

# NASCOSA NEWS

*A Publication of the  
National Association  
of State Controlled  
Substances  
Authorities*

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## Greetings!

It is hard to believe that our annual meeting is less than a month away. I look forward to sharing some of the many exciting efforts that the Executive Committee has undertaken over the past year on your behalf, and in the exchange of ideas and information sharing that make the National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities (NASCSA) such a vital organization. As I complete my first year as President I can truly say it has been an honor to serve you, and the past year is something I think we should all be proud of. I look forward to seeing you next month in Ft. Lauderdale.

*Karen Tannert, President, NASCSA*

## Annual Conference Reminder

Final plans are well on their way for our 24th annual conference of the National Association of State Controlled Substances at the Sheraton Yankee Clipper Hotel in Ft. Lauderdale from October 21-24, 2008. Room rates are set at the federal per diem rate. Please make sure you reserve your hotel room no later than September 30, 2008 to ensure the NASCSA conference rate.

Please make sure to fax or mail in your conference registration. Also, the Alliance of States with Prescription Monitoring Programs will be meeting just prior to the NASCSA conference on October 20-21, 2008.

## Travel Scholarships Awarded

We are pleased to announce that the following states have been awarded travel scholarships to attend this year's conference: Colorado, Mississippi, New Hampshire, and Oregon. Over the past several years only two scholarships have been awarded. However, since there were no scholarships awarded last year a total of four scholarships were awarded this year in keeping with the policies of the Executive Committee. Congratulations!

## Newsletter Tips

To view a full screen of the newsletter, right click.

In addition, if your contact information changes, please login using the original email address you originally had subscribed with and update any information (including your new email address and updated contact information)

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## NASCSA Joins NAMSDL in Joint Prescription Monitoring Program Survey

The National Alliance of Model State Drug Laws (NAMSDL) and NASCSA recently joined together to conduct a survey with officials of state Prescription Monitoring Programs (PMP) to update the program profile of each PMP. As part of this effort, NAMSDL will be forwarding to each state official a jointly prepared PMP profile form which will contain some of the information already gathered from state officials by both organizations. State PMP officials are asked to take a few moments to review the profile form and provide us with any necessary corrections, additions or deletions.

NAMSDL and NASCSA will post information from the profiles on their respective websites. NAMSDL and NASCSA expect to use this information to coordinate their various educational, legislative and policy initiatives regarding state PMPs, prescription drug abuse, and diversion.

Both organizations thank state PMP officials in advance for their participation in this important project.

## NASCSA Survey Underway

NASCSA's Survey Committee, comprised of Teresa Anderson, ID (Chair); Grant Carrow, MA; Dean Wright, AZ; Ralph Orr, VA; and Heather Thomson, EndoPharmaceuticals, has been hard at work preparing a survey of each state controlled substances authority. The survey was originally sent out several months ago, however in the next several weeks a follow up survey will be sent to those state agency heads that may not have had an opportunity to complete the initial survey.

We would strongly encourage those receiving the survey to take a few minutes to complete the on-line survey so that preliminary results can be shared at the NASCSA conference. The survey should take no more than 5 minutes. Some of the information may be useful to states in developing best practice recommendations and in addressing various controlled substances issues as well as potential legislation. Final results will be available on the NASCSA website at a later date.

## State News

**New York** -- Lawmakers nationwide, including those in Westchester, NY, are seeking restrictions on the use of OTC medications containing dextromethorphan. Commonly known as DXM, the drug is found in cough suppressants like Robitussin, Sudafed, and Tylenol products, and can cause hallucinations, seizures, and death when taken in large quantities. Westchester may become the third New York county, following Nassau and Suffolk, to ban the sale of medications containing DXM to anyone

under 18. If the law passes, Westchester supermarkets and drug stores that sell DXM products to minors would get a warning for the first violation and \$150 fines for each subsequent offense.

**Kansas** - The Kansas Bureau of Investigation and the Kansas Board of Pharmacy are trying out a new tool to fight meth. They are partnering with MethShield in a first-of-its-kind pilot program. MethShield is a real time web-based tool that enables pharmacists, retailers, and law enforcement to monitor the sales of medications that can be used to manufacture meth. The pilot program begins the second week of August at 128 pharmacies and drugstores across 62 counties and will run for one year. <https://www.methshield.com>.

**In order to provide the latest news and updates of interest to members as well as others interested in controlled substances issues, please forward any information that you think should be included in our e-newsletter and/or for posting on our website. All items will be considered.**

## Stay Connected!

One of the strengths of NASCSA lies in the relationships that are forged and maintained over the years. It is critical that you notify us of changes in mailing addresses and other contact information. Also, please let your colleagues and others that you feel might benefit from our organization know about NASCSA and our annual conference.

## SAMHSA Releases Report on Substance Abuse

The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) was recently released by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Of significance to NASCSA members, is a reported increase in the nonmedical use of prescription pain relievers. The complete survey findings are available on the SAMHSA website at <http://oas.samhsa.gov/nsduh/2k7nsduh/2k7Results.pdf>

We hope you have enjoyed our electronic newsletter. If you have news items to share or other information that may be helpful to our members, please forward to me.

**Sincerely,**

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