

# NAMME

Update Date  
4/23/07

## Message from the President

NAMME members,

Planning for the NAMME 32<sup>ND</sup> Annual Conference is in full swing. The Co-Conference Chairs, Michelle Wells-Lockett, Marion McDowell and the local planning committee have been working diligently to make the conference a reality and success. To date, we have received commitments from several speakers with others forth-coming. Workshop and presenters have been selected with careful consideration to content and relevance to the NAMME membership and guest. Special attention is being given to provide social outlets that capture the flavor of the Philadelphia, PA community, its rich culture and unique features. The High School/College Development and Recruitment Fair should be outstanding with an anticipation of three hundred plus students from the near and surrounding Philadelphia, PA community. The anchor for the K-12 initiative will be established elementary-8<sup>th</sup> grade networks. Everyone is encouraged to make their hotel reservations early. Once the special room block rates have been exhausted, members will no longer have access to the negotiated room rates. Room charges will be at a higher rate and worse case scenario, members will be forced to lodge at another hotel. So take a few minutes and secure your reservations.

For the past two months, members of the NAMME Executive board have worked hand and hand with Point Click and Show to develop the new NAMME national web-site. A very positive and unique feature in this process has been the luxury of electronic communications (the internet), and the ability to literally monitor the web-site as it evolves. Corey Stanford, President & CEO of Point Click and Show, and his staff have been truly professional in rendering ideas, responding to questions, and making requested modifications. I am convinced that the NAMME membership will concur with my sentiments. Key elements of the old site have been transferred, coupled with the expansion of new features to accommodate our growth and future vision i.e. Pay-Pal, Legislative Updates, Regional web-sites, Membership, Annual Conference, Student Segment, News, Media Gallery, Careers and many more. The development of a new-site, symbolizes a new beginning. As such, let us be diligent with our contributions and management of these sites to better bridge communications between the membership and our student constituents.

A collaboration agreement between the National Association of Medical Minority Educators, Inc. (NAMME) and Genesis E-Learning Systems (GELS) was signed and put into effect on March 1, 2007. Consistent with this agreement, NAMME is charged with the identification of one individual from each of the respective regions to serve on the GELS Advisory Board. I have instructed the regional directors to identify an individual to serve in this capacity. Contact information for said individuals should be forwarded to me no later than April 30, 2007. A detailed copy of the collaboration agreement can be obtained from the regional directors; or if you prefer, contact Carolyn Booker or John Cottrell for a copy. We are grateful to Dr. James Flowers for entrusting NAMME with this innovative concept, which mutually, benefits both parties. Moreover, it provides encouragement that through our collective efforts, greater numbers of underrepresented and underserved students will improve their testing ability to the extent of medical school admission. I am aware that the collaboration agreement borders uncharted waters for NAMME. However, this and other endeavors may well be the impetus for new strategies that promote NAMME's sustainability and effectiveness.

During the course of the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual NAMME Conference, the membership expressed a desire for the development of a strategic plan. At present, arrangements are being made by Lisa Greenhill, Legislative Affairs, and Wilma-Sykes Brown, President-Elect, to have a strategic planning meeting. Representatives from the four regions have been identified. In addition to Wilma and Lisa, Bob Lee, Southern Region; Bertha Dominguez, Western Region and Deborah Harmon-Hines, Northeast Region, will serve of the Strategic Planning Committee. They are scheduled to meet at the Hilton Garden, May 23-24, 2007 in Chicago, IL. The meeting will be conducted at a hotel in close proximity to the airport for easy access and departure.

We have all heard the alarming news of the Virginia Tech tragedy and the lost of innocent lives. On behalf of the entire NAMME membership our thoughts and prayers go out to the students, parents and community impacted by this horrific incident. We extend our prayers to all the victims, hope for swift healing, and development of strategies to safeguard future occurrences of this nature.

I am certain that the Don Imas ordeal has registered on your radar and you as well as all good will people are appalled at the remarks that were undeservedly hurled and assigned to the women athlete and premiere college students. We are acutely and emphatically aware that different is not synonymous with inferior nor does the breath of the young ladies talents and abilities reside in a singular arena, to the contrary women of color and in general are multi-talented and continue to ascend to higher heights.

Remember that we will have elections in September. It's time for you to start thinking about your nominations or holding an office. Nomination materials should be distributed in the near future. Let's make it a goal to have a full slate of nominations for the respective offices.

Remember that Bertha A. Dominguez has been appointed Chair of NAMME's Latino Ad-Hoc Committee. Justification for this position was established at the 2006 NAMME National Conference, after concerns were expressed by NAMME Latino members and acknowledged by others that the presence and involvement of Latino's at the National and regional level has not been acceptable. The NAMME membership concurred and expressed that we needed to practice our goal of inclusiveness. To this end, Bertha and her committee of volunteers will discuss strategies for making this goal a reality. Although Latinos are the primary target group of concentration, this effort will be extended to include other racial/ethnic groups. The committee should be convening soon as we anxiously await the unfolding of their plans.

In short time, regional Communications Chairs will be contacted by John Patterson, National Communications Chair. John will coordinate arrangements for the respective communications chairs to have a conversation, via conference call with Corey Stanford, President/CEO of Point Click and Show. The focus of this meeting will be to instruct the chairs on the mechanics of managing the regional web-sites. Please make every effort to participate in these conversations and training. In the event a regional communications chair is unavailable, a regional representative must be present in his/her absence. The essence of an effective web-site is predicated on on-going management, timely updates and content that reflects the sum of the regions membership, health disciplines and collective programming. Don't waste this opportunity to "toot your own horn."

The Membership Chair, Aileen Harris, has done a nice job on formulating guidelines and incentives for the NAMME Membership Ambassador Program. The goal and program guidelines are nicely communicated in a flyer that has been distributed across regions. Please take an active role in inviting some one to become a member, and take advantage of being rewarded for your efforts.

I hope to see you all at the NAMME National Conference in Philadelphia, PA. The dates are September 19-24, 2007.

Respectfully,

*John L. Cottrell*

John L. Cottrell  
National Association of Medical Minority Educators, Inc.  
President