

President's Update

Update Date

Message from the President

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I hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and that all is well with your respective families. January 1, 2006 we ushered in a new year and a new beginning. Many of us have made resolutions and plans to make major changes in our lives. Others may have resolved not to formalize the commitment, but simply do better. Whatever your convictions, I am convinced that none of us desire to remain stagnate. We must continue to strive for the better of ourselves, families and communities. In many respects, family and community are synonymous with NAMME. Both are intertwined. Like real family, we've had ups and downs, joy, and pain. Despite the circumstance, we've been resilient and have persevered. I am challenging everyone to revisit your commitment to NAMME, our plight and overall goals and objectives. In retrospect, assess your contributions and involvement in advancing the organization. Did you measure up to your abilities, skills and talents? Can we each unequivocally state that we have given our best? NAMME members remain the best of the best. To whom much is given much is required. I look forward to everyone renewing their commitment to NAMME and demonstrating same in action and deed.

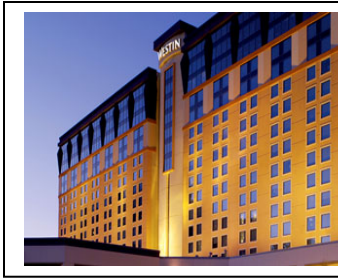
Finally, we are all saddened by the passing of Mark Clancy, Director of Admissions at MUU/CCOM. Mark was a member of the Central Region. Our prayers go out to Mark's immediate and extended family. We will all miss him dearly. A special thanks to all who were available for Clancy's home going.

Respectfully,

John L. Cottrell

President
National Association of Medical Minority Educators, Inc.

Conference Site



A hotel site for the 2006 Las Vegas conference has been identified. The name of the hotel is the Westin Casuarina Hotel & Spa, which is just off the "Strip". Thanks to Barbra Horrell and her strong negotiating skills. If you care to view the facilities, its web-site address is www.westin.com/lasvegas.

I am confident that you will be pleased with the property and that it meets/ exceeds your expectations. The conference will be held September 20-24, 2006. You will notice that this is an abbreviated format to respect your time; and yet, provide a conference of substance.

Conference planning committee

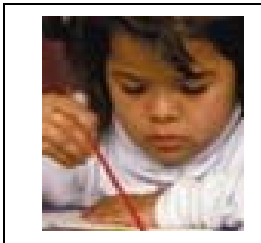


As you may or may not be aware, we do not have a Western Region member who resides in Las Vegas, NV. There is, however, a former member of NAMME in the person of Dr. James Flowers and his associate, Janice Moreland, with MFM Medical Enterprises who have both graciously consented to help with the planning of our national conference. Ms. Moreland has been an enormous resource. Thanks to Dr. Hattie Myles for recommending Dr. Flowers and thanks to Wilma Skyes-Brown for recruiting his associate, Ms. Moreland.

Appreciation is also extended to Charles Alexander, who has enlisted the support of additional capable organizations to assist with conference planning. Among these are Dr. Christine C. Ancaja, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Dental Medicine; Marshall Brownstein, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Dental Medicine, Dr. Linda Young, Clark and County School District Equity & Diversity Education; Dr. Marlene Zychowicz, Clark County, Nevada School District, Equity & Diversity Education, Nancy Alamo, President Hispanic Education Association, NV, Dr. Rene Cantu, Assistant Vice President for Student Service Nevada State College, Kyle Ethebah, UNLV Coordinator of Adult Education Native Americans, Charles J. Alexander, Ph.D, Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Admissions, John L. Cottrell, Director of Minority and Special Programs Dorothy C. Dobbins, Office of Cultural Affairs Division of Health Sciences, Wilma A. Sykes-Brown, Assistant Dean Educational Outreach & Partnerships and Terrance Brown, Assistant Dean Recruitment/Retention.

Wilma Sykes-Brown will coordinate the K-12 Initiative, Charles Alexander and a designee will serve as Conference Chairs and I will pursue external funds and assist Charles, Wilma and the conference committee with planning.

K-12 Initiative



Facilities are currently being sought for the college/high school development and recruitment activities that are external to the hotel/ casino. One of the local colleges is preferred. At present, discussions are being conducted with the University of Las Vegas and the prospects of the facilities attainment appear promising.

