

2008 Annual Summer Meeting
Benita Rumold – President's Inaugural Address

Thank you for this opportunity to serve the pharmacists of Colorado. The CPS board is full of bright creative individuals with a wide range of professional experience, who care for both the public health and the profession we practice. With the new addition of a student academy and its representative on our board we will gain the enthusiasm, hope and perspective of the future leaders of our profession.

We are very blessed to have Val Kalnins as our executive director. He was CPhA president in 90-91. He became the CPhA executive director in 1994 when Erick Rumold was CPhA president. Consequently, Val and I have known each other for a long time. He is universally respected, both professionally and as an individual. Because of his diplomatic skills and hard work, pharmacy now speaks with a more united message to the state legislators. He has been instrumental in molding the Colorado Coalition into a more united voice for promotion of pharmacy. The Colorado Coalition represents the members of diverse group of pharmacy voices. They come from the business aspects of industry, hospitals, managed care, and retail pharmacies and us, the practicing pharmacists. CPS is the most diverse of all of Colorado's pharmacy organizations, and therefore the best prepared to represent the practicing pharmacists to the state legislature. Val's insight, vision, and diplomatic talents have been a valuable asset to Colorado's pharmacist and our population a large. We are also very fortunate to have Daina and her website knowledge and skills.

Val and I attended the national leadership conference in May. The program largely centered on the implementation of the Policy Governance Model for organizational boards. Under this model, the Board is responsible for developing policy which the executive director is responsible for implementing within the boundaries set by the policy. The goal is to make boards better able utilize the knowledge and talents of the individual members, by spending less time on the trivial and more time on anticipating and planning for future changes of their organization.

I know 2012 seems a long way away, but pharmacy's sunset review is drawing closer. The last year is largely spent playing "whack-a-mole" with the changes in pharmacy law presented by various legislators and consumers. That is why it is important that we start envisioning the legislative language that will allow us to take pharmacy to where we want it to be in 2021. One word in the last sunset review made it possible for pharmacist immunizers now. Sunset review is the most cost effective way for us to guide the face of pharmacy for the next 10 years. Hiring a full time lobbyist costs at least \$25,000 to enable us to run just one bill affecting pharmacy, and that bill may be amended during the legislative process to end up looking very different from our original bill. Sunset review gives us the opportunity to make many subtle changes that can have major impacts on our practice for the next 10 years.

Sunset review results in the pharmacy law that the State Board of Pharmacy regulates. Consequently, if the necessary wording is absent from the law, the State Board of Pharmacy cannot set up regulations to allow a certain type of practice. The inability to allow and regulate the implementation of pharmacists' modification of warfarin therapy under physician protocols was a prime example of catch up. It was being done, but there was no legal basis for the practice in Colorado.

Consequently, I challenge you to envision our professional future in 2021. Dream. Thoreau said "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined." Let's plan now for the future we imagine, so that we can help craft a legislative bill that can take us there.