



National Association of State
Controlled Substances Authorities



NASCSA NEWS

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Volunteers Needed

Are you interested in serving on the newly formed Education and Training Committee? If you are interested please contact Alan McGill at amcgill@attorneygeneral.gov or Kathy Keough at kathykeough@nascsa.org.

President's Message

Greetings! I hope everyone has survived the winter. NASCSA's Executive Committee and its committees have been very busy over the past several months on a variety of projects that the program for the conference and development of proposed bylaw changes and evaluating potential resolutions. We have done a great deal particularly in engaging our work on behalf of Prescription Monitoring Programs as you will read about more below. We are looking forward to a great conference this fall at the [Drury Plaza Hotel](#) in San Antonio, Texas October 17-20 2017, with an impressive list of topics and speakers including a presentation from Louis Milione, Deputy Administrator of the US Drug Enforcement Administration, PMP sessions along with a number of important updates of interest to state controlled substances authorities and PMP administrators to name a few. More information will be made available within the next month but please save the date in your calendar now and plan to attend. As always, if you have suggestions/comments, please feel free to contact me.

David Dryden, President, NASCSA

Save the Date for Our Annual Conference

The 33rd annual conference will take place at the [Drury Plaza Hotel Riverwalk](#) October 17-20, 2017 in San Antonio, Texas.

Travel Scholarships Available to Attend NASCSA's Annual Conference

The Executive Committee has authorized the awarding of travel scholarships to attend this year's annual conference. Travel scholarship criteria as well as the application form and instructions have already been posted [here](#). The deadline for submitting applications is **June 23, 2017**.

State Regulatory Developments

NASCSA members may not be aware of an important (complimentary) resource of great value on regulatory changes occurring in other states related to controlled substances, prescription monitoring programs, scheduling changes, updates to state recordkeeping and security requirements and licensure changes to name a few. "State Regulatory Updates" is compiled each month and is posted on NASCSA's website located [here](#). We would strongly encourage you to check this section of our website as it may provide insights of what other state agencies are doing nationally and serve as a vital resource and information sharing.

Considerations Around Morphine Milligram Equivalents (MME)

Registration information as well as information on hotel accommodations is available on our website [here](#). We would strongly urge members to book your hotel early as this is a particularly busy time of year. Check the website on a regular basis for updates.

A preliminary program will be posted later this Spring, however we have already confirmed a number of topics including various topics related to Prescription Monitoring Programs, an update from various federal agencies, drug trends, as well as a presentation on drug abuse trends among veterans. As always, this year's program promises to be exciting and interactive. In addition, we are pleased to announce that we have already booked the Hotel Valley Ho in Scottsdale, Arizona for our 2018 conference (October 30-Nov. 2, 2018) so save the date now! In addition based on feedback from members late last year, the Executive Committee will be changing the format and dates for the 2019 conference. More information will be provided at this year's annual meeting.

Travel Scholarships Available for NASCSA Members

The Executive Committee has authorized the awarding of six (6) travel scholarships to attend this year's annual conference. Travel scholarship criteria as well as the application form and instructions have already been posted [here](#). The deadline for submitting applications is June 23, 2017. We would strongly encourage all members to take advantage of this important opportunity and membership advantage provided by NASCSA.

NASCSA Executive Committee Meets for Midyear Meeting

Higher dosages of opioids are associated with higher risk of overdose and death. Calculating the total daily dose of opioids helps identify patients who may benefit from closer monitoring, reduction or tapering of opioids, prescribing of naloxone, or other measures to reduce risk of overdose. For that reason, many state Prescription Monitoring Programs (PMP) are including daily and/or total active morphine milligram equivalent (MME) values for opioid prescriptions. However, there are some key points to consider when using MME to compare and dose prescriptions.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers a MME conversion table used by many state prescription monitoring programs (PMPs). However, the calculated dose in MMEs should not be used to determine dosage for converting one opioid to another-the new opioid should be lower to avoid unintentional overdose caused by incomplete cross-tolerance and individual differences in opioid pharmacokinetics. Per CDC guidance, the conversion factors and associated daily morphine milligram



While NASCSA's Executive Committee holds frequent conference calls throughout the year to continue the work of the organization, over the past several years, the group has held a midyear meeting in order to have continued focused discussions in-person. Among the items discussed during the meeting included the following:

- Nominations for honorary memberships;
- Discussion of proposed bylaws changes as proposed by the Bylaws/Resolutions Committee;
- Brainstorming session on potential resolutions for consideration;
- Detailed review of NASCSA's finances and recommendations for investments;
- Revisions to written policies of the Executive Committee; and
- Updated NASCSA's strategic plan a copy of which is found [here](#).
- Finally, the Executive Committee after much consideration voted to increase the annual dues to \$300. This is the first time in 33 years that dues have been increased (previously \$200) to reflect current costs associated with operating expenses.

