2020 Membership Retention Campaign

David Jakubowicz, MD Membership Commissioner

Dues Crisis

In late May, MSSNY leadership asked for the help of the Membership Committee and its leaders in organizing the first-ever Membership Retention Phone Drive. None of the traditional dues notices had been sent to unpaid members during the three months at the height of the pandemic.

Data was shared with county medical society executives and presidents, who were asked to have their leaders make phone calls to members who had not paid 2020 dues. One important benefit of the initiative was a recognition of the need to update contact information on all members. MSSNY has since begun including notices in eNews reminding members to update their data online so that they can be reached with important news and communications. This has proven very helpful.

At the end of May 2020, MSSNY records showed a year-to-date loss of 673 physician members relative to the same time in 2019. Through the efforts of many individuals statewide, by the end of August membership counts showed a year to date **gain** of 145 physician members.

Still, even with a relative gain in numbers, MSSNY dues income has dropped significantly this year, showing a loss of more than \$300,000 at the end of August compared to collections in 2019.

Acknowledging the severe impact of COVID-19 on some physicians' income, the Council approved a plan whereby members in financial difficulty would be offered late installment payment options for 2020, and could request a 50% reduction in their 2020 dues if they were still unable to pay. It was agreed that those who requested the dues reduction should be required to sign up for enrollment in the 10-installment plan for paying 2021 dues.

Concerns about allowing late dues payers to pay at a reduced rate creating anger among other members may have been overly pessimistic. To date, only three physician members statewide have asked for the 50% reduction. Still, questions were raised about the possibility that other members might need special dues consideration for 2021, and it was agreed that the Membership Committee would explore issues surrounding dues discounts after focusing on the 2020 retention crisis.

Special communications to unpaid members in the months of June through August offering the opportunity to pay in four or five installments resulted in installment signups from another 21 members.

Percent Unpaid

- At the end of May this year, 22% of members remained unpaid, vs. 17% at the end of May in 2019.
- By the end of August 2020, 19% of members remained unpaid. Last year 15% of members were unpaid at the end of August.

The attached report from the Department of Information Services shows the number of members billed, paid and unpaid in each county, as of the end of August this year and last.

Membership Totals

Membership totals at the end of August for the past three years are as follows:

Total members 2020	Total members 2019	Total members 2018
20,815	20,771	16,144

Groups and Institutions

MSSNY dues income from groups and institutions is down from this time last year by \$49,000.

Additional installments may still be forthcoming from some groups and institutions, but two groups that were hard hit by the pandemic appear unlikely to renew for 2020. Together they totaled over 500 members and accounted for \$93,000 in MSSNY dues for 2020. Several other groups have reduced their numbers and amounts paid this year.

The losses have been offset to a degree as some existing groups or institutions have increased their membership numbers, and two new groups, the Coalition of Asian IPAs and NY Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists have been added. They represent nearly 700 members, and MSSNY income from the two groups totals \$48,000, with another \$36,000 due in September.

Counts by County August 31, 2020

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2019	2020	<u>2019</u>	2020	<u>2019</u>	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	
OTHER	OTHER	UNPAID	UNPAID	% PAID	% PAID	PAID	PAID	BILLED	BILLED	COUNTY

MEMBERSHIP	Y-T-D	Y-T-D	Y-T-D	Y-T-D	**** TOTAL	**** T(**** T(L **** TOTAL	L **** TOTAL
COUNTS / AMICUNI	2020	2019	GAIN	LOSS	2019	2018	2017	7 2016	
PHYSICIANS	14,347	14,202	145		14,267	9,665	10,120	10,957	7
RESIDENTS	484	556		-72	557	488	337	7 394	42
STUDENTS	2,125	1,882	243		1,882	1,848	1,893	3 2,471	
DUES EXEMPT	3,859	4,131		-272	3,976	4,143	4,173	3 4,354	+
TOTAL MSSNY **	20,815	20,771	44		20,682	16,144	16,523	18,176	
TOTAL AMA **	236	410		-174	410	541	420	414	_
				DUES INCOME		***		Total Counts & Amounts for	2015 Thru 2019
							includes Late	Paids Collected: 10\1 Thru 12\31	1: 10\1 Th
	Y-T-D	Y-T-D	Y-T-D	Y-T-D	**** TOTAL	**** TOTAL	**** TOTAL	**** TOTAL	**** TOTAI
	2020	2019	GAIN	LOSS	2019	2018			
TOTAL MSSNY	\$ 2,564,987.00	\$ 2,871,103.42		\$ (306,116.42)	\$ 2,975,363.93	\$ 3,271,928.85	\$ 3,484,373.15	\$ 3,743,663.59	\$ 3,965,016.10
TOTAL AMA	\$ 15,422.00	\$ 27,060.00		\$ (11,638.00)	\$ 27,060.00	\$ 35,918.00	\$ 27,376.00	\$ 27,398.00	\$ 28,248.00
PAC	Y-T-D	Y-T-D	Y-T-D	Y-T-D	**** TOTAI	**** TOTAL	****	**** TOTA	* * * *
COUNTS / AMOUNTS	2020	2019	GAIN	LOSS	2019	2018	2017	2016	
TOTAL MSSNYPAC	463	688		(225)	701	752	880	1,112	
				DUES INCOME					
TOTAL MSSNYPAC	\$ 148,224.83	\$ 250,600.09		\$ (102,375.26) \$	263,301.09	\$ 250,012.38	\$ 253.997.61	\$ 300 524 80	\$ 234 689 67