PRESIDENT’S CLOSING REMARKS / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As I look back on my experience as President of MPhA, my first thought is that it has been an honor to serve as your President and a privilege to work with all of the people who are associated with this great Association. We have a relatively simple mission statement: To Serve Minnesota Pharmacists to Advance Patient Care. I have come to appreciate that our relatively simple mission involves the dedication, expertise, hours and hard work of many people with a broad array of interests and skills. I have been thankful many times that we have people who are interested and able to excel on projects or endeavors that I would not know where to begin myself. First of all, we have an outstanding and dedicated Board of Directors. Past President Randy Seifert and President-Elect Molly Ekstrand have been marvelous partners in our work this year. The Board members and officers below have contributed a tremendous amount of their time and knowledge to the thoughtful guidance of MPhA:

- Doug Lobdell, Secretary-Treasurer, Executive Finance Committee, Eden Prairie
- Kati Dvorak, Speaker of the House, Executive Finance Committee, Pine City
- Michelle Aytay, Board Member At Large, Executive/Finance Committee, Hudson
- Eric Slindee, Rural Board Member, Harmony
- Michelle Johnson, Rural Board Member, Mounds View
- Allyson Schlichte, Metro Board Member, Bloomington
- Brittany Symonds, Metro Board Member, Andover
- Zach Merk, Board Member at-Large, Minneapolis
- Ben Aronson, Board Member At Large, Duluth
- Heather Bibeau, Board Member At Large, Bigfork
- Jessica Lind, Board Member At Large, Paynesville
- Lucas Jorgenson, Minneapolis MPSA Student Liaison, Minneapolis
- Courtney Murphy, Duluth MPSA Student Liaison, Duluth

Ex-Officio Members:

- Tony Olson, Vice Speaker, Burnsville
- Bruce Benson, College of Pharmacy Representative, Minneapolis
- Barb Stodola, Pharmacy Technician Representative, Maple Grove
- Dan Tomaszewski, Member, Duluth

During the past year, the Board executed new agreements with the following organizations to provide member and Association benefits:

- InfiniTrak LLC
- APhA Pharmacy Library
- PowerPak Technician Library
- The Alliance for Patient Medication Safety (APMS) PQC – Pharmacy Quality Commitment
- Tennessee Pharmacists Research & Education Foundation – OSHA Webinars

MPhA Mission: Serving Minnesota pharmacists to advance patient care.
• University of Minnesota – CE offerings
Based on existing policies in the MPhA Policy Manual, the Board of Directors publicly expressed MPhA’s support of the following organizations or coalitions:

• National Children’s Oral Health Foundation and American Dental Association. Grant request for funding of coordinated children’s oral health program with dentists and pharmacists.
• Patient Access to Pharmacists Care Coalition. Coalition with other state and national pharmacy organizations to support legislation recognizing pharmacists as health care providers under Medicare Part B.
• Minnesota Childhood Immunization Coalition. Letter to state legislators affirming the value, safety, and effectiveness of vaccines in preventing serious illness and saving lives.
• Support of a letter through NASPA to the FDA, asking them to reconsider their position on office use compounding.
• At no cost to the Association, we joined in an Amicus Brief in the State of Washington, in support of a pharmacist’s right to practice facilitated referral for medications to which they a religious or conscientious objection.

Marsha, Millonig, our Interim Executive Director, has brought her wealth of experience in association management and industry experience, along with an incredible dedication of time to guide our Association through this past year.

Jacquie Durant, Kelly Feekes, Laurie Pumper, Amanda Ewald, Mallory Schweim, Blake Finger and the rest of the Ewald team have done a marvelous job of producing the “Face of MPhA,” the programs and services that are most visible to our members.

