

Presidential Speech

Thank you all so much for being here tonight. Thank you for supporting our award nominees and recipients, and for supporting the Colorado Pharmacists Society. We have had a challenging few years but all that we have accomplished combined with the current momentum and enthusiasm are thrilling.

I also want to emphasize how thankful I am to those who have worked tirelessly to keep this Society running and functioning... as well as enjoyable. Kristi Mihok, Rebecca Moote, Kim Swanson, who all stepped up to help lead the society through some rough waters, as well as the entire BOD. Each of our Academies and our Committees have also stepped up, and I'd like to give a specific shout out to all that the CE committee has taken on and accomplished, with the amazing payoff at this Annual meeting, where attendance is up 20%!

And of course, I want to thank the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations, or NASPA. Their guidance in helping us with our backend functions, as well as becoming a nonprofit and rewriting our bylaws is all in addition to the invaluable mentorship that Becky Snead has provided our BOD, particularly our Executive Committee. I am infinitely grateful for her guidance and her friendship.

Besides being so thankful to all our leaders and volunteers, I wanted to share with you all some of what makes me feel so fortunate to be a part of CPS. As you are all likely avid readers of your CPS newsletters, you have likely seen some of our "member spotlights". I love reading these to learn about our members, but also to see the various responses to the question: *What is your favorite thing about being a CPS member.* I wanted to share a few that really resonated with me:

Theme #1: collaboration and networking:

One person summarized enjoying that she could establish "a network of peers across multiple healthcare systems. After joining the CE committee these relationships developed into collaborations and friendships. Often times our career networks consist only of people we work with or those with similar skill sets. I love knowing I can reach out to folks at Kaiser, Regis, King Soopers, and Safeway, just to name a few."

Another stated that being a CPS member enables interactions with, “the talented pharmacists that are CPS members. Colorado pharmacists add so much to the profession nationwide, and I feel lucky to get to live and practice here.”

“my favorite thing about being a CPS member is the ability to connect with the whole CPS membership ranging from pharmacy students to pharmacy technicians and the numerous pharmacists across the state. In addition, I have enjoyed being able to inform others at the national level about the amazing things CPS and our membership is doing within the state of Colorado, whether it be related to clinical practice or policy-making.

Theme #2: Affecting change in Colorado:

“my favorite thing about being a CPS member is having the opportunity to impact pharmacy practice within Colorado. CPS participation has opened the doors for the advancement of pharmacy practice within Colorado, allowed me the opportunity to share unique areas of pharmacy practice, and has created a network of peers that I can work closely with to reach my professional goals.”

“Professional advocacy is currently my passion area within CPS and pharmacy. I believe every pharmacist in Colorado should be a member of CPS and get involved to take an active role in advancing our professional future.”

“I am very excited for upcoming pharmacy practice changes in Colorado pursuant to Senate Bill 16-135 including creation of statewide protocols and opportunities for pharmacists to participate in collaborative practice agreements.”

And as a nice summation:

“I love being involved in CPS because it allows me to learn and grow professionally and understand how we can truly inspire change in our profession. The organization is made up of a diverse group of passionate providers and together we effectively drive change in the state.”

These all resonate with me – we ARE a diverse group from all parts of pharmacy and it is my interactions with each of you that make me love being a part of CPS. From working to grow membership or at the capital on legislation, learning the different perspectives from Academia, Retail, Compounding, and Hospital pharmacists as well as students and technicians, helps ME grow as a practitioner.

I have been so excited to feel the energy that has been building over the past few years. I know everyone here has been a part of that atmosphere and, again, I thank you all. We are growing and I appreciate everyone who has spoken up to provide us feedback on how we can do things different during this growth... to make us better –we need this critique from our members to make us the best.

What do I want to see happen this year?

1. Continue to grow membership, with a focus on what we can offer our colleagues outside the Denver/Boulder/I-25 corridor. We started that this year with our first “Regional Meeting” that was held in May at the Marriott in Colorado Springs. We had a great turnout and were excited by the discussion, particularly around technician regulation. I am thrilled with our 15% increase in dues revenue over the past year and want to keep this going with a goal to increase to a 20% increase in 2017-2018.
2. Moving forward with a local association management company to further relieve the stress of our volunteers. We are hopeful that the AMC will help us with our digital and social media presence, to further grow membership by identifying those we are not currently reaching.
3. Focused work on the Society’s Mission and Vision to guide our strategic planning as we look to the future.

My challenge to you?

1. Send me your ideas of what we can offer the membership that you would find valuable. Examples? Dinners, special interest groups, a PRN. Maybe just reach out to let us know something isn’t working on the website. Even if it takes us a few years to get something going, we can start the work now.
2. Continue to help us grow. Go out there and recruit. I, like Kim did a year ago, will challenge my BOD to recruit 2 members/month. I will also ask the same of you: at least to go out there and talk about the new exciting opportunities for involvement and what more we can develop. If you don’t want to do it for me, then do it for the amazing discounts you can accumulate with our new “member recruitment” discount. If you recruit someone and they indicate that when they sign up, you save on future CPS events!
3. Finally, get involved! Become a part of our committees and Academies.

I'll leave you with this: I love it that we have a society that encompasses all aspects of pharmacy. This is not the way all same for all state societies, but I feel it is what makes CPS so diverse and exciting. Working together is fun and invigorating. We thrive when we work together, respect each other, and learn from each other. Thank you.