Preparations have begun for the MSSNY House of Delegates meeting, however it is to be that a number of counties in the 8th District have not yet identified any physicians as credentialed delegates. Increased cost of participation as well as the length and timing of the actual meeting has been identified as a major issue. For example, the cost of travel (air and land) is now approximately $375-$400 per delegate. In addition to overnight hotel, food and beverage costs, as well as a meeting which does not adjourn on Saturday is having a major impact on why some counties are not represented.

At a recent meeting of the Buffalo Surgical Society its president Dr. Todd Demmy, invited Dr. Kenneth Eckhert and Christine Nadolny to provide an overview of Governor Cuomo’s Budget. Approximately 50% of those present are not members and therefore were not aware of the issues of concern as outlined in the summary which MSSNY prepared and sent out to members. Most voiced concern over the expansion of the MRT, the legalization of cannabis and need to regulate PBMs. Buffalo Surgical members asked for further information regarding the issues related to the OPMC and expansion of information provided on the physician profile. A letter signed by Drs. Demmy and Eckhert, with directions on how contact legislators using the MSSNY link were sent to all members, active and emeritus.

On February 26, 2020 the MSCE hosted “Stop the Bleed: Save a Life”. This Program, developed by the American College of Surgeons, the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security trained over 35 members of the general public on how to find the source of bleeding as well as various ways to control or stop the bleeding. Robert Armstrong, MD, MSCE Vice-President presented this 90-minute program. Another program is being scheduled later this Spring.

On February 27, 2020 the MSCE hosted an all-day community meeting to discuss the grant received from the CDC which will help to identify the impact of emerging health threats to pregnant women and their infants. In attendance for this meeting were representatives of the Buffalo OBGYN and Pediatric Societies, the Infectious Disease Department of the Jacobs School of Medicine, Medical Directors from IHA, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of WNY, Univera, Fidelis Care, Amerigroup Partnership Plan, Evergreen Health Services, the Erie County Health Department, the Erie County Mental Health Department, the Chief of OBGYN of the Catholic Health System, Dr. Gale Burstein, and Ms. Nadolny as well as representatives of the Bureau of Hepatitis Health Care (NYSDOH AIDS Institute). A full day program for physicians and other providers will be held on April 4, 2020.