

CPS Presidential Address June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010

I am honored to accept the position of President of the Colorado Pharmacists Society. I also want to congratulate and welcome the new members of the Board of Directors, as well as the existing Board Members who will be continuing to serve the coming year. Your willingness to serve is appreciated and I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year.

Before going any further, I would like to acknowledge my family who is here with me tonight. My wife, Sheila, who has given amazing support in all my pharmacy endeavors from helping put me through pharmacy school to the current time. And I have 2 sons that I'm very proud of. My oldest son Greg, just finished his 1<sup>st</sup> year of pharmacy school at Regis University, and my youngest son Mark, who is at Front Range Community College, hasn't declared a major yet, so all I take that to mean is that pharmacy is not yet out of the question.

At the outset, I guess I should reassure Val that I will serve longer than I did 6 years ago when elected. For those of you who don't remember, that was the year that we found out that the being on the Board of Pharmacy, which I was at the time, and being President of the Colorado Pharmacists Society constituted a conflict of interest. So, I resigned my position in the same speech that I accepted and lest we forget, the President-Elect, my friend the late Jim Stephens, stepped in and led the Society. I know we all thankful for the many contributions that Jim made to the Colorado Pharmacists Society, our profession, and us individually as a friend.

Tonight we are celebrating the start of the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the Colorado Pharmacists Society. For those of you who have been Pharmacists less than that time, there were two primary Pharmacy organizations in Colorado, the Colorado Pharmacists Association and the Colorado Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists. The merger of the two organizations has been a huge success, with the result being a stronger organization that has allowed pharmacists to enjoy association with other pharmacists of very different practice settings & who would have hardly known each other had the Society not been formed. Think of the difference this has made as I read the Society's Mission Statement: "Colorado Pharmacist Society is committed to improving public health by advancing and supporting the professional practice of pharmacy while serving as the voice of pharmacy in Colorado." Instead of 2 separate voices, the Society serves as THE voice of pharmacy in Colorado. That unity has been noticeable to all, especially State Legislators who have commented on the unity of the pharmacy community. This will be especially important this year as one of our pressing topics will be preparation for Pharmacy Sunset in 2012.

We will talk more about that in a minute, but before we do, let's take a moment to thank Carole Tucker, for her leadership this past year. For those of those of you, who weren't at the business session this afternoon, I'll review a few highlights from the accomplishments she covered in her State of the Society report as we will continue to focus on the four main areas of membership, education, advocacy and public relations.

For membership, we set a goal of retaining 90% of our members and we've achieved 83%. We also set a goal of a 10% increase in members and we've achieved: 3%. Membership is so important to any healthy organization that we want to keep the same goals for next year. Please talk with your peers at your practice sites and share with them the benefits of joining the Society.

As I finish my first year as a faculty member of the University Of Colorado School Of Pharmacy, I can appreciate more than ever before that CPS must continue to find ways to be more actively involved with the students. Didn't we enjoy the contributions that the students from both pharmacy schools made to today's program? Students represent a great pool of potential CPS members who can help the organization not only by increasing the numbers, but by assuming positions of leadership as well. Many of these students are actively involved in student organizations and are highly effective leaders within the campus community. Wouldn't it be nice if we could keep these students active after they graduate and join the ranks of practicing pharmacists within the state?

For education, we set a goal of continuing to provide high quality CE programs as well as making educational opportunities available to areas beyond the front range. CPS successfully partnered with the University of Colorado, School of Pharmacy to provide the annual Advances in Pharmacy Practice Seminar to Grand Junction via teleconference. A broadcast of portions of the CPS Annual Fall Meeting is also being considered. Mary Johnson did a great job as Chair of the Education committee. This year alone, we've provided 45 hours of CE programming. We've also made a monthly effort to include information in the E-Capsulette regarding available free CE programs that are available for distance learning. We will continue to focus on providing good educational resources for our members.

Legislatively, we monitored and lobbied a total of 23 bills during the legislative season and were successful in protecting our professional interests in each on these thanks to the efforts of our Executive Director. We also successfully worked with the Department of Health Policy and Financing to decrease the list of medications to be included in the State Maximum Allowable Cost for Medicaid prescriptions from as many as 1200 to 13. This resulted in saving over \$13 million dollars for pharmacies in Colorado

In public relations, The Society participated in Pharmacist Line 9 which was rated as highly successful and over 200 calls were answered by CPS pharmacist volunteers. The Society partnered with the 9 Health Fair, April 17-25, 2010 and helped the Fair organizers get pharmacist volunteers for over 50 designated sites throughout Colorado

All these areas we will continue to focus on in the coming year. However, as we alluded to earlier, there is another very important reason to encourage others to join CPS this year, or if already a member, to become more active.

The Pharmacy Practice Act will expire or Sunset in 2012. During the Pharmacy Sunset Review this coming year, changes to the law are considered, based on recommendations from the profession and Board of Pharmacy. CPS has begun reviewing the pharmacy practice act and has compiled a "wish list" of changes we would like see made to the pharmacy law to allow the practice of pharmacy to continue to expand in the next 10 years. If you have any suggested changes to the pharmacy law, please contact the CPS office.

So, the year ahead is packed full of opportunities. Together we can make good things happen for the future of our profession. Thanks again and enjoy the rest of the evening.

Randy Knutsen