



National Association of State  
Controlled Substances Authorities



## NASCSA NEWS

May 12, 2015

### Contact Us

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### It's Dues Renewal Time

As a small nonprofit organization, NASCSA relies on dues from its members to help support its operations and to continue to provide valuable services to our members. Dues statements for this year (July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016) will be going out later this month. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the office. If you need to update any information, please make sure to complete the membership [application](#) to ensure we have updated contact information. Please note that in order for states to be eligible for full

### President' Message

NASCSA's Executive Committee and its committees have been hard at work over the past several months on a variety of projects. I am pleased to report that Peg Clifford from New Hampshire has assumed the role of Secretary/Treasurer following the resignation of Ron Klein from the Board. I am pleased to report that we have engaged in many other key stakeholder groups interested in Prescription Monitoring Programs including members of congress who are seeking our input. The Program Committee has been hard at work finalizing the program for this fall's conference and we are looking forward to a great conference this fall at the Hotel Valley Ho in Scottsdale, Arizona October 20-23, 2015, with an impressive list of topics and speakers. More information will be made available next month but I would encourage members to mark the conference dates in your calendar and consider applying for a travel scholarship (information is listed below). As always, if you have suggestions/comments, please feel free to contact me at [ralph.orr@dhp.virginia.gov](mailto:ralph.orr@dhp.virginia.gov).

*Ralph Orr, President, NASCSA*

### Executive Committee Holds Midyear Meeting

participation in the organization, including voting, running for office, and travel scholarships, dues must be paid in full.

Travel Scholarships Available!

The Executive Committee has authorized the awarding of eight (8) 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 26, 2015.

Interested in PMP Legislation?

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



*Pictured are members of NASCSA's Executive Committee at their recent meeting mid-year meeting that took place in Boston, MA April 10-12, 2015.*

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

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## Save the Date for the Annual Conference

The 31st annual conference will take place at the [Hotel Valley Ho](#) in Scottsdale, Arizona October 20-23, 2015 in the heart of beautiful Scottsdale, Arizona. The hotel is in the heart of the historic district and within easy walking distance of many of the finest restaurants in the city as well as shopping and

courtesy to members. The latest listing is found [here](#) under the PMP section of our website.

Membership is Strength of NASCSA

Dues notices for the upcoming fiscal year (July 1-June 30th) have been mailed to all members. In order to be eligible to vote at the annual conference, and be eligible for travel scholarships as well as any grants awarded to states for special projects, membership dues must be paid in full.

### State Regulatory Developments

Did you know that NASCSA publishes a monthly compilation of state regulatory actions related to pharmacy and controlled substances. State Regulatory Developments is located on the website [here](#).

### NASCSA Continues Partnership With NAMSDL

NASCSA is pleased to announce that it has signed a renewed Memorandum of Understanding with the National Alliance for

historic sites. Members of the Program Committee and the Executive Committee are confident that members will be thrilled with this year's program. Registration information as well as information on hotel accommodations is available on our website [here](#). It is not too early to book your hotel and make sure you are not disappointed. If you attended NASCSA's conference several years ago you know that the Hotel Valley Ho is an amazing property. Preliminary topics include a number of sessions on Prescription Monitoring Programs, DEA Updates, Drug Trends and Investigations, Medical Marijuana as well as a variety of workshops. Check the website on a regular basis for updates. A preliminary program will be posted in June. Please feel free to [register](#) for the conference now. Please note that those interested in attending sessions on Prescription Monitoring Programs should plan to attend at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, October 20, 2015 so please plan your travel accordingly.

The room rate is \$163 per night single/double occupancy. The hotel features complimentary Wi-Fi access. There are a number of transportation options available to attendees, which are listed [here](#). We will again be hosting a welcome dinner as well as a networking luncheon that provides a unique opportunity for attendees to stay on the property and network with their colleagues.

Note: The program will begin the morning of October 20, 2015, focused on Prescription Monitoring Programs.

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## 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 members 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 committees and their members click [here](#). Below is a description of committee highlights.

**Membership** - In addition to developing the criteria for this year's travel scholarship (which is available now), members of the committee will be reviewing the applicants in order to make recommendations to the Executive Committee. The Committee is also responsible for the development and dissemination of

Model State Drug Laws (NAMSDL) to collaborate on a variety of initiatives that will provide invaluable services to members of both organizations. Among these initiatives that falls within the mission of NAMSDL include acting as a liaison to members of Congress and their staffs on key positions of NASCSA, providing NASCSA with state legislative charts of particular interest to NASCSA's members; periodic updates on federal bills of interest to NASCSA's members, acting as a liaison to other non-profit organizations that have missions similar to NAMSDL and NASCSA and working on joint projects or endeavors. As such, we have posted a recent compilation of federal legislation of interest to NASCSA members that may be found here. In addition, NASCSA recently wrote a letter of support to key members of Congress encouraging continued funding for NAMSDL.

### Connecticut Official Testifies Before Senate Veterans Affairs Committee

John Gadea, head of the Connecticut Drug Control Program recently testified before

NASCSA's periodic newsletter and has been considering other organizations to reach out to join as members.

**Program** - Committee members have been hard at work finalizing this year's program. Many hours have been spent this year reviewing the conference evaluations as the committee continues to develop what promises to be yet another exciting program. Stay tuned!

