Our Year in Review

After a year of transition in 2017, the Texas Pharmacy Association’s 2018 year is best summarized by renewal. In her first full year as TPA’s chief executive officer, Debbie Garza examined all aspects of the Association through the lens of a pharmacist and an accomplished business executive. Working hand-in-hand with our Board of Directors and countless volunteers, TPA achieved notable growth in membership, revenue, and participation.

TPA fully embodied its new motto, Together Pharmacy Advances. Perhaps nowhere was this sentiment more evident than at TPA’s 2018 Conference & Expo in The Woodlands, which saw increased attendance and profitability as well as a collegial spirit with hundreds of engaged and energized pharmacy professionals committed to the future. Our Women in Pharmacy program launched with a series of webinars and a live event to empower women at all levels of the profession. A revamped corporate membership program, known as the Pharmacy Partners Council, provided an additional forum for corporate and association thought leaders to convene and foster robust dialogue that will broaden and strengthen shared priorities to further the pharmacy profession.

Since the Texas Legislature meets only in odd-numbered years, 2018 was a year of preparation for the 2019 session. Elected leadership and Association staff participated monthly in the Texas Pharmacy Summit, working with other Texas pharmacy organizations to build consensus on legislative priorities in hopes of presenting a unified message at the Capitol. TPA staff participated in dozens of meetings with stakeholders from government, industry, and more to build strong relationships and to advance the practice of pharmacy. Dedicated members met individually with a number of elected officials to educate them about important issues such as PBM reform, pharmacy gag clauses, and how pharmacists are poised to serve even more meaningful and effective roles in healthcare.

Innovation also remains a key focus for TPA. With support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) expanded its partnership with TPA to develop new approaches to increase the reach and effectiveness of evidence-based public health strategies in populations and communities with a high burden of diabetes, or heart disease and stroke. TPA will be working hard to implement this expanded program in 2019.

Through it all, the Association said goodbye to some longtime staff members and welcomed new employees who are already eagerly building on the success of their predecessors. The future looks bright for TPA, with a secure financial footing, renewed energy, and an enthusiasm for advocacy that is vital to the future of pharmacy in Texas. We are proud to work with dedicated pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy students whose passion makes it all happen and whose dedication to their patients makes it all worthwhile.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Garza, R.Ph.
Chief Executive Officer

Mark Comfort, Pharm.D.
President
Your Voice Is Vital

The Texas Pharmacy Association is the only association that represents all Texas pharmacy professionals. TPA’s elected leadership, staff members, and dedicated volunteers work hard to represent the interests of pharmacy and to educate elected officials about pharmacy’s needs as the profession expands and evolves.

INTERIM SESSION

During Texas’ interim session, TPA testified before the House Select Committee on Opioid and Substance Abuse and the joint legislative committee regarding the Prescription Monitoring Program. TPA spearheaded state pharmacy organizations’ development of a one-pager supporting efforts to curb opioid diversion and abuse, and committing to work with all stakeholders. TPA worked with Texas Pharmacy Summit members to craft pharmacy’s 2019 Texas legislative agenda and revitalized the TPA Public Policy Council, which drew record participation.

AGENCY IMPACT

Texas saw several leadership changes among its regulatory agencies in 2018. TPA was there to meet with the new leadership of the Health and Human Services Commission, the Medicaid Department, and the Vendor Drug Program to address pharmacy reimbursement issues and PBM activities, effectuate change in the specialty drug list determination, and make the case for broader use of pharmacists in value-based purchasing efforts. We also participated in regular meetings with the Texas Department of Insurance to discuss PBM concerns, clawbacks, and prohibited transaction fees.

POLITICAL EVENTS

TPA increased its visibility with elected officials hosting and attending numerous events. In addition, TPA coordinated pharmacy events with other pharmacy organizations to show the political viability and strength of all pharmacy coming together. TPA supported its members who were active meeting with elected officials back in their home districts, as well as participating in a TPA member-hosted event for Governor Greg Abbott and other events with key legislative leaders in Texas.

LOCAL ACTION

“All politics is local,” and we saw firsthand the engagement of our local affiliates who brought forth policy recommendations at our House of Delegates meeting, addressing policy positions to increase member engagement and address issues like the gag clause and direct and indirect remuneration (DIR) fees. TPA visited local affiliates across the state hosting town halls, talking politics and promoting membership.

