

2005 President Ron Kennedy's Inaugural Address

I am honored to accept the position of President of the Colorado Pharmacists Society. Congratulations to the new members of the Board of Directors. I look forward to serving with each of you as well as with the returning Board members and Val and Daina Kalnins. Thank you to President Jim Stephens for his leadership and dedication during the past year. In mid May, I attended a 2-day Leadership Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, presented specifically for the President elects of the state associations. This meeting was attended by 34 states. I found it to be very informative and motivating as common issues of concern were identified and discussed. Each President elect was to provide 2 successes or best practices from their state. I decided to present the CPC (Colorado Pharmacy Coalition) and the role this coalition has played both in the success of the Pharmacy Sunset Review in the legislature and also the progress by the Board of Pharmacy in developing rules regarding Collaborative Drug Therapy Management. The second item I presented was the annual CPS CE and Ski program. This event has been a great success for CPS and is held at the Silvertree Hotel in Aspen at Snowmass. Park your car and forget it! Ski out to great powder skiing and ski in for excellent CE. If you are not a skier, then just be a snow bunny. There is so much to do with fine dining, shopping and fun activities at this first class resort hotel and village located right on the mountain. This is a January tradition for CPS. I would encourage each of you to attend- you will want to go back!

This Summer Meeting attendance is up significantly. Thank you for your attendance and your participation. If you were part of the golf on Thursday morning, then you saw elk sitting by the first hole. This was only part of the spectacular scenery on a beautiful golf course. I invite you to join us for golf next year- do not worry about your ability. We played for fun.

Our opening CE was Medicare part D. This topic is and will continue to be huge for pharmacy. Do you recognize the following-MMA, MTMS, part A, part B, part D, PDP, MAPD, NPI, TROOP, OON, LTC provider, wrap around, dual eligible? If you attended this CE program, you have the most current information about these terms and acronyms and know Medicare Part D will be effective January 1, 2006. Are you ready? Under Part D, Pharmacists are going to have the opportunity to get paid for cognitive services. Pharmacists will use their clinical expertise, be recognized as the drug expert, work with complex disease states and polypharmacy patients and get paid! Studies continue to show the positive impact of drug therapy but also the costly impact of medication related problems. Studies also show the major positive impact of Pharmacist intervention in medication therapy and the resulting savings to the health care system. Right now, the Medicare Part D program is confusing in many ways, but pharmacy needs to step up to help the Medicare recipients understand this benefit.

Medicare is just one of many challenges pharmacy is facing. In CPS, the challenging issues continue to be membership and budget. I learned at the 2 day Leadership Training

Meeting that we are not alone in dealing with these issues; many of the other states priority issues are also membership and budget. Part of my personal agenda will be to continue to make CPS very visible to the School of Pharmacy, both to the professors and students.

The issues CPS considers today, especially with the legislators and regulators, have tremendous impact on the ever changing practice of pharmacy. As Yogi Berra would say to the students- their future is ahead of them. The future is also now.

I want to thank each member of CPS for their support of the profession through their membership. You show you care about your profession. You recognize the value CPS returns to you as a Colorado Pharmacist or pharmacy technician. It is said that you get out of an activity what you put into it. I invite you to get more involved with CPS; help our membership grow, invite a Pharmacist friend or co-worker to join, become a more active member, participate with an academy, join a committee. PFP! Have a Passion for Pharmacy! Don't wait for the recruiting phone call, contact me, contact Val, contact a board of director member. We will welcome your participation.

PFP. Passion for Pharmacy. What is your passion? How do you express it? Bring it to your state society, share it with your peers!

Thank You.