**Survey/Data** - The committee has been hard at work over the past several months and has conducted one survey of Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) administrators as we seek to further incorporate PMP issues into NASCSA. We have tabulated the results which are posted here. A special thanks to Bill Ward, NASCSA's webmaster for compiling the results in an easy to follow format. The Survey/Data Committee will be conducting a second survey later this spring.

**Resolutions/Bylaws** - The committee has reviewed the bylaws and will be proposing additional changes to the bylaws this year. In addition, the committee will be reviewing potential resolutions for consideration by members at the annual conference. We would encourage all 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.

**Prescription Monitoring Program Committee** - As many of you know, this committee was formed last year to make recommendations to NASCSA's Executive Committee as the organizations works to incorporate PMP interests into NASCSA and provide enhanced services. The committee met numerous times earlier this year to develop a set of recommendations has been accepted by the Executive Committee. A copy of the final report is found here.

**Special Projects Committee** - The Committee is in the final stages of wrapping up the PMP grants awarded several years to states to provide enhancements to their programs, and will be working to identify future projects in the coming year.

### House Energy and Commerce Committee Continues to Examine Prescription Drug & Opioid Abuse

WASHINGTON, DC - The House Energy and

the Senate Veteran Affairs Committee where he criticized the Veterans Administration for not reporting to the state's Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP). A copy of the article is found [here](#).

## State News

**Rhode Island** - Final rule of the Department of Health amends rules and regulations for pain management, opioid use and the registration of distributors of controlled substances (R21-28-CSD). The rule updates and changes the title of the requirements to reflect that the scope has been expanded to address the use of opioids in the treatment of patients for chronic pain and the prescribing of controlled substances for the treatment of acute, episodic or chronic pain. The rule also adds definitions and revises distributor registration requirements and standards. The rule is effective March 16, 2015. Contact: James McDonald; DOH, Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline; (401-222-1016). -Rhode Island Regulations (02/25/2015)

Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, chaired by Rep. Tim Murphy (R-PA), last week continued its hearing series examining the growing problem of prescription drug and opioid abuse. Members discussed the issue with federal officials to learn what they are doing to combat the epidemic and explore how federal policies can better support efforts to develop new and promising treatments.

Subcommittee Chairman Murphy said, "Over the past five weeks this Subcommittee has heard from opioid addiction experts working within local communities and our leading academic and research centers. Today, we turn to the federal agencies charged with providing guidance, direction, and leadership in our Nation's public health response to the opioid epidemic. We can do better."

Full Committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) added, "To take on the enormous challenge posed by the opioid abuse epidemic, we need to be unified and find common ground. I am ready to work with my colleagues on the committee on both sides of the aisle, the president, Secretary Burwell, and the rest of the administration to produce positive results in fighting this epidemic for the American people."

Witnesses detailed their efforts at the federal level and expressed commitment to working together to combat the epidemic. For full information on the hearings click [here](#).

## SAMHSA to Host Event May 20th

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) requested that NASCSA send the following notice concerning their upcoming National Prevention Week webinar on Wednesday, May 20th at 2 p.m. Eastern Time:

Please join a National Prevention Week webinar on prescription misuse and addiction. The webinar will describe the relationship between prescription opiates and heroin, then discuss alternatives to opiates in treating acute and chronic pain. It will explain how to tell if you or someone you know might have an opiate problem. It will review the problems of prescription drugs in the workplace and dangers of sharing drugs at work. It will also discuss what employers are allowed to ask employees about their

**Missouri** - Controlled Substances/Electronic Prescriptions - Proposed rule of the Department of Health and Senior Services, Division of Regulation and Licensure, amends regulations under 19 MCSR 30-1.048 to allow prescriptions for controlled substances to be transmitted electronically in accordance with federal requirements. Comments are due April 1, 2015. Contact: Michael Boeger; DHSS, Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs; (573-751-6321) --Missouri Register (03/02/2015)

**South Dakota** - South Dakotas SB14, which provides for the "possession and administration of opioid antagonists (Naloxone) by trained first responders for the treatment of drug overdoses, provided there is a standing order through a licensed physician" passed both houses and was signed by the Governor.

### Staff Changes

**New Mexico** - Ben Kesner has been named as the new Executive Director of the Board of Pharmacy, replacing

prescription use, including variations by occupation. It will then describe the youth "study drug" epidemic. The webinar will close with a review of promising prevention efforts focused on community-based prescription misuse and the fact sheets and tools available from SAMHSA to support them.

The presenters are Deborah Galvin, PhD, Division of Workplace Programs, SAMHSA; Georgia Karuntzos, PhD, Vice President, Research Triangle Institute; Sandra Lapham, MD, Director, Behavioral Health Resource Center of the Southwest, Pacific Institute for Research & Evaluation; Ted Miller, PhD, Pacific Institute for Research & Evaluation and Director of SAMHSA's Preventing Prescription Abuse in the Workplace Technical Assistance Center; and Christopher Ringwalt, PhD, University of North Carolina Injury Prevention Resource Center.

To register for this webinar, please send your full name, number, email address, and organization affiliation to Raymond Mullings at [Rmullings@econometricainc.com](mailto:Rmullings@econometricainc.com).

Larry Lorrington who recently retired.

**North Dakota** - Mark Hardy has been named as the new Executive Director of the Board of Pharmacy, replacing Howard Anderson who retired.

**Iowa** - Terry Witkowski has been appointed as Acting Executive Director of the Board of Pharmacy, replacing Lloyd Jessen.