Talking Points

History of Pharmacy Week
The American Pharmacy Association first created the observance in 1925 as a way to promote the value of pharmacy services. Pharmacists play a vital role in the nation's health care, and National Pharmacy Week is an ideal opportunity to highlight how the community can benefit from pharmacy services, as well as the pharmacist's expertise. In 1990 the Joint Commission of Pharmacy Practitioners declared that National Pharmacy Week would be observed in October of every year in conjunction with American Pharmacists Month and National Pharmacy Technician Day. Practitioners today find participating in this annual promotion an effective way to better educate their patients about medications and pharmacy services available.

History of APA
The Alabama Pharmacy Association was established August 11, 1881 with the intent to foster inter-professional relationships to the end that pharmacists, physicians, and members of other allied professions may contribute to the promotion of the public health and welfare in the fullest measurement. Fifteen men who believed that organization, cooperation and a fraternal feeling were necessary to the advancement of pharmacy and to the good of the general public, met at the Jefferson County Courthouse in Birmingham and the APA was formed. The APA, a nonprofit professional organization for pharmacy, is the oldest in the state of its kind. The APA offers continuing education programs for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, and our members take a leading role in lobbying for pharmacy at the state and national level. APA is “The Voice of Pharmacy” in Alabama. APA members represent all practices of pharmacy and are committed to their profession and their patients.

KEY MESSAGES

“Know your medicine, know your pharmacist.”
Learn about your medication, drug interactions are deadly - even OTC drugs and herbal supplements can interact with your prescriptions, tell your pharmacist everything that you are taking
Medications are ineffective and a waste of money if not taken properly, time of day, w/ food, etc.

The Changing Role of the Community Pharmacist
Pharmacists are not simply pill dispensers, they are the most accessible health care professionals to the people of Alabama and a valuable health care resource, they offer services such as blood pressure checks, patient counseling on prescriptions, counseling on disease management (i.e. Diabetes - diet, exercise, blood sugar monitoring, foot care), Medication Therapy Management
Pharmacists are the future of immunizations in Alabama, flu season is here, health care officials encourage everyone (especially the young and the elderly) to get vaccinated to prevent the spread of disease

APA’s Role in Supporting Pharmacy
To aid in improving, promoting, and safeguarding the public health and welfare in every practical manner
To provide continuing education for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians
To represent the profession of pharmacy at a legislative level, “The Voice of Pharmacy in Alabama”