

**TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION OF LONG TERM CARE PHYSICIANS**  
**Supporting Quality Care for the Nation's Most Vulnerable Seniors**  
**JUNE 2011**

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Another year has passed and I personally am bewildered at the daily alphabet soup of our profession and the world - ACO, HMO, EMR, I-Pad, etc. Having started private practice in 1974, none of this was imaginable, at that time. Although the playing field has changed, our mission, to be caring physicians for our patients, remains the same. As geriatric physicians, our challenges, caring for the elderly, remains a daily task but certainly has its great rewards. We must continue to provide our best science evidenced care but must never relinquish or lose the art of our profession while providing this care. With cost containment, so ever present today, I feel pushed to big science but little art and am saddened to see this happen. As part of organized medicine, it is our duty to protect our profession while providing the best care for our patients. Join with me to continue our daily challenges to provide our patients with the best of care and maintain our local, state and national organizations. We must loudly maintain our voice in the great debate surrounding health care and remain the greatest advocates for our patients, the geriatric people of this great country. (As you may guess, I am of the age that I may soon join this group and become one of your patients and no longer a provider.)

Melvin L. Blevins, M.D., CMD, President TALTCP

**AMDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT**

Tennessee was well represented at AMDA 2010 in Long Beach, CA with 44 registrants. President Melvin L. Blevins, M.D. of Smithville arranged a chapter meeting in conjunction with W.VA and VA followed by our annual on site TALTCP business meeting (March 12, 2010). In addition to Dr. Blevins, Drs. Richard G. Lane, Joseph Taylor, George Hester, Stephan D'Amico, Anthony W. Efobi, and Walter D. Parkhurst were in attendance. The Treasurer's report covering 7/1/2009-1/31/2010 was accepted. A vote to support the AMDA Foundation with a \$500 contribution was made. A copy of the June 2009 newsletter was distributed. Dr Blevins was re-elected as President for 2010-2011 and Dr. James S. Powers was re-elected Secretary Treasurer. Dr. Lane continues to serve on the Executive Board as a past president.

The preliminary draft of the 2010 "Quality in Geriatrics and Long-Term Care Medicine Program for September 24, 2010 was approved. Drs. Blevins and Lane, as Tennessee Delegates, presented the slate of nominees for the national offices and the resolutions to be acted upon at the March 13, 2010 AMDA House of Delegates for discussion and input. Dr Blevins suggested he would like to host a meeting at his home in Smithville later in the year for a strategic planning session focused on revitalizing the Tennessee Chapter. Respectfully submitted, Richard G. Lane, M.D,

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Our balance stands at \$11,889. TALTCP/TGS membership has voted to donate \$500 to AMDA's Educational and Research Foundation to fund scholarships for fellows and residents to attend the Futures Educational Program in LTC Medical Direction. Please help support your organization by sending in your dues today.

Tennessee Association of Long Term Care Physicians  
2301 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37212-4939  
615-385-2100, FAX 615-383-5918, wilmac@tma.medwire.org

**TENNESSEE GERIATRICS SOCIETY**  
**Improving the Quality of Life and Medical Care to Older Tennesseans**  
**JUNE 2011**

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

The Tennessee Geriatrics Society is the second oldest state affiliate of the American Geriatrics Society and is represented on the Council of State Affiliates. We remain active in promoting geriatrics education and quality senior care in our state, working with other societies and organizations such as the VA, State of Tennessee, and educational institutions around the state. Tennessee now hosts four Geriatric Fellowship programs: UT Memphis, UT Chattanooga (Erlanger), UT Knoxville (Baptist), and Vanderbilt. We're proud of the steady progress made in advancing the field of Geriatrics in our state and look forward to continued growth in the years to come.

Jim Powers, M.D., CMD, President TGS

**AGS ANNUAL MEETING A SUCCESS**

Many TGS members attended the AGS Convention in Orlando in May for the newest updates in geriatrics, hear the latest research in the field, view the exhibits, and enjoy meeting with colleagues. T. Franklin Williams Scholars at Vanderbilt gave presentations, including Kiepp Talbot: Influenza in Elderly, and John Stafford: Insulin Resistance in Elderly.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Our balance stands at \$6,636. Please help support your organization by sending in your dues today.

**TGS MEMBERS IN THE NEWS**

Richard Lane received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Williamson Medical Center.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

The Senior Alert proposal was passed by the state legislature, lowering the age to qualify for a senior alert (similar to an Amber Alert) to be issued for disabled and memory impaired adults. The Long Term Care Act of 2008 now is implemented with over 7500 Middle Tennessee residents accessing Community Choices. The program will become state-wide in July, bringing TennCare in line with other states in providing approximately 20% community and 80% facility based long term care, with a goal of 30%/70% distribution. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) provides health insurance for the majority of uninsured Americans. It also has a multitude of provisions including: gradual elimination of the Medicare prescription coverage gap, re-balances Medicare to the same time line for solvency (through 2040) as Social Security, and stimulates new healthcare delivery models focused on patient safety and improved outcomes.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

- Fall Journal Club on Medical Ethics on September 15 in Nashville.
- "In the Trenches" break-out sessions and an evening dinner on September 23
- Annual Tennessee Geriatric Meeting on September 24 at the Vanderbilt Student Life Center. Planned themes will include transitions of care, consumer directed home and community based care, and Community Without Walls.
- A summer retreat on August 20 in Smithville by the Tennessee Geriatrics Society and Tennessee Association for Long Term Care, state affiliates of the American Geriatrics Society and American Medical Directors Association, at the home of Melvin Blevins, President TALTCP.

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