

**Colorado Pharmacists Society**  
**State of the Society**  
**Immediate Past President – Benita Bock**  
**June 28, 2009**

We thank the exhibitors and sponsors of this meeting for their time and financial support. We are very grateful to Pharmacists Mutual and PTCB for their continued support to our general budget. We are appreciative of our collaborative efforts with the CU school of pharmacy, and appreciative of use of a room for our board meetings. We are looking forward to working with the new school of pharmacy at Regis. We cannot over emphasize the importance of the role Mary Newell has played in building our membership. Mary Johnson continues to find continuing education for us in the face of economic adversity.

The state of the society is critical. The bulk of our income comes from three sources: membership, corporate support, and continuing education offerings. Our capital reserves are dwindling, as several of our revenue streams have dried up due to federal regulation. Several of our revenue streams have become less productive with the tightening of the economy. This is why membership revenue is more important than ever. So we are looking for ways to insure our members renew and encourage potential members to join CPS. Of course, we are also looking for new appropriate revenue streams. If you have any ideas please let Val or a Board member know.

This year our board developed a governance policy manual and a procedure statement for our committees. I won't go in to detail since infrastructure is boring, but necessary.

We offered continuing education, sponsored educational dinner seminars, participated in the 9 Health Fairs, provided pharmacists for quarterly Pharmacist Line Nine events, held our annual Summer Meeting, and the CE and Ski in January. Our website at [copharm.org](http://copharm.org) offers information about our activities, a job opportunity site and features the E-Capsulette; a newsletter full of information pertinent to Colorado pharmacists. Each E-Capsulette now includes an article by a board member about an issue important to their practice type. It also includes links to other sites relevant to Colorado pharmacists, and provides legislative tracking of bills important to pharmacy.

This year we were fortunate that the financial climate limited the number of legislative bills we had to deal with, as they all had financial statements attached to them. We are still plagued with the Medicaid shortfalls every state is seeing. Medicaid is going to cut our reimbursements. The debate is over how much, and over what time frame. Has any other group of providers become so efficient that they contract for less reimbursement now than they did in 1981 when I moved to Colorado?

CPS is the only pharmacy organization in our state that represents all the practice

sites, as well as students and technicians. Val has done an outstanding job of making sure we have a seat at the table through the Colorado Pharmacy Coalition. The Colorado Pharmacy Coalition is a group formed of the various voices in pharmacy who meet to find consensus in pharmacy law issues so that we may present a united voice to the Colorado legislature where possible. The formation of this group has allowed pharmacy as a whole to avoid some very onerous propositions by legislators. He has also been active in alerting us to some of the issues the State Board of Pharmacy is wrestling with, in order that our members may help solve issues by drafting proposals and reviewing others.

As a college freshman I purchased a poster that read, "Take life as it happens, just try to make sure it happens the way you want to take it." How do you want to take your professional life? Often when the things are going well it is easy to be apathetic, and then when they aren't going so well we are scrambling to fix them to the old status. Change is the only constant in our lives, things aren't going to go back to what we are comfortable with. With change comes new challenges and new opportunities. That is what Sunset review is all about. It keeps our ganglia growing so we don't develop Alzheimer's. We need to problem solve for our mental health. This review of our pharmacy practice law gives us some great opportunities to envision our own professional future and to make the wording in our pharmacy law allow for it. This next year is critical in our planning, so that we can get all the voices of pharmacy on board, before someone else plans our future for us. This is why you can now link to Colorado pharmacy law from our web site at [copharm.org](http://copharm.org). We need to actually read the law we must practice by, so that we can enable it to carry our professional aspirations to 2021.

I encourage you to thoughtfully consider and fill out the questionnaire you were given to help next year's board and legislative committee implement your ideas. We need to be proactive to create a future for Colorado pharmacy that we envision. Take advantage of the opportunities provided by the Sunset Review process to help your practice type grow to meet the needs of 2021, our next real opportunity for change. The State Board of Pharmacy is reactive by it's mandate. It's job is to regulate the pharmacy law. It's our job to promote and protect our profession.

I reiterate the state of our society and our profession is critical. It is up to us to promote and protect our profession. We certainly have enough issues to consider- Quality assurance protection from discovery, medication therapy management implementation, technician registration or licensure, pharmacist/technician ratios, drug destruction, drug take back policies, implementation of technology concerning controlled substances, mail order and internet pharmacy, and reimbursement for cognitive services are but a few. Some issues will be decided at a national level, but remember that all politics are local. Get involved it's your profession and your livelihood and you will surely live with the consequences of apathy on your part. Take life as it happens, but try to make it happen the way you want to take it.