians to be able to negotiate collectively, issues with the affordability and desirability of the proposed single-payer insurance system under the New York Health Act, and problems with the proposed Medicaid cuts in the Governor's Budget.

The highlight of the season was the Fourth and Third District retreat in Lake Placid on January 26. The meeting was well-attended, as usual, and the discussions far-ranging. The list of speakers read like a Who's Who chapter, including Senator Betty Little, Michael Schoppmann, MSSNY President Tom Madejski, and Moe Auster. Dr. Frank Dowling gave an excellent presentation on Veterans' Matters. Attendees exchanged many ideas that will find their way into resolutions for both the MSSNY HOD and the AMA HOD. The evening was capped off with some nice wine courtesy of Charles J. Sellers & Co., Inc. A hat tip is in order for Dr. Bill Latreille, in recognition of twenty years of organizing one of MSSNY's most important annual meetings!

Best personal regards,

Gregory L. Pinto, M.D.