A complete recap of these and other items will be provided during the annual conference at the first business session.

equivalents for drugs prescribed as part of medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder should not be used to benchmark against dosage thresholds meant for opioids prescribed for pain. [1] In 2016, CDC updated their MME conversion table to reflect a higher conversion rate for buprenorphine. This change affected the total daily MME for patients receiving prescriptions for buprenorphine resulting in some patients reaching thresholds that trigger prescriber alerts whereas they had not reached those thresholds before the change. Therefore, it is important to remember the limitations of such indicators when assessing a patient's therapy. It might also be helpful for PMP administration to alert prescribers when such changes are made so that they will be aware of a possible spike in patient MME. More info [here](#).

NASCSA Welcomes Our Newest Sponsor

NASCSA would like to welcome our newest silver sponsor, [McKesson Corporation](#)! For more information about sponsorship opportunities please click [here](#).

Interested in PMP Legislation?

Due to our ongoing collaboration with the National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws

NASCSA Committees Hard at Work

This year NASCSA has six committees that have been hard at work on a variety of projects. Committee members, comprised of volunteers from member states as well as associate members are the backbone of the organization and we would encourage all members to consider volunteering. For a list of committee members click [here](#). Below is a description of committee highlights.

Sponsorships, Grants and Membership - In addition to developing the criteria for this year's travel scholarship, members of the committee will be reviewing the applicants in order to make recommendations to the Executive Committee after the receipt of all applicants. The Committee is also in the process of updating its newsletter policy and will be working on updating NASCSA's brochure to reflect bylaw changes passed at the annual conference. The committee has also recommended that a meeting be held with current sponsors to identify areas where we can provide value to our sponsors. Finally the committee is in the process of reviewing NASCSA's website and identifying other individuals and organizations to reach out in order to expand its membership and sponsorship base.

Program -Members of the committee are hard at work working on the 2017 conference, taking into consideration feedback from last year's conference evaluation to ensure yet another successful conference. It is not too late however to provide suggestions for conference speakers and/or topics for consideration.

Survey/Data - The committee has just begun its work of developing potential surveys of the membership and will also be working with our webmaster Bill Ward on a new database management software that will help NASCSA compile information as we work towards becoming a central repository of information of state contacts, Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) information as well as controlled substance information of value to our members. If there is information you feel would be helpful, please forward those suggestions.

Resolutions/Bylaws - The committee will be recommending a number of additional changes to the bylaws that will be communicated to the membership this summer, however if you have proposed bylaw changes please contact Barbara Carter at Barbara.A.Carter@state.mn.us with any suggestions you might have. Likewise, if you have suggestions of possible resolutions please contact Barbara Carter at Barbara.A.Carter@mn.us. We would strongly encourage all

(NAMSDL), we have been provided with an updated compilation of information on state and federal legislation and regulations pertaining to Prescription Monitoring Programs as a courtesy to members. The latest listing is found [here](#) under the PMP section of our website.

On Twitter?

NASCSA is pleased to announce that it is now on Twitter. Make sure to follow us @NASCSA

members to provide their suggestions on possible resolutions. In addition, that all members are permitted to submit proposed resolutions in accordance with our Bylaws, found at Article XI. Draft resolutions will be distributed in early September (45 days prior to the annual meeting). Any proposed bylaw changes will be distributed 60 days in advance of the meeting. The committee will also be working to developing guidelines for voting on resolutions and election of officers at this year's meeting.

Prescription Monitoring Program - The Committee has recommended a number of suggestions for this year's program and is currently working on a "gap analysis" to identify areas where NASCSA can play an important lead in areas related to PMPs. Stay tuned for additional updates

Policy and Procedures - A committee has been formed to review NASCSA's written policies and procedures to ensure that these documents are current and up to date. These policies are to ensure the smooth operation of the organization and to provide a roadmap for overall operations of the organization.

We hope you enjoyed this latest edition of NASCSA News. We strongly encourage members and others to share information from their respective agencies for consideration for our newsletter. Please email KathyKeough@nascsa.org with your articles and ideas.

Sincerely,

Kathy Keough

Executive Director

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