Of course, the guidance for most of what you see as member services and for many, the reason you are a member, comes from the dedicated work of the individuals who serve on our committees. MPhA is largely a member-driven organization and the members who serve on these committees are the people “down in the trenches” doing a large share of the work of MPhA. Each of these Committees has provided a report of the outstanding work they have done for you this year. I want to thank the co-chairs of our committees below:

**Public Affairs Committee**
- Michelle Aytay
- Jill Strykowski

**Professional & Organizational Affairs Committee**
- Jason Varin
- Sam Testa

**Education & Events Advisory Committee**
- Ann Byre
- Michelle Johnson

**Editorial Advisory Committee**
- David Hoang
- Reid Horning
Student & Resident Relations Committee
   Lucas Jorgenson
   Courtney Murphy
   Sarah Derr
Awards Committee
   Allyson Schlichte
   Lisa Hillman
MTM Academy
   Kelly Schweim
   Lisa Hillman

I hope that you, as members, have seen the growth in the primary programs and services of MPhA. Our year started with a great program and record attendance to our Leadership Summit and House of Delegates in June. This is our premier annual event to provide individual member guidance to the governance and policy positions of our Association. Our Professional & Organizational Affairs Committee contributed two years of work on our bylaws to be debated and adopted at this event. Other Committees, Academies and individuals proposed resolutions on medical cannabis, Medicaid reimbursement and other issues for debate.

Our Annual Learning Networking Event in September again had record attendance, with an outstanding program and tracks for MTM, Pharmacy Management and Technicians, along with our awards luncheon, and annual silent auction and fundraiser for the Minnesota Pharmacists Foundation Scholarship Fund. Programming included presentations from Bradley Arthur, NCPA President-Elect; Pam Bernadella, Health Mart Professional Services; Nicholas Dorich, Pharmacy Quality Solutions; Mary Ann Kliethermes, Chicago College of Pharmacy; Randy McDonough, Towncrest Pharmacy; as well as a host of experts from right here in Minnesota.

Our Legislative Day event in April also produced record attendance and a record number of individuals visiting with their legislators. With presentations from members of the Pharmacy Practice Act Joint Task Force, Heidi Ecker from NACDS, Dr. Steve Schondelmeyer from the University of Minnesota and many others, attendees were informed on how the legislative process works, the current pharmacy related legislative and regulatory issues and given an opportunity to personally contribute to the outcome on those issues.

I want to thank Rebecca Pickler, Laura Schwartzwald, Sherwood Peterson, and Jessica Lind, the local organizers of our Town Hall events in Brainerd, Twin Cities, Rochester and Sartell. These events provide the opportunity to interact face-to-face and gain insights from our members in Greater Minnesota that is so critical to our membership growth and retention.

Your Association also produced two Pharmacy-Based Immunization Delivery Certification programs and two Delivering Medication Therapy Management Services Certificate programs to enhance the clinical skills of pharmacists.
MPhA presented 12 educational webinars on timely topics such as Pharmacy Performance Metrics, PMP, HPV, Hepatitis C, E-Prior Authorization, E-Prescribing, Workforce Trends, Specialty, Supply Chain, ICD-10, Cannabis and Conflict Management in our new monthly Virtual Coffee Break series.

Far less visible, but no less significant than all of the above, the MPhA Board worked through several internal structural and fiscal issues. With the guidance of Marsha Millonig acting as a consultant to the Association, last spring and early summer, the Board examined potential staffing structures for the Association and determined that an association management model for staffing with an independent Executive Director would best meet the needs of MPhA. We sought proposals from several association management organizations, including our existing partner, Ewald Consulting. We screened and interviewed all candidates and determined that Ewald could best meet our needs and entered into negotiations with Ewald to appropriately size the agreement to best meet our needs at a cost that would be sustainable for MPhA. Last fall, we executed our new agreement with Ewald.

At the same time, the Board determined that it would be appropriate for the Association to employ a part time Executive Director, but an interim position would give the Board time to evaluate our level of services with Ewald and to determine a sustainable level of resources available for an Executive Director position. Marsha Millonig was chosen to fill the position of Interim Executive Director and an agreement with Marsha was executed at the same time as the Ewald agreement. The agreement with Marsha gives MPhA some flexibility as to when we might move to a long-term Executive Director arrangement.

Again, I would like to thank our Board of Directors for the many hours dedicated to what might sound like a relatively simple process above, but truly involved many hours of careful study and consideration. These agreements and changes have allowed us to eliminate the lion’s share of our debt and place us on firm financial footing long into the future.

Please review the other reports presented to the House of Delegates to understand and appreciate all that your Association has accomplished in the past year. Again I say that Minnesota pharmacy and the patients we serve are the beneficiary of a large group of dedicated individuals with a wide array of interests and talents who are willing to work together to “Serve Minnesota Pharmacists to Advance Patient Care.”