National Board Meeting

A National Board meeting was held December 9th and 10th in Atlanta, GA. The meeting focused on the customary agenda items. However, heavy emphasis was placed on the financial state of NAMME and creative measures for sustainability.

Summary of the topics are as follows:

Inclusiveness-All racial/ ethnic groups and health disciplines represented in NAMME

NAMME members are encouraged to take a proactive role in insuring that inclusiveness becomes the natural fiber of the organization. This includes but is not be limited to diversity composition of the national and regional boards, equitable racial/ethnic representation in the K-12 essay/poster contest participants and fair balance among the U.S. Savings bonds recipients and scholarship recipients.

The National web-site/regional linkages and web expansion

Efforts are underway to update the National Web-site. Ashay Communications, Inc., our existing web provider, has been contacted and is simply waiting on our updates. All of the Directors have been very receptive and timely with the submission of the list of their new regional board officers. If all goes well the updates should be realized within a few weeks. Several of the regions have their own web-sites. Please be reminded to up-date your sites. Ideally, with in a few weeks to coincide with the National updates so that when linking occurs both sites display current information.

National office/Virtual office

This concept, at present may be more feasible than a physical office. At NAMME'S current pace and the financial dilemmas that we face, we simply lack the means necessary to finance an office. That said, discussion centered on the prospects of a virtual office. The Pros are no rental cost, no utility expense; little/no staff expense and no travel expense. Conversely, the cons mentioned are that such an operation would lend itself to be impersonal, require on-going monitoring, and time and problematic response time.

Communications

The board agreed that communications has and continues to be an area of concern. The effective usage of the web-site is expected to provide a partial solution to the problem.

Coalitions with other organizations.



At present a list is being developed of organizations with similar missions and interest as NAMME. The primary goal is to discern collaborative efforts that may be achieve collectively. Through such partnerships NAMME would be able to maximize limited funds, increase its visibility cost effectively and moreover reach a broader number of our constituents ("the students'). Coalitions may be the trend of the future and the life blood for the continued existence for organizations like ours.

Organizational consideration would constitute NAMME asking the following questions:

Virtual Recruitment

- ❖ Who are other likely organizations?
- ❖ What makes them a good match for NAMME
- ❖ What are the benefits of collaboration?
- ❖ What do we have to bring to the table?
- ❖ What can we offer other organizations?
- ❖ What are the anticipated outcomes?

The concept of virtual recruitment was offered as a possible option for increasing NAMME's visibility and reduction of cost commonly associated with recruitment i.e. registration fees, room and board, and travel. The proposal was introduced as a compliment to on site recruitment. This would give students pre-exposure to the actual recruitment activity.

Components of the virtual recruitment could consist of photographs, chat rooms, access to institutional web-sites, and virtual participation. The career fair would be promoted through newspapers, radio, colleges, churches, social organizations, fraternities and sororities.

Katrina Victims

Several of our members were affected adversely by Hurricane Katrina. Per the board's decision, these individuals were identified and monies were dispersed in accordance with their damage and financial need.

External Funding

External funding was viewed in two respects, national and regional. From the national perspective, external funds are required to support our annual conference. Our current and past practice of seeking funds on a yearly basis does not allow ample time to meet proposal deadlines. Funding decisions have either already passed or may not be declared until weeks or months after our conference. Hence, planning and funding prospects should be sought a couple years in advance. This practice will need to be the mindset of the organization if we are to maximize our conference success.

