



Montgomery County Medical Society

a fax & email newsbrief for Montgomery County
Medical Society members only

realise

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Your Vote Counts

A Special Appeal from Your MCMS President

Dear Doctor,

The last year has been quite an eventful one with health care reform, the Mcare raid and the recent verdict against the Mcare raid. There has been much talk and much controversy over the last year. Doctors have been debating the merits and demerits of these events. One thing remains clear to me -- we must direct those thoughts and discussions to where they can have an impact. More specifically, we must express our views to our elected representatives.

It is important that we support those candidates whose views most coincide with our own. This year is a critical election year. The balance of power may shift in the House of Representatives and we will be electing a new governor. I hear doctors complaining a lot about the current situation, but how many of us are willing to get involved. The Medical Society can act as a microphone, but if there is no one standing behind it, our voices are not heard. The main question is what can each of us do

First, it is incumbent upon each of us to make sure we are registered to vote and that we do, in fact, vote. The Medical Society can guide us in determining which politicians are physician friendly and which are not, and we can use this information to help decide who is worthy of our vote.

Second, we must share this information with our friends, family, staff and patients, and we must encourage them to vote. PAMPAC can provide information and flyers as we get closer to Election Day. We should make sure that our staffs have time set aside on Election Day to vote. This time should specifically be carved out.

Third, we should support those candidates, whom we deem worthy, with either financial or at least verbal support. The decision to contribute is very much an individual decision, but let's be realistic, donations to candidates make a difference and can further our cause.

Finally, we must make it a point to stay abreast of those issues that affect our livelihood and, more importantly, our patients. As much as we want to talk about how unfair the

current situation is to us as physicians, we must remember that it is the patient who comes first. I repeat: Patients First! It is very easy to lose sight of this in our daily dealings with various forces that frustrate us to no end.

MCMS will also contact practice administrators to encourage them to register to vote and to make their voices heard by voting. The Pennsylvania Department of State provides a great online voting information and resource center, www.votespa.com . The web site lists who you should contact with election or registration concerns. We look forward to assisting you. If you have any questions, you can contact our executive director Toyca Williams at 610-878-9530 or by e-mail at montmedsoc@verizon.net .

We look forward to your participation in the months to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Lopatin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "M" being particularly large and stylized.

Mark Lopatin M. D.

You're receiving this special announcement as a member of the Montgomery County Medical Society. If this is incorrect or you have a new e-mail account, please contact MCMS at (610) 878-9530.