UNITY

You might say 2018 was a year of “walking the walk” with TPA’s new motto/tagline, Together Pharmacy Advances. TPA took a lead role in coordinating Texas pharmacy organizations to come together on key pharmacy issues for all to support with a common message. TPA participated in advocacy training at the Texas capital with other pharmacy groups and helped lead the Texas Pharmacy Congress in its visioning process.

PARTNERS

TPA created partnerships that will have a long-lasting and positive impact on the pharmacy profession and the Association. The new TPA-organized Pharmacy Partners Council brought together corporate and association thought leaders for robust dialogue to broaden, strengthen, and align priorities to further the profession in Texas. We built working relationships with the Texas Medical Association, the Texas Academy of Family Physicians, and other healthcare stakeholders. Our involvement in the Texas Business Roundtable shows how pharmacy impacts the Texas economy. We met with payers to discuss the importance of pharmacists in reducing long-term costs and how to pilot innovative programs utilizing pharmacists.
Your Innovation is Impactful

Innovation is crucial to enhancing pharmacy practice in Texas. New ideas and collaborative endeavors continue to elevate the role of pharmacists, allowing them to help patients achieve optimal outcomes and improve population health.

PROMOTING PHARMACY INNOVATION

1. Working with payers to recognize the role of pharmacy in value-based care with enhanced pharmacy services; identifying models that incorporate enhanced services in value-based payment arrangements.

2. Helping pharmacists improve their skills through certificate programs in administering immunizations and point-of-care testing to safely and effectively provide patient-care services.

3. Securing payment for pharmacist-provided services through grant programs or pilot projects that recognize the role of the pharmacists in helping patients take their medication safely and avoid higher-cost medical care.

DSHS PARTNERSHIP

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is expanding its partnership with TPA to address chronic disease in select regions of the state. The program’s purpose is to increase engagement of pharmacists in medication therapy management (MTM) or diabetes self-management education for people with diabetes and to promote medication adherence in managing high blood pressure and high blood cholesterol as well as lifestyle modification.

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<tr>
<th>EARLY 2018</th>
<th>Grant program through the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)</th>
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<td></td>
<td>• Focused on uncontrolled HTN and medication adherence program</td>
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<td>• Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)</td>
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<th>Q2 2018</th>
<th>Program funding expansion with DSHS</th>
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<td>South Texas in collaboration with Texas A&amp;M College of Pharmacy</td>
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| Q4 2018–2019 | Program expansion into diabetes and cardiovascular diseases |

PAYMENT FOR PHARMACISTS’ SERVICES

TARGET AREAS

The target areas of the state for diabetes control are Public Health Regions 1, 2, 4 and 11, and the target areas of the state for cardiovascular disease control (hypertension and hyperlipidemia) are Public Health Regions 1–5.

PAYMENT

Pharmacist payments will continue to reflect a fee-for-service component and a value-based payment (performance) component. Value-based payments are only available when a patient meets or exceeds treatment goals.
Your Participation is Powerful

Membership is the first step toward shaping the future of your profession. Many members engaged further during 2018 by attending conferences, contributing to TPA’s political action committee, serving on councils and committees, and donating to the Texas Pharmacy Foundation to support scholarships, and more.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

- **29%** Pharmacist Members
- **15%** Total Members
- **8%** Student Members

EDUCATION

- New Women in Pharmacy Forum offered webinars, a live event, and other educational offerings.
- TPA’s annual conference & expo in The Woodlands attracted more than 400 pharmacy professionals and offered 15+ hours of CE credit.
- In 2018, TPA accredited more than 600 hours of continuing education and provided credit to 2,872 participants.

STRONGER FISCAL FOOTING

TPA ended 2018 in the black, with improved finances compared to 2017.

- **36%** Financial Health
- **4%** Expenses

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Members contributed funds to TPA’s political action committee to support pharmacy-friendly candidates and elected officials.
- Members contributed $94,425 to TPA’s political action committee to support pharmacy-friendly candidates and elected officials.
- New fundraisers attracted donations to the Texas Pharmacy Foundation, which awarded 14 student scholarships. TPF also launched the John and Beverly Carson Scholarship.

PEER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- Pharmacists who entered and successfully participated in the program for the full year without relapse.
- **79%** High Success
- **90%** Low Recidivism

- Rate of all healthcare professionals monitored by PRN who avoided relapse within three years of successfully completing one year in the program.

>400 HOURS

$25K RAISED

$94,425