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# NKMS Society

## Rounds

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## The Value of a Medical Society

As your soon-to-be past president, I want to say, "thank you."

Thank you for the opportunity to be president of an organization of such a select group of individuals. I really did feel a little overwhelmed by it all.

As you can imagine I have always had a great admiration for doctors. Not so much because of the house I grew up in but because of the things that I saw. You see I sat in the doctor's lounge or actually in the ER waiting for dad to make rounds. I saw...."stuff." The doctors always seemed to know what to do for a problem. They were capable. And no matter what happened, they never ran scared. I guess that is where the medical training kicked in. I wanted to be like that. And now, more than ever, you need to know what a great job you do on a day-in, day-out basis. I hope we don't take ourselves for granted. My fear is we sell ourselves short. Our stock value is a little higher than what we think it is. That is where your local medical society comes into the pic-

ture.

With all the frustrations, aggravations and prior authorizations we have, the medical society can help with all of it. Let me repeat that for the disbelievers. The medical society can help. We promote good will. We give out scholarships. And we can do more. But we have to give it a chance and we have to be involved.

Many of the "younger" doctors would like to be involved in social issues. Many of the "older" doctors feel the same way. The care of the disenfranchised and the heroin epidemic come to mind. This medical society has a great tradition of being involved in social issues. I have one example. The 1960's was a time of civil unrest due to racial tensions. At that time the medical society had no African-American members. Your medical society recognized this deficiency. Dr. James Randolph was actively recruited and became the first African-American member of the then Campbell-Kenton Medical Society. A contribution to the civil rights movement? A small one, perhaps. I do know that this fact is noted on Dr. Randolph's historical marker on Lynn Street

in Covington. I think it mattered then and it matters today. So if there is something in the medical world that bothers you, use the NKMS as a resource.

Now I must speak to you as your current president. I must exhort you to action. The Society needs your participation. I know many of you think nothing can be done. You're wrong. Our history and the history of others proves otherwise. 20 years ago the Tea Party was discounted by every newspaper from the Financial Times to the Los Angeles Times. Today it is a different story. You may not agree with the politics of the Tea Party but everyone agrees it is a force to be reckoned with. When people come together things happen. That is why our Founding Fathers had the foresight to ensure "right of assembly." Please don't be frozen by fear of failure, or the fear of "unintended consequences." A group of such great talent can only succeed.

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# The Value of a Medical Society



Mark Schroer, MD,  
President, NKMS

## Upcoming Events



November 14, NKMS  
Executive Board  
Meeting

December 8, NKMS  
Holiday Party

January 16, NKMS  
Executive Board  
Meeting

February 7, KMA  
Physicians' Day at  
the Capitol



Nancy Swikert, MD,  
President, NKMSA and  
KMAA

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So what is your next action item? Simple. Come to the Holiday Party Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Assemble with your colleagues. Eat, drink and have a good time with your friends. Bring a friend. It really is that easy.

Dr. Mark Boyd is our President -Elect. Give him your support. I have every bit of faith in him and know he will continue to lead us correctly.

If you have a concern or an idea call me. Together let's make something happen. I do

know one thing for certain. If we do nothing bad things will happen. If we sit idle medical care will continue to move in the wrong direction. Allow me to quote Judge Charles Kerr who wrote in 1922: "The conscientious physician is easily the most valuable asset a community possesses, and upon him devolves not only the task of curing the sick and alleviating the distress of the afflicted, but also the prevention of epidemics and the inauguration and maintenance of proper sanitary regulations for the preservation of the health of the people. To the infinite credit

of the profession be it said that the majority belonging to it are men of the highest character, actuated by motives that are above criticism." I hope you will excuse the sexism of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century but I think the overall sentiment still rings true. It may seem like an ideal from a long time ago but I believe in that ideal. And so do you. You're a doctor.

Thank you,

Mark Schroer, MD

## NKMS Alliance Report

The KMA meeting held August 25-27, 2017 in Louisville was a record attendance. CME aimed at "Meeting the Mandates" was sold out on Friday, August 25. There was an excellent workshop on the Opioid Crisis on Friday afternoon, with **Sam Quinones**, author of "Dreamland", named one of the best books of 2015 by the Wall Street Journal and others, discussed the origins of opioids, the use of these pain killers as recreational drugs and how they connect with the explosion in heroin use. KMA Leadership had several resolutions that brought about great discussion and planning for policy on key issues over the weekend.

The KMA Alliance met on Saturday and raised over \$5500 of donations for the McDowell House, thanks to auctioneer, Nancy Bunnell (NKYMSA). AMAA President, Kim Moser (NKMSA) gave greetings along with SMAA President, Elaine Hale (FLA). LMSA was the recipient of one of the three top awards from the Kentucky Medical Association. Our next joint event will be our annual Doctors Day Celebration and our major fundraiser for local charities on December 8, 2017. Plan now to attend - save the date!



# HELP YOUR PATIENTS QUIT TOBACCO. THEY'LL BE YOUR PATIENTS LONGER.

## **YOUR PATIENTS DON'T NEED A LECTURE. THEY NEED HELP.**

The rate of tobacco use by Kentuckians is among the highest in the nation. As a healthcare professional, you can play a key role in reducing tobacco use in our state – beginning with your patients. Quit Now Kentucky is a free tobacco cessation program that uses clinically proven methods to achieve some of the highest quit rates in the country. To enroll your patients, go to [www.quitnowkentucky.org](http://www.quitnowkentucky.org). It's the help your patients need to quit tobacco for good and lead healthier, happier, longer lives.



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Physician Network

Address Correction Requested

## Holiday Party

The Annual Holiday Party sponsored by the Northern Kentucky Medical Society and the Northern Kentucky Medical Society Alliance will be Friday, December 8, 2017 at the Ft. Mitchell Country Club.

The festivities begin with an open bar, silent auction, and hors d'oeuvres at 6:30 PM. Dinner will be served at 7:30 PM and is complimentary for NKMS physician members and their guest. **The Northern Kentucky Brotherhood Singers will perform from 6:30 PM-7:30 PM.**

The Holiday Party gives the opportunity to recognize the NKMS physician members who have retired from the active practice of medicine. If you, or if you know of another member who has retired from the active practice of medicine in 2017, please contact the NKMS, Karla Kennedy, at 859-496-6567 or via email to: [nkms@nkms.org](mailto:nkms@nkms.org).

Please make plans to attend this year's Holiday Party. Invitations will be mailed in November.

We wish to extend our sympathy to the families of the following physician members who passed away in 2017: Dr. Herbert Francis, Dr. Smith Gibson, Dr. Sylvan Golder, Dr. Robert Hemmer, Dr. C. Charles Huga, Dr. James Schroer, and Dr. Raymond Timmerman.

