

This afternoon I have the honor of reporting to the CPS membership on the activities and achievements of the Society during the past year. Before I enumerate the Society's activities, let me first review the CPS mission and vision statements in order to use these as a framework for interpreting the Society's achievements:

**Mission:** Colorado Pharmacists Society is committed to improving public health by advancing and supporting the professional practice of pharmacy while serving as the voice of pharmacy in Colorado.

**Vision:** We envision that all pharmacists will be represented by Colorado Pharmacists Society and that CPS will be recognized as the premiere pharmacy organization in Colorado.

CPS will serve as a leader in advocating the role of the pharmacist as an essential provider of health care in Colorado.

With these statements in mind, allow me to review the activities of CPS over the past year. First, CPS has been extremely active in legislative affairs during the past twelve months. The greatest effort has been devoted to successful renewal of the Pharmacy Practice Act that was due to sunset this summer. CPS was a key participant in the Sunset Review Task Force and many members of CPS were important contributors to the success of that group. Important changes or additions to the Pharmacy Practice Act included changes in the definitions related to the administration of drugs as part of the practice of pharmacy; clarification of the definition and role of compounding in pharmacy practice; expansion of the definition of dispensing to go beyond the "pour, count, lick, and stick" concept; expansion of the definition of "practice of pharmacy" to include evaluation and implementation of orders; and a more clear definition of pharmacy technicians. The success of the Sunset Review Task Force is reflected by the fact that the bill passed in both the House and Senate by unanimous votes, and the task force itself functioned so well that the decision was made to continue the group to address other important issues including peer review and quality assurance, collaborative drug therapy management, technician:pharmacist and intern:pharmacist ratios, and a more consistent, organized participation of the pharmacy profession in the annual 9 News Health Fair. Members of CPS will continue to assume important leadership roles in the future activity of this group in addressing issues important to the profession of pharmacy in Colorado.

In further legislative activities, CPS sponsored and participated in Pharmacist Day at the Capitol and the Legislative Health Fair. The Legislative Committee of CPS, co-chaired by Tim Mead and Ron Kennedy, tracked nearly two dozen bills of concern to Colorado pharmacists and either actively supported or, when appropriate, actively participated in defeating a number of these. And finally, members of CPS continued to take an active role in the functions of the Colorado State Board of Pharmacy. Jerry Young continues to serve on the Board and Randy Knutsen was appointed to the Board after the passing of Ken Smith. Randy will certainly do an outstanding job as a member of the State Board while also doing duty as a member of the Board of Directors. In the realm of legislative and regulatory affairs, CPS has clearly fulfilled a central leadership role and has lived up to its mission of supporting the practice of pharmacy while also gaining further recognition as one of, if not *the*, premier professional pharmacy organizations in Colorado.

CPS has actively participated in the activities of our parent national pharmacy organizations, APhA and ASHP. Mary Newell and Susan Downard represented Colorado pharmacists in the House of Delegates at the APhA Annual Convention, while Paul Limberis and Larry Clark served as delegates at the ASHP Annual Meeting. These activities help assure that CPS is also effectively represented at the national level just as at the local level.

CPS again provided a record number of educational programs to benefit Colorado pharmacists. These programs included two annual meetings, the CE & Ski meeting in January, a full-day CE symposium in conjunction with the School of Pharmacy, and frequent evening dinner CE programs. These programs offered approximately 50 hours of continuing education credit and included programs and sessions dedicated to the continuing education of technicians as well as pharmacists. Attendance at all of these programs remains consistently excellent; approximately 130 pharmacists and technicians attending the Second Annual Convention last fall and the attendance at this summer meeting has also been gratifying.

Society membership has held steady and CPS now numbers nearly 600 members. However, future growth and success of the Society depends on adding to the membership. One of the challenges that continue to confront CPS is increasing the number of members while at the same time striving to meet the professional needs of an existing membership composed of a very diverse group of individuals in a multitude of different practice settings.

Financially, CPS has again had a good year and the Society again begins a new year on a firm financial footing. The Society was able to maintain and slightly increase its assets while taking measures to reduce the Society's liabilities such as credit card debt. The Society obviously owes a great deal of thanks to the pharmaceutical companies and other sponsors who so generously supported CPS and made our many activities possible. Although CPS is doing well financially, the current economic climate obviously dictates that we need to continue to work to maintain the Society's financial viability.

The new web site is functioning well and has been well received by the membership. Thanks are again due to Daina Kalnins for her continued efforts with this project.

The Academy of Pharmacy Technicians has been formally organized with bylaws and elected officers. This has been achieved thanks to the efforts of Millie Webb, Sandra Alleckson, and other actively involved individuals. The Society recognizes the important contributions of our technician members and remains dedicated to meeting the educational and organizational needs of this group.

The Society has actively encouraged student involvement in professional issues through their participation in student chapters and activities. Dr. Robert Page has served as advisor to the student chapter of ASHP and as liaison to the CPS Board of Directors, and his energy and efforts have helped facilitate the professional interests and activities of the students. Students continue to represent a rich source of future professional membership and leadership in CPS. Efforts to educate these students regarding potential benefits of Society membership must be continued if we are to gain access to their tremendous future potential.

During the past year CPS has obviously taken great strides toward fulfilling the mission and vision of the Society. However, there are certainly challenges that remain to be met. Some of these have already been mentioned such as increasing the membership, working to maintain financial stability, tapping into the tremendous energy of the students, and keeping up with important legislative and regulatory issues. Improving public relations and the visible role of CPS remain important challenges, as does increasing the number of members assuming active leadership roles within the Society. The future leadership of CPS will continue to be challenged in these and other areas.

Finally, we need to recognize that the current success of this organization is owed to the tremendous contributions of Val Kalnins as the Executive Director, the fine service of the Board of Directors and committee chairs and members, and the great support of the Society's membership as a whole. Thanks should again go to the generous financial sponsors of CPS as well. The many activities and successes that I previously enumerated would obviously not have been possible were the organization not blessed with a number of dedicated, talented individuals who are also willing to serve. I want to give a sincere thanks to everyone who supported me during my year as President and made my job easier while helping to make the year so successful. I wish the Society much success in the coming year and look forward to the continuing development of CPS as the premier professional pharmacy organization in Colorado.