Quarterly Report Summaries

<u>President</u>	<u>Vice –President</u>	<u>Immediate Past-President</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>
<p>The president has devoted his time towards communications with the conference planning committee, identification of external funds, obtaining officer updates for the National web-site, supporting health organizations to address proposed cuts in title VII and VIII programs, contract review, assessing the financial state of NAMME and exploring means to maintain and advance NAMME.</p>	<p>The President Elect Has been busy reviewing by-laws and procedures manual, review of the web-site contract with Ashay Communications, Participation in conference call with national chair, preparation of save-the date flyer, discussions regarding accounts and status, review of the 2006 hotel contract, k-12 development, and conference planning</p>	<p>The immediate Past-President has been working diligently to identify and formulate justifications for collaboration with NAMME. Additionally, he is assisting in the identification of external funds to support the national conference.</p>	<p>The treasure continues to perform his duty and taking care of the expenses on the NAMME organization. He and the Budget and Finance Chair maintain on-going contact with Michael Ellison for consultation on financial procedures. The treasures, with the assistance of Michael Ellison are exploring bonding and insurance for the board.</p>
<u>Budget and Finance</u>	<u>Conference Planner</u>	<u>Membership</u>	<u>Communication</u>
<p>The Budget and Finance Chair continues to work closely with the treasurer and Michael Ellison. She continues to oversee the fiscal affairs of the organization. She is exploring new ideas for additional sources of revenue and is involved with the planning committee for the 2006 National NAMME Conference.</p>	<p>The Conference Planner provided an assessment of the 2005 conference and recommendations for improving the 2006 conference. Key factors were meeting cut-off dates for housing and food, early save the date card before regional conference in spring and timely programs. Finally, the 2006 contract is being amended in accordance with concerns /recommendations expressed by the board.</p>	<p>The membership Chair, Is focusing on membership expansion and retention; development of recruitment strategies for the regions; targeted email campaign with health profession associations/institutions and student associations; development of promotional talking points on NAMME's success. and introduction of a recruitment incentive program.</p>	<p>The communications chair is working on updating the national website, Consideration is being given for a new web-site vendor to include new website design, web hosting and the incorporation of Pay Pal for conference registration and membership dues intake. Additionally, proposed was that NAMME reserve new domain names for national and regional websites.</p>
<u>Southern Region</u>	<u>Central Region</u>	<u>Northeast Region</u>	<u>Western Region</u>
<p>The Southern Region's Spring conference will be held in Augusta, GA., The dates are March 23-26, 2006. The theme is "Closing the Diversity Gap Through Collaborations and Partnerships". The conference will be spearheaded by Wilma Skye-Brown and Linda James. They will be supported by their medical and dental schools. Student development aspects of the conference will have a research component. The Southern region continues to employ new strategies to increase its members.</p>	<p>The Central Region Executive Board participated in a Board Training, on November 11 and 12, 2005. They focused on officer's roles and responsibilities, fiscal matters and conference planning. The Central Region will host its Regional Conference at the Westin Hotel from April 26-29 in Columbus Ohio? They are currently developing plans for a membership drive and investigation of cost for the Central Region website development. A total of 6 students received \$500 scholarships. The Central Region is in compliance.</p>	<p>The Northeast Region Board met, NOV 3, 2005 in Washington, D.C. during the National AAMC meeting. The NE Board is working to find a site for the spring meeting, most likely near the Newark Airport. The tentative dates are April 20-23, 2006. The NE has employed a cost effective means of meeting. This is realized through monthly conference calls. Board members who miss the call may call in for up to 30 days to listen to a recording of the web site. Plans are underway to create a NE website.</p>	<p>The western region is conducting a membership drive to recruit new members. The region is offering a one time membership fee of \$50 as an enticement. The region is in fiscal compliance. The western region continues to focus on increasing membership and with filling vacant positions. Membership turnover and vacancies due to job changes and resignations. The membership drive will continue until January 1, 2006</p>



Legislative UPDATE:

On the legislative front, NAMME has made its presence known by signing on to a petition spear-headed by the Health Professions Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) and other concerned organizations. This letter was forwarded to senators/representative urging them to retain the Senate-approved appropriations of \$454.4 million for the Title VII and VIII Health professions programs for FY 2006

To further keep NAMME actively engaged in the legislative process, I have asked Lisa Green Hill to represent NAMME during at the HPEC meetings, secure legislative up dates and share same with the NAMME membership. Erica Froyd, Senior Legislative Analyst with the Association of American Medical Colleges has also agreed to place me on her mailing list for legislative updates. Naturally, we can count on Lily May Johnson, Association of American Medical Colleges, as well as our friend Myla Moss, American Dental Education Association to provide us informational updates.

Kudos

I would like to applaud our out-going treasurer, Michael Ellison for his outstanding working and contributions to NAMME over these past few years.

My hat is off to Michael Ellison, Terrance Brown and Dorothy Dobbins for meeting to review, discard, orient and archive financial records.

Thanks to all of you who sent words of condolence to Barbra Horrell and family. Barbra's mother